



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome the Year of the Dragon! Through our school value of Respect, we believe in the importance of cultural appreciation and understanding and took the opportunity this week to learn more about the Chinese New Year. This vibrant festival, also known as the Spring Festival, is one of the most important holidays in Chinese culture. The children could see lots of similarities to our Christian religion through the themes of family, food and light, and also to our celebrations of New Year, that are familiar to us on the 1st January. The children had great fun working out their animal based on the Chinese New Year.

On Tuesday we observed Holocaust Memorial Day with great sensitivity and care, ensuring that all activities were age-appropriate for our children. Through thoughtful discussions and carefully selected educational materials, we aimed to help our children understand the importance of remembering the past and learning from history, and hope to instil values of empathy, tolerance, and the significance of standing against injustice. It is crucial for our children to learn about these historical events to foster a more compassionate and informed future generation. Thank you for your support.

Have a great weekend!

Mrs Rowena Kaminski
Headteacher



Curriculum spotlight - Reading



Studies show that reading for pleasure makes a big difference to children's educational performance. Evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment **every day** not only perform better in reading tests than those who don't, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures. For more information on our reading curriculum – please click [here](#).

1. Keep books readily available at home, in the car, wherever your day takes you.
2. Read to your child. Establish a routine for reading.
3. Read aloud together. It's never too early to start reading to your little ones. For older kids, take turns reading each page of a favourite book.
4. Talk about what you are reading. Asking questions before, during and after the read helps your child make connections and increase reading comprehension skills.

Free e-books for you and your child:

- <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/reading-owl/find-a-book/library-page>
- <https://sooperbooks.com/>
- <https://freakidsbooks.org/>

Free practice for reading comprehension online:-

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z7vm7nb>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zs44jxs>
- <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/7-11-years/reading>
- <https://ictgames.com/mobilePage/nocturnal/index.html>
- <https://www.literacysshedplus.com/en-gb/browse/free-resources/home-learning/comprehension-plus-samples>

Free spelling games to play and practice:-

- <https://ictgames.com/mobilePage/tellATREx/index.html>
- <https://ictgames.com/mobilePage/spookySpellings/index.html>

Attendance

Parents/carers of registered children have a legal duty under the Education Act 1996 to make sure that children of compulsory school age attend school on a regular and full-time basis. Permitting unauthorised absence from school is an offence and parents/carers may be reported to the Local Education Authority if problems cannot be resolved by agreement.

We will be working closely with Shropshire's Education Welfare Officer to achieve an improved attendance score. **Our target is 97%. We check children's attendance every 2 weeks to ensure that it remains at or above the school target of 97%.**

If your child's attendance falls below this figure of 97%, we will telephone you with a 'Support Phone Call' or write to let you know that attendance has fallen below target.

The Education Welfare Officer for Shropshire also checks attendance every half term and may contact you directly if there are concerns. If the Education Welfare Officer has contacted you, more formal attendance support may be needed.

We always try to support families and children to improve attendance, but sometimes it might be necessary for the Education Welfare Officer to enforce school attendance. This often happens when attendance falls below 90%. Persistent Absence is the name the Government gives to attendance below 90%. By the end of the school year a child with 90% attendance would have missed 4 weeks of school. If this does happen the Education Welfare Officer will either:

- Invite you into school to discuss worries, agree an action plan and explain the legal implications of further absence from school.
- Write to you and explain that further absence from school could result in a **Fixed Penalty Notice or Prosecution.**

It is never too late to try and resolve attendance problems, so ALWAYS talk to us. We are best when we work together.

This term, in worship, we are focusing on the Christian value of **Respect**

Our chosen worship songs this week were: [Shine Jesus Shine](#) and [From the Tiny Ant](#). This week in worship we learnt about the theme of light in other faiths, and Lunar New Year. Children also noticed the theme of 'hope' in the video, which is one of our School Church values. Watch together [here](#).

WORSHIP



Did you know that.....

- During Chinese New Year, it's a tradition to give red envelopes filled with money? These red envelopes, called 'hongbao,' are given to children and symbolize good luck and prosperity for the coming year
- This year is the year of the Snake



UPCOMING EVENTS

[Click here](#) to view our upcoming events.

Events at a glance:

- Monday 3rd February:-** KS2 Reading information workshop for parents 3-4pm
- Friday 14th February:-** Children break-up for half term
- Monday 24th February:-** PD Day (*no children in school this day*)
- Tuesday 25th February:-** Children return to school
- Thursday 6th March:-** World Book Day
- Friday 21st March:** Red Nose Day
- Wednesday 26th March:-** Mother's Day Service in Church
- Wednesday 2nd April:-** Badger Class Residential 3 days
- Wednesday 9th April:-** Easter Service in Church
- Friday 11th April:-** Children break-up for Easter holidays
- Monday 28th April:-** Children return to school
- Monday 5th May:-** Bank Holiday (*no children in school this day*)
- Monday 12th May:-** Year 6 SATs week
- Friday 23rd May:-** Children break-up for half-term
- Monday 2nd June:-** Children return to school



Parent Survey

We are conducting a survey to gather valuable feedback on our School and the Marches Academy Trust. The survey takes about 10 minutes and covers a range of topics. Please click the link below and share your views.

LINK:-
edurio.com/poll/xwrsFm

No afterschool club Tuesday 4th Feb.

All staff must attend Safeguarding training once a year, to ensure all staff are up to date with legal requirements to keep your child safe in school.

This means there will be no staff available to supervise children 3:30-5:30pm on this day.

Apologies for any inconvenience caused

