



2018-2019

Number 6

An Lester Trumach - The Packet Ship

15 October 2018

Dear Parents,

Time has flown and the last week of the first half term of term caught me out with tasks and information to pass on that made Monday's usual Newsletter Publication date impossible to keep. Since then a number of news items, notices and requests have dropped in so I'm leaving you with a fair amount of home work reading over the half term break!. Sorry, but at least there is good news:

Biking for Books



£5440.98



Thank you!

What a remarkable total to signal the revival of The Marlborough Mariners. Thank you to everyone who contributed to take a huge leap towards ensuring that we bring our library into the 21st Century. The whole event has been a truly positive school community event with people giving what they can either in skills and effort or in giving and collecting donations. Thanks especially to those who advertised the need further afield and made our appeal known to some generous donors. The library project is on going as we submit our grant application and plan future activities – please keep up with all the mariners are doing. We'll celebrate this great achievement and of course the children's pedal power at tomorrow's assembly.

A big thank you to all who came or sent apologies for the meeting of the Mariners on **Mariners meeting on Wednesday 10th October** Lou Gall (y5 teacher) and Ben Gowers (Chair of Governors) attended to help discuss links with the staff and governors. We also discussed the overall 'aims' of the Mariners and how best to ensure good communication with everyone. There was a strong sense of wanting to maintain a set up which allows parents to give when and what they can – not just long term or big commitments. Keep ears and eyes open for any Mariner Shout Outs – they are coming!

I was personally very encouraged to hear that some mariners asked what help the school might need with the school play with regard to props, scenery, etc. It is great to know that you're thinking ahead and are aware that practical help is just as valuable as straightforward fundraising. And the answer is a definite **YES** – we'd love some help and I'll be in touch early next half term!

<http://marlborough.eschools.co.uk>



Parent Consultation Week Tuesday-Friday; 30th October - 2nd November

PARENT Meeting SLOTS NOW OPEN ON ESCHOOLS – USE PARENT LOGIN TO DO THIS

If you have any problems, please contact the office who will be able to book for you.

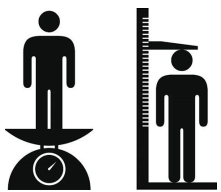
Please note that governors will be available to meet informally with parents in the school hall throughout most of the parent consultation sessions on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Applications for School Places – Secondary and Primary

Another key date during that week following the break is the **deadline for applications to secondary school. This will be at midnight on Wednesday, October 31st. Every y6 child will need to apply for a place at their chosen secondary school.** If you cannot apply on line or do not have an application form please ask at the school office.

Further

ahead is the deadline for applications to a reception class place (15th January 2019) for children born between 1st September 2014 and 31st August 2015. Full details are available on the school website at: <https://marlborough.eschools.co.uk/website/admissions/7895>. Please be aware that even if you already have a child at the school, you will need to apply through the local authority for a younger sibling. It would also help us to keep aware of numbers and places available by letting the school office know if you are applying for a place.



y0/y6 Height and Weight Check

Height and weight measurements will be taken for y0 + y6 children (whose parents have consented) on **Thursday 6th December**. Please note that if you do not return the form the health trust will assume that consent has been granted, so do ensure that you return it to the office if you REFUSE for your child to have the checks.

Flu immunisation forms should have been returned by today – the school has to make itself available for this programme y0-y5 children and the health trust nurses will be in school tomorrow morning. We do understand some of your concerns – thank you for your comments, etc. At least with half term, the school should be well clear for when we next open – and we can look forward to a healthy school community for the winter months.

Oyster Festival It was unfortunate that Storm Michael put paid to this year's Grand Oyster Parade. However we were well represented at the main event by



the choir and our ambassadors, Luke and Fionn who enjoyed a presentation fish lunch at the opening ceremony. Our school cook book also sold well. We have a number of our second edition copies available – ask at the office or bring something extra to take advantage of a special promotion price at the Christmas Performances.



Packet Points					
This week				Total	
1 st	Chichester	29	7	1 st	Pelham
2 nd	Walsingham	24	5	2 nd	Freeling
3 rd	Freeling	22	4	3 rd	Swiftsure
4 th	Pelham	21	3	4 th	Chichester
5 th	Swiftsure	19	2		Walsingham
6 th	Fox	14	1	6 th	Fox

Football

Marlborough B **3 - 0** Falmouth Primary B

Marlborough A **7 - 1** Falmouth Primary A

Netball

Marlborough B **5 - 0** St Mary'sB

Marlborough A **5 - 2** St Mary's A

Cyclists

Please ensure that bikes and scooters are stored safely, so that they don't cause a trip/fire hazard at the back of the school. We do insist on helmets when riding to school – essentially as a condition for using the parking facility! Please also dismount on entering the grounds and, on collection (particularly infant children and parents), do so from the lower playground as y6 are still in class at 15:20 and can be interrupted during this period. Thank you



Important Road Safety Message

We've received a couple of worrying reports in the past couple of weeks concerning near misses along roads around the school. One involved speeding cars and drivers' lack of awareness of school children pedestrians along Dracaena Avenue. The second involved a repeat incident of a driver ignoring a red light at the crossing on the north end of Western Terrace last Friday

Please be very alert as the evenings darken. Keep infant children close and remind them of good traffic awareness behaviour; remind juniors and especially those walking home unsupervised. Double check at all road crossings, ensuring that all cars have stopped before you cross.

ADULTS ONLY QUIZ NIGHT

30th November 19:30 for a 20:00 start

This will take place in the school hall, and you can now sign up your team in the school reception. Teams should be made up of up to 10 people, £10 per team. There will be a bar, featuring popular drinks and even some special post Apple Day home brew cider! It promises to be a great night of socialising, fun and raising money for the school library fund.

Get your team down quickly to avoid disappointment.



A message from the Governors

In discussions regarding the school's change of leadership it is clear that everyone understands how we face a time of challenge and yet so many of you are aware also of the opportunities before us. The renewed energy among the parent body and the involvement in the Mariners is extremely encouraging and we would like to give all parents a further opportunity to meet school governors. Some of us plan to be available around the consultation evenings as detailed above, but we will also set a date for a general meeting in the new half term. Thank you to everyone for your continuing support for our school.

School Funding

I've copied a letter from the School Funding Campaign and added my name to it below. The real terms cuts are extremely evident and damaging – they are affecting us at Marlborough. We have some real challenges ahead and the recent duplicity of some politicians has not been helpful. Given the evidence brought to light by the Statistics Authority I would be surprised if the Infant School's Meals allocations have not also been included in the claim that schools are receiving "more money than ever before." We are also being asked to do far more with it than ever before – the £2.30 per meal in 2014 has not been increased since it was first introduced – despite enormous increases in employment, food and energy costs. We are being asked to do the impossible with the level of funding allowed and, other than in using specific targeted Pupil Premium grants, the school simply is simply unable to assist financially with extra curricular activities, visits etc and we are grateful for the support and understanding that parents have shown, but – despite even the fantastic fund raising efforts with which this newsletter began – shortfalls remain and the situation is not improving. I will write further as we need to ensure that everyone entitled to it is accessing Pupil Premium money.

Dear Parent/Carer

Update – School Funding Campaign

Firstly, thank you for the huge support that you gave to Headteachers who campaigned for improved school funding at Westminster on Friday 28 September. Over 2000 head teachers attended in London with many more supporting their actions too.

It is clear from the emails that colleagues and I received, that parents overwhelmingly support the need for much improved investment in our schools. As soon as we receive a reply from the chancellor, we will let you know. I am sure everyone will watch with interest to see how he responds to our requests during the Autumn Statement (Budget) on Monday 29 October.

Following recent headlines, Headteachers across the country hope very much that the Government and the Department for Education, in particular, will stop providing parents and the wider public with misleading information about spending on schools. This week's scathing letter (see link below) to the Department of Education from the UK Statistics Authority underlines all of the points that Worth Less? have repeatedly stated to parents over the past three years.

https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20181008_Sir_David_Norgrove_letter_to_SoS_for_Education.pdf

"I am sure you (The Department for Education) share my concerns that instances such as these do not help to promote trust and confidence in official data, and indeed risk undermining them." Sir David Norgrove – Head of the UK Statistics Authority (8/10/18)

Frankly, it is entirely wrong to suggest that Government spending on schools is much higher than in other comparable countries, when the Department for Education tries to include spending made by families on university tuition fees (loans to students) and independent (private) school fees. This adds billions of pounds to headline data but has absolutely no effect on funding received by schools. It is a completely unacceptable way of defending real term cuts.

The Department for Education must now work hard to rebuild trust and credibility. We hope that ministers will apologise unreservedly and put all of their efforts into investing adequately into school funding and supporting much improved recruitment and retention of teachers.

Parents have also asked how they can support the drive for improved funding. In light of this we are able to let you know that parent groups have lobbied parliament (10 October) and there will also be a national day of parental action on 19 October. For more information about 19 October, please search **#parentsteachersunite** on Twitter or Facebook.

We would again like to thank you for your support and confirm that our campaign will remain reasonable and determined with a single goal of ensuring that every school and pupil receive a much better deal in the near future.

Yours sincerely



Headteacher

Reminder

School will close at 14:00 tomorrow and re-open (from 08:30) on Tuesday 30th October 2018. Please don't forget that extra Monday!