

Dear Children, Parents and Carers,

As we come towards the end of the academic year, our thoughts turn to the events and routines that we would normally follow if we were all at school together. Next week we will be uploading our Pupil of the Year video to Facebook and Seesaw, so watch out for this. Also, the families of our Year 6 pupils will be able to join in with the leaver's assembly on Teams. This will then be given to the families as a wonderful keepsake.

For Year 6 children due to leave us on the 17th July, we have been working with our local secondary schools creatively to ensure that your child knows what to expect when they embark on the next stage of their education. The Head of Year 7 at The Grove School has met remotely with the Year 6 pupils on Teams in order to answer their questions and show them a PowerPoint of the school environment and routines. Sir John Talbot's School have provided a virtual tour on their Facebook page and will be making phone-calls to families at home.

For children due to start Reception in September, we have sent out a starting school book for parents to share with their child that introduces them to the staff, classroom and some of the exciting activities we do in the reception class. We have also sent out an information pack with a Seesaw password so that parents can log on and watch videos of the staff introducing themselves and reading stories. This can also be used to upload any activities that the families want to share with the new teacher.

The children's Summer Term reports have been given to pupils in school or hand delivered to homes. The reports are slightly different from the usual format and contain comments about your child's progress in terms of learning behaviours and in their personal and social development.

The Government has now agreed to provide free school meals during the six-week school holiday to those who qualify through the benefit criteria. We are continuing with the vouchers from the DfE so you will just need to receive your vouchers in the usual way.

Have a great weekend.

Mrs Zillah Cope
Headteacher



Trust Newsletter

Keep an eye out for the latest Marches Academy Trust Newsletter, which will be sent out next week containing highlights from the last term.

Be Aware!

We have been made aware of the 'Blue Whale Challenge' that is doing the rounds on social media.

A 50 day challenge where an administrator invites a player (child) to engage in a daily self-harm task, which gets worse as the days go on.

Blue Whale Challenge has existed on social media for a long while now the challenge is for young people to complete 50 tasks over 50 days, starting with things such as wake up in the night or watch a scary movie, as the days go on the tasks get more and more sinister with the final task on day 50 being to commit suicide which has resulted globally in many deaths. There is usually an individual involved telling people what tasks to complete each day.

Get Involved

At a time when we are all missing out on the magic of going to the theatre, The One Show, along with The Shakespeare North Playhouse is launching an exciting new playwriting competition, giving children and young people across the UK the opportunity to see their ideas come to life on stage. We hope this will help inspire the next generation of playwrights as well as encouraging a love of theatre and the arts in children and young people. [Click here to find out more.](#)

Child Safety

This week, Chris Hirons from West Mercia Police delivered a remote exploitation lesson to our Year 6 pupils as part of our PSHE curriculum. The session was excellent, and the children asked some intelligent questions.

Pupil Work

Pupils have been relaxing in Forest School, making animal planters, making paper puppets and spending time in the social farm and allotment areas.



We had a farm-themed day, so the children innovated the story of Dear Zoo to create a group book, decorated sheep biscuits, wrote instructions for them and then did a cut and stick activity to create their own farm.



Competitions & Challenges

Biology Competition: The Nancy Rothwell Award celebrates specimen drawing in schools and highlights the benefits of combining Art and Science. The competition challenges entrants to draw, paint, sketch or digitally create artwork capturing plant and animal anatomy. Open to students aged 7 to 18 years old, closing date for submissions 31 July 2020. [Click here](#) to view full details and prizes available.

History Competition: Focus Games Ltd are challenging all age groups to create a unique piece of work; drawing, poster, short story, video, or artwork to celebrate 100 Great Black Britons and their legacy. Entries close on 30 September 2020, [click here](#) for more information.

