

# Marlborough Centre

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**COURAGE**

**CONFIDENCE**

**RESPECT**

**BELONGING**

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas with family and friends. I trust this New Year has started well for everyone and send my very best wishes for the year ahead.

The return to school started with a high as Zoolab visited us in the first week. The interest and communication that was generated from the children was outstanding. I hope they shared some of this enthusiasm with you.

This term is another busy term as you will see from the key dates attached and from the class newsletters you have received. Please continue to encourage your child to engage with you about the work they do at school. This can be done by sharing comments in the contact book, looking at the class newsletters, using recommended websites from the newsletter. It would also be great to see more family learning projects coming into school as they create lots of communication and interaction from all the children.

It was lovely to see so many of you at our Christmas performance at the end of last term. I hope you all enjoyed the copy of the DVD of the performance funded by the PTA.

I hope to see many of you in the coming weeks either at class assemblies, person centred reviews, etc. Please remember if you do ever need to speak to us just call the school, leave a brief message with the office and they will arrange for the class teacher to contact you in the first instance.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Centre.

Kind regards

Catherine Mckie  
(Head of Specialist Provision)

## Contents

**Message from  
the Chair of  
Governors**

**Staffing**

**Parentmail**

**Forest School**

**Transport**

**Open afternoon**

**Dates**

## A message from our Chair of Governors

Dear All

I hope you had a good Christmas and on behalf of the governors may I wish you a happy new year for 2016. Although the weather really doesn't make it feel the time of year it is, let's hope we don't have a serious cold snap.

As in all terms we have much work to do to continue what has been done over the past 2 terms, building on the children's learning.

Whilst the weather is not normal for this time of year, the daylight situation still is, so please take care traveling to and from school during this term.

Yours sincerely

Ian Chappell



## STAFFING

Goodbye

As many of you are aware Mrs Austen, the Centre office administrator, has been absent for a significant period of time due to her son's illness. Mrs Austen is unable to return to her post as she will continue to need to be there to support her son. We are sad to say goodbye to Mrs Austen but completely understand. I am sure you join me and the staff in wishing her and her son the very best for the future.

We are currently advertising this post and will let you know when an appointment is made. In the meantime Miss Smith will continue with us every morning to cover the office. In the afternoon the phones will be transferred back to the main school office where they will continue to answer queries or pass on messages accordingly.

## PARENTMAIL



Please don't forget to sign up for this; you will receive information from school quicker than letters at the bottom of your child's bag! Plus you can reply to us via this medium, so time saving all round.

## FOREST SCHOOL

As a provision we have secured the use of Bredhurst Forest School to enhance the learning and experiences we offer to our pupils here at the Centre. The Forest School has come highly recommended and our first two classes will be commencing sessions there in the week commencing 25<sup>th</sup> January.

Forest School is an inspirational process that offers pupils opportunities to achieve, develop confidence and self-esteem, through the hands on learning experiences in a woodland environment.

The key features of Forest School are:

- the use of a woodland setting
- learning linked to the Curriculum
- the freedom to explore, using multiple senses



The aims of accessing Forest School are:

- to enable a positive disposition to learning
- to create opportunities to solve problems
- to promote outdoor learning across the curriculum
- to promote a healthy lifestyle

We hope over the course of the year all pupils will have the opportunity to experience what Forest School has to offer. The classes will spend the morning at Forest School and return to school in time for lunch. There will be no charge for Forest School as the Centre are covering the costs of this. However, we do ask that children wear coats/cagoules and wellington boots in order to keep warm and dry. If your child has waterproof trousers they are more than welcome to wear these as well.

## TRANSPORT



Sadly we have recently received some concerns from you as parents about the transport that brings the pupils to and from the Centre. Whilst I have made every effort to work with the contractor where I can, may I remind you that all transport is organised by Medway Local Authority. Therefore if you do have any concerns please could you contact their transport department (Medway Norse) on 01634 336000 as they are the direct employers. I have been aware of the ongoing issue with one of the minibuses being consistently late and have been trying to work with the company in ensuring the bus is on the school site by 8.45am which is our start time. This continues to be an ongoing discussion and I have also notified Medway Norse about this matter. Thank you for your help and understanding in this matter, I hope between us we will be able to resolve these issues.

## ADVANCE WARNING – OPEN AFTERNOON

On Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March from 1.15-2.30pm we will be hosting our 2<sup>nd</sup> Open afternoon of this academic year. This will be an opportunity to come and learn alongside your child, see the strategies we use and also see how your child interacts with their peers.



There will also be an opportunity to access the scholastic book fair that will be onsite that week. We look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible.

## KEY DATES 2016 - TERM 3

Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	:	Zoolab visiting Centre	
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> January	:	Yr 6 Swimming Competition	
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> January	:	Year 6 Bikeability Course	
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> January	:	Year 6 Bikeability Course	
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> January	:	School Nurse hygiene talk in Whale & Octopus	
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> January	:	Balloon modelling in Starfish class	
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	:	Seahorse class commence Forest School	
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> January	:	Turtle class commence Forest School	
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> January	:	Year 6 commence Skiing lessons	
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	:	Eagle Heights visiting Centre	
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	:	2.15pm Family Trust Assembly	
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	:	2.15pm Octopus class assembly to their parents	
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	:	PTA Disco	
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	:	Chinese New Year Celebrations	
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	:	E-Safety Day	
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	:	Last day of term	