



10th June 2019

Principal's Greeting

Dear Parents/Carers,



We hope that you all had a super weekend. It has been a busy start to the week at the academy. Year 1 are beginning their Phonics Assessments this week (no need to panic—these are not tests!) and Year 2 and incredibly excited to be off to London on Tuesday and Thursday of this week to consolidate their project learning for this term. We are so pleased to be able to offer the children such wonderful and rich learning and life experiences. We also send out a huge congratulations this week to James (AA), Pheobe (BB), Lacie (CC), Megan (DD), Logan (EE), Jack-Harvey (FF), and Faith (Yr.3 Dahl's) who all won 'work of the week' for their respective classes. Keep up the super effort!

I wanted to explain a little more about the reason that the Leadership Team have made the decision to make the change to Sports Day this year. I fully appreciate that this change has been met with some anger and frustration which I fully understand.

I've unfortunately been pushed into the position of taking this stance with Sports Day for this year. We have no room at the academy to house all of our parents as spectators for a Sports Day—and there were issues around some complaints about the options that we were able to offer over the past two years - additionally, some parents were filming the outcomes of races for very young children and then disputing the results. It saddened me greatly that the emphasis of what sports day was about was jeopardised for our children, and the decision to bring it back to the academy this year has been made in order to re-focus what the spirit of Sports Day, for me, should be about. I absolutely understand that this might cause disappointment with some parents but the safety and well being of the children at school, as I'm sure you will understand, is the single most important consideration that we make when planning anything. We have many children who are subject to very heavy involvement with social care, and to have some of our most vulnerable children's safety being compromised because they were being filmed (with no capacity to police what happened with these recordings afterwards), made me incredibly frustrated. It's to this end that we have made the difficult decision to make our Sports Day a 'no-parent' event (these are now increasingly common), but a full day of exciting activity for the children, where I can guarantee that everyone will be kept safe. It's probably important to point out that I have also received many emails of support in putting the emphasis of sports day back where it belongs and messages saying that this is a blessing for many working parents who struggle to get time off for everything. As I'm sure you'll appreciate we can't please everyone all of the time, but what we do commit to is giving the children is the very, very best.

Very best wishes,

End of year goodbye...

Although we are very excited that we now have our teaching team in place for September (after some last minute interviewing at the end of term), we are sad to be saying goodbye to Miss Bowler who has successfully secured a new teaching post at Merchants Academy for September, where she will get the chance to complete her Masters Degree. We will be very sad to see Miss Bowler leave us but we are so grateful that she has been part of the Marksbury family this year and we wish the very best of luck for her future teaching career.

Recycling Success

Thank you to everyone who has jumped on board with our recent recycling initiatives. We just wanted to let you know that we have already collected 3.5kg of crisp packets which we will soon be sending off.

Payments

Please ensure that you pay for Breakfast Club, After School Club and School Dinners (from Year 3) promptly. At the moment we have a number of families with substantial outstanding bills. We do not run any of these services at a profit and any money which is owed comes directly from the money that children need to be spent on their classrooms and their learning. If accounts remained unpaid, we will arrange for you to attend a meeting to discuss payment options.

Dates for your diary...

Tue 11th and Thu 13th June—Year 2

Trips to London

Thu 13th June—Father's Day Lunch for Reception Classes

Fri 28th June—Whole Academy Sport and Activity Festival

Fri 28th June—Year 2 Cake Sale in the playground after school

Week of 8th July—Transition Week for all children

Thu 11th July—Meet my new teacher Day

Fri 12th July—Year 3 Cake Sale in the playground after school

Tue 16th July—KS1 Leavers Assembly performed by Year 2

Thu 18th July—EYFS Graduation ceremonies

Fri 19th July—End of term for children

Reminder : Sports Coaching

We thank Bristol Sport for their continued involvement with the academy—but a new half term means a change in arrangements! This term coaching will be for Reception and Year 3 so these two year groups will need to wear PE kit on a Friday as well as on their regular PE day.

In addition Bristol Sport are offering a treat games session for the class with the highest attendance each week! The class getting it on Friday will be the Fearless Fireflies who had top attendance of 99% - what a great golden time treat!

Contact us anytime...



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