

Issue 123
October 2025

Diary dates

Here are key dates for the next two weeks, assemblies start at 9.10am

Please keep an eye on the website calendar.

3 November	School closed - staff inset day
4 November	School opens - children back to school
4 November	Year 3 girls' football tournament
5 November am	Caterpillar and Butterfly autumn walk
5 November 9.00am	Class Reps meeting with Ms Brooks
7 November	Pupil Parliament
7 November	Nasal flu immunisations
10 - 14 November	Anti-Bullying Week
10 November	Photo Day with Cliff and Luke Harris
12 November 9.30am	School tour for prospective parents and carers
13 November	Years 5 and 6 Girls' Football tournament
14 November	5B Class Assembly

Dear families,

I can't believe we have reached the end of our first half term! The children should be so proud of what they have achieved in a very short space of time. From developing writing fluency to extending their mathematical understanding to performing to an audience and proving themselves to be fantastic ambassadors of the school when out and about in the community, it has been a half term with much to celebrate.

A huge thank you to our PSA who have not only hosted a welcome coffee morning this term but also managed to run some spooky fundraising and ensure that nearly new school uniforms are put to good use. Please don't forget the upcoming Quiz Night on 21 November. This is sure to be a fun evening, with some healthy competition thrown in! The PSA is a fantastic part of the Marshgate community so please do get involved if you can!

Thank you to all families who attended our Parents / Carers and Teacher meetings. We hope you found the time both useful and supportive. As ever, we do offer an open-door policy, so do share any queries or concerns you have as they arise.

And finally, thank you all for making me feel so welcome. Marshgate is a really special place with a fantastic sense of community and I am very proud to be able to have a part in it.

Wishing you all a restful half term,

Laura Brooks

Interim Headteacher



Our wonderful **Year 3 and 4 Choir** with Mrs Valero pictured here at the Richmond Almshouses. Please see page 3 for the full story.

Attendance

Some of you may have noticed that attendance was discussed as part of your Teacher and Parent / Carer meeting. We cannot stress enough how important regular school attendance is. It is not just about ensuring all curriculum concepts are covered, but also about building meaningful and lasting relationships with peers, developing resilience and establishing excellent routines for the future.

If you have any concerns about your child's school attendance, please do come and talk to us. We are really keen to support and work with you.



3B impressed everyone with their fantastic class assembly last week about the human body. With songs, facts and plenty of enthusiasm! Thank you to **Miss Brewster** and the Year 3 team.



As part of our geography topic **3B** and **3FK** enjoyed a local walk around Richmond. The children spotted many well-known landmarks and enjoyed exploring their local area.

Children in **Caterpillar** and **Butterfly** classes have enjoyed making diya lamps for **Diwali** out of clay and doing observational drawings of pumpkins. This was lots of fun and we were delighted with the children's art work.



Spaghetti time with Year 5

As part of our Design and Technology unit, **5B** and **5D** have been exploring the wonderful world of food preparation, cooking and nutrition. This week, the children rolled up their sleeves and cooked a delicious spaghetti bolognese!

Throughout the topic, the children developed key food technology skills, learning about safe food handling, preparation techniques like grating carrots and cutting onions (oh the tears!) and the importance of nutrition. They also explored how recipes can be adapted and improved and researching with different herbs, spices, and ingredients to suit personal taste and dietary needs.

Before heading to the kitchen, the class held thoughtful discussions about flavour combinations, considering how sweetness, saltiness, acidity, and herbs work together to create balance. It was wonderful to see them expressing their opinions and making creative decisions.

The final dishes were a huge success, and the whole hallway was filled with the delicious aroma of home-cooked food! More importantly, the children reflected on what they had learned, from practical cooking skills to teamwork, problem-solving, and the satisfaction of creating something from scratch. A massive **thank you** to our parent helpers, we couldn't have done it without you!

Miss Beck and Mrs Davies, 5B and 5D class teachers



This week the children in our Year 3 and 4 Choir visited the Richmond Almshouses as part of our work with local community groups. **Mrs Valero** has organised sessions where the children visit the Almshouses and sing familiar songs with the residents. They all sang beautifully, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed joining in. The children also had the opportunity to talk with the residents to find out a bit more about them and discuss songs to sing during future visits. The choir will visit the Almshouses before Christmas to sing carols.



One of our young singers, Loki from Year 3, said afterwards that it was nice to meet the older residents. He said "I found out that the person I was chatting to went to the same school as the drummer from a band called The Who and I found that interesting. It is good to be kind and listen to what other people say."



During October, we have been celebrating **Black History Month**. Each class has spent some time learning about and celebrating the achievements of inspirational figures in Black History.

Leo from Swan class said "I have been experiencing new things this week. We learnt all about Bob Marley and his singing and song-writing.

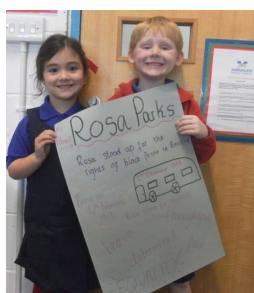


Photo day on Monday, 10 November

Next half term we are pleased to welcome **Cliff and Luke Harris** back to Marshgate to take the children's photos. In a change to previous years every child will have a photograph taken on their own. In addition, if they have a sibling or siblings at the school they will also have a family photo taken together.

All children should wear full school uniform that day (not PE kit). If they have PE please then the activities will be amended accordingly. Information on how to buy the photos will be available after the day.

Year 3 boys represented the school brilliantly at a football trip recently. They played against a number of local schools. Showing fantastic teamwork, determination, and sportsmanship



Four pupils from Year 6 attended a Table Tennis Tournament recently and wanted to share with you what their day consisted of!



We started off by taking part in trials for the very first ping pong table tennis team. There were a lot of people and it was really hard, but **Tamik, Elena, Adnan and Luna** were chosen.

On the day we gathered up and went to Miss Brewster as she kindly led us to the tournament along with Mrs Gusic. During the ride we started reading the rules and finding out the names of the schools we would be playing, not knowing how good they were, they were Twickenham Park Academy, St James, Old Deer Park, Orleans Primary and Trafalgar. The tournament was held at St Richard Reynolds Catholic College and the referees were a few of the students at the school.

After four rounds we realised that it was finished, but since we finished super early, they let us play more doubles rounds. In the end we finished **third out of seven schools**. It was a great experience and we had lots of fun.

Tag Rugby Tournament Report by Theo Law, 6H

It was a cold, clear morning on the 16th October 2025. It was slightly damp but perfect conditions for playing rugby. We met at the Teddington Athletics Grounds. Gradually, as more people arrived, we set up a passing game in the aim of trying to get us warmed up and fresh for the fun day ahead. Lots of other schools were arriving and I recognised a few local, and some others that were not. We were informed that there would be a thirty-five-minute wait until our first game. We started to kick a ball about; one for Year 5, one for Year 6.



Suddenly, we were rushing out onto the field for the first game of Marshgate's tournament. Drawn against Nelson, we passed well and kept our defence solid to hold out for a 0-0 draw. It was very different from last year's first game. We were thrashed 3-0 back then. In our second match, St James were our opponents. Sadly, that resulted with a 2-0 defeat. St Richard Reynolds were next. In this match up, Marshgate were victorious with a 2-1 win. After a two-game break, we were on again, this time against neighbours, Vineyard. We enjoyed another 2-1 victory in the derby, with the highlight of the match being Mihael misjudging the tryline by about ten metres. Luckily, the point stood.

That was the end of the group stage, as well as time for lunch. The table of our group was as follows:

St James: 16pts, Nelson:14pts, Marshgate: 14pts, St Richard Reynolds: 12pts, Vineyard: Unknown

Tragically, Nelson had beaten us on tries (points) scored. Nevertheless, it was still a start to be proud of two wins, one tie, one defeat.

As we were third in our group, we passed into the Plait competition. There, our first game was against Darell, a school from just down the road. And we won! 3-0. It was a great start to our campaign. Next, we played Hampton, a good team, who we managed to tie against thanks to some great runs by Lewis, Mihael and Sasha. After, we played St. John the Baptist. This match finished in a 3-1 victory. This meant that we just needed a draw to get through to the next round. Sadly, it was not to be as a much-improved St Richard Reynolds team beat us 1-0 in one of the closest matches of the tournament. We were agonisingly close to victory with a couple of try line scrambles in the dying seconds of the match. Though we did not gain the success we were aiming for, it was still a day to be proud of. The stats do not lie: four wins, two draws, two defeats. Then it was home time, what a brilliant day it had been!

The PSA team are busy planning the **Winter Fair** which is on Saturday, 29 November. They will communicate about that early next half term. Please do keep an eye out for this.

The **Quiz Night** is on Friday, 21 November and we are looking forward to an evening of competitive fun. Tickets have been available since 17 October and are still available to buy. Please see the information below on how to buy tickets.



TICKETS GO LIVE 9PM TONIGHT!

Marshgate PSA presents

QUIZ NIGHT

FRIDAY 21ST NOVEMBER

Doors open
7pm

Quiz starts
7:30pm

Teams of up to 8
£10pp (includes a drink)
Cash Bar • BYO Nibbles
Raffle • Prizes • Fun
ADULTS ONLY

Purchase tickets on
CLASSLIST

All proceeds go towards future Marshgate projects.