

To be inspired and be inspiring



MARSHGATE

Newsletter

ISSUE 115 JANUARY 2025

www.marshgate.richmond.sch.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

There have been some wonderful community events this term, starting with O2 Young Voices. Our Year 5 and 6 School Choir joined schools from across the capital to deliver a spectacular concert in London. Well done to all those involved, and a huge thank you to the staff, especially Mrs Valero - our Music Lead, for all their hard work and organisation.

I can think of no better way to end January than with our recent International Week! It truly highlighted the diversity and strength of our Marshgate community. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed - whether by volunteering to visit classes to share cultures and stories, or by helping to run our International Food Market. The children had such a lovely time visiting the stalls and sampling the many delicious offerings. It remains a standout event in our school calendar, and it simply wouldn't be possible without the generosity and support of so many of our parents and carers.

This month, we have our Teacher/Parent meetings, providing an opportunity for you to learn more about your child's progress and development so far this year. We hope you find these discussions valuable as we work together to support further your child's Marshgate learning journey.

As we approach spring, let's hope for some warmer weather, but please do remember that when any cold weather returns, it's essential that your child comes to school with a warm, named coat (not just a fleece). Unless it is raining heavily, all children will go outside for play during the day.

Thank you and best wishes for the half-term break.

Mr Gentry

Deputy Head Teacher

Wedding bells

We are all wishing the very best to two of our teachers who are both getting married soon.



Miss Charlton (5C teacher) will be marrying her partner Gavin in South Africa in February. We look forward to welcoming her back after half term as Mrs Buddle.

Miss Brooks (3FK part-time teacher) will also be tying the knot with her partner Charles in February in London.

Congratulations to both the happy couples!



NEWS FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL

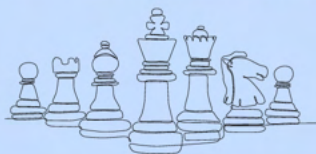
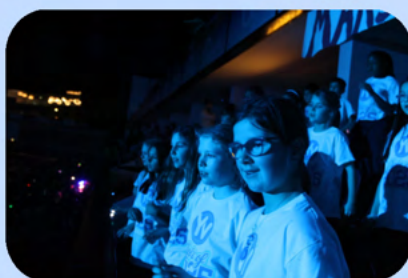
Choir at the O2 Young Voices event

The Year 5 and 6 Choir attended the Young Voices event at the **O2** on 23 January. They sang with over seven thousand other children at what is probably the world's largest choir event. They enjoyed singing lots of songs including a pop medley, and a tribute medley to Bob Marley (in what would have been his 80th year).

They were entertained by the dance troupe Urban Strides and heard vocals from Tommy Blaize vocalist, composer, pianist, and guitarist who many of you may know from BBC One's Strictly Come Dancing.

It was a long day and evening and we were very proud of the Marshgate children. They waited patiently and were quite literally the last to leave the O2 arena at the end of the night after all the other children and families had left. There are lots more photos on the **Photo Gallery** on the Marshgate website.

Our thanks to **Mrs Valero**, our wonderful Music teacher, and for Mrs Giles, Mrs Freedman and Mrs Cox for looking after the children on the trip.



Chess news

We are delighted to report **Donny Muter**, our after-school Chess Teacher attended the **European Blitz Championship in Skopje**. This is a large event with the participation of four hundred players from thirty-eight European federations.

Donny told us this was an exciting experience, with top grandmasters and ambitious young talents all there together. He scored 7.5 out of 13 points, playing eight titled chess players and scoring victories against two grandmasters and one **Fide master**, who we have been told is the third highest title you can achieve in chess!

Donny has been teaching Chess to Marshgate children for the last seventeen years and we are extremely grateful to him for running the club. Donny is pictured here with two of our keen chess players at the after-school club.



We are pleased to report Jack Fransson Carreras from Swan class took part in a Karate tournament in January in Clacton on Sea.

He was the youngest of the academy to win three times. Jack's family have told us he won a silver medal and they were immensely proud of his achievements that day. Well done Jack.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL

International Week

What a fantastic week we have had celebrating our wonderfully diverse school!

A mere nineteen years ago, Marshgate Primary School introduced their first International celebration and we have kept this tradition ever since. *Please see the History of Marshgate page on the school website for the newspaper article at the time.*

As part of this, one of our biggest events has been the International Food Market where children have been able to experience a tasting journey around the world - all thanks to our wonderful parents and carers who have made it so special for them!

This year, we also introduced our school passport which children took to 'visit' different countries and learning around the school. The children have had such an exciting week absorbing so many different countries and cultures.

Thanks to the International Team; Mrs Davies, Miss Brewster, Mrs Kollross, Miss Brooks, Miss Dhillon and Miss Lambert.



Music Assembly news from Mrs Valero

Years 5 & 6 were recently lucky to have two pupils contribute to their regular music assembly. Firstly, **Vienna** talked through a presentation she had specially created about the Kalimba, a traditional African instrument. Vienna explained the history of the Kalimba, showed us different types of Kalimbas and played two pieces of music on her own Kalimba. One was even composed by herself! Thank you for a fascinating presentation and brilliant performance.

Next **Luna** performed 'Diana' by One Direction on her electric guitar. As you can imagine, this was very well received by the audience. Luna performed brilliantly and the children were very keen to find out more about how long Luna had been playing and how long it had taken her to learn this song. Luna has previously treated us to performances on the ukele and the electric guitar. Thank you Luna for a great performance and for sharing your enthusiasm for music.



We would be delighted if any parents, family members, or pupils would like to share the music that you enjoy or the instruments you play during one of our weekly music assemblies. Please contact Mrs Valero, Music Lead, if you are interested.

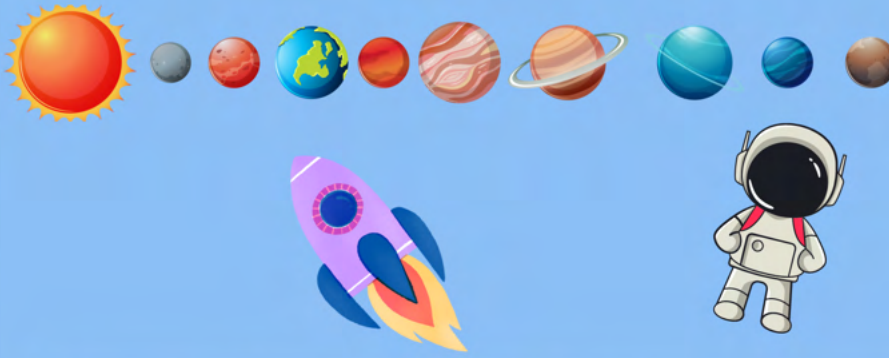




RECEPTION



Miss Cox
Caterpillar Teacher



Miss Filby
Butterfly Teacher

The Reception children have settled back in to school life wonderfully this half term after their break away from school. We have spent the last few weeks talking about what we got up to over the holidays and looking at SeeSaw posts. The children have loved sharing their SeeSaw posts so please keep posting them!

Our topic for this half term is Earth and Space. The children have enjoyed learning about the inspiring Mae Jemison and discussed her achievements. We have also been exploring key texts that are inspired by space such as: Look up and How to catch a star. The children have produced beautiful work based around three things they would like to take up to space and how they would try and catch a star themselves. The first week back after the half term, we explored one of the four seasons - winter. The children discussed how to keep warm in the winter and drew amazing pictures of winter clothes they would wear to keep them warm.



We are practising our gymnastics in PE this half term. The children have been keen to show off their coordination and balancing skills. A key part to our learning for this unit is practising perseverance when something is tricky and developing our confidence to perform in front of others.



In phonics, we have continued to learn new special friends such as 'ay', 'ee' and 'igh'. The children continue to amaze us with their reading and writing skills. Also, in maths, we have been exploring numbers up to 8, matching quantities to numerals, continuing patterns, spotting mistakes in patterns, measuring, 2D shapes and 3D shapes. We have been so busy already!

We are very excited to continue learning all about Earth and Space and to continue working hard!



YEAR 1



Miss Lambert
Frog Teacher



Miss Bennett
Tadpole Teacher

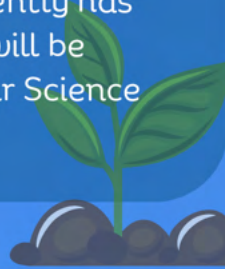
What a fantastic start to 2025 Year 1 have had! In English, the children have blasted off into space (literally!) to explore Oliver Jeffers's *The Way Back Home*. Through role play, they have prepared for a space journey, moonwalked with a Martian, whilst learning about singular and plural nouns, adverbs and writing dialogue.

In mathematics, the children have been using a variety of resources—beads, dienes, cubes, ten frames, and part-whole models—to dive deep into place value and develop their understanding of numbers, to twenty and beyond!



Geography lessons have been full of excitement as the children have explored famous landmarks in London, labelled the countries of the UK, and identified their capitals. They even had a go at navigating each other around with compasses! To top it off, the children have created some amazing Lego models of landmarks such as Big Ben and Buckingham Palace. In RE, we have had a lot of fun creating stained glass windows and re-enacting the story of David and Goliath!

Recently, the children have also been learning all about different types of trees, why they are so vital for our planet, and even took their learning outdoors to do some bark rubbing! Also, each student currently has their own plant in class to grow, which we will be carefully observing and sketching during our Science lessons.



Lastly, Year 1 are embarking on a thrilling Design and Technology textiles project. After conducting some market research on puppets, including watching the marvellous marionettes in *The Sound of Music*, they evaluated different methods for joining fabric, designed their own hand puppets, and are now preparing to bring them to life! We cannot wait to see the finished products and watch them in action in some puppet shows!

We look forward to sharing all our wonderful creations from International Week, as Frog class embarked on an adventure to Ghana, while Tadpole class explored Italy. What a wonderful whirlwind of creativity and learning so far this term in Year 1!



YEAR 2



Miss Dhillon
Cygnet Teacher



Mrs Macpherson
Swan Teacher

What a spectacular start to 2025 in Year 2, we are so proud of how the children have returned to school all set to explore our new and exciting topics. With the energy and enthusiasm Year 2 performed in their class assemblies, we think we might have some future stars in acting!

In our English lessons we have been exploring the story '**The Friendship Bench**' which sparked lots of thoughtful and reflective discussions. The children have shown empathy and enthusiasm when discussing the characters feelings. Incorporating drama into our English lessons, especially freeze frames, has celebrated and developed the children's excellent teamwork skills. We have seen the children's body language, facial expressions and the characters changing feelings in the story during group work.

Year 2 Mathematicians are further developing their multiplication and division skills using a variety of resources and mathematical vocabulary. We have had fun making arrays using different objects.



A highlight of this term so far, has been the class assemblies Year 2 have had so much fun rehearsing and then performing! In **Cygnet Class**, we certainly have some budding geographers inspired by David Attenborough. We learnt so much about the continents of the world in our Geography lessons so our class assembly was full of amazing geographical facts to share! Each continent took us through some fascinating facts about the animals, and human and physical features of geography. All the while, the three explorers took us on a journey to visit them all!

Well done Cygnet Class and parents for being a fantastic and supportive audience!



Swan class adored learning about Castles and Knights and brought the History learning well and truly alive in our assembly. The knights put on a great show, the acrobats choreographed their own routine along to music mimed by the musicians, the jesters used their own material which made us all laugh. The butler made sure the King was happy which meant that he and his beautiful wife were on top form. The cooks kept us fed, the blacksmiths shod and armoured the horses and knights.

Finally, the whole performance was brilliantly steered by our wonderful narrators. Well done Swan class and thank you parents for supplying fabulous costumes and being a great audience.



YEAR 3



Mr Farrelly (paternity leave) 3FK Teacher



Mrs Kollross 3FK Teacher



Miss Brewster 3B Teacher



Miss Brooks 3FK Teacher

What a fantastic and busy half-term it has been in Year 3! The children have been engaged in a wide range of learning across the curriculum, developing their skills as writers, mathematicians, scientists, and geographers.

In **English**, we began the term by exploring *The Gardener*, a beautifully written book that inspired the children to write heartfelt letters. They learned how to structure formal letters, use emotive language, and imagine themselves as characters from the story. More recently, we have shifted our focus to non-fiction writing, where the children are researching and writing about climate change. They have been developing their ability to present facts clearly and persuasively, recognising the importance of raising awareness about this global issue.

In **Science**, we have been investigating forces and magnets. The children have enjoyed conducting experiments to test magnetic materials, explore push and pull forces, and understand how magnets attract and repel. There have been plenty of exciting discoveries, and we have certainly seen some budding scientists in action!

In **Geography**, we have been delving into a fascinating comparison study of Italy, Hawaii, and Richmond. The children have been identifying similarities and differences between these locations, considering aspects such as climate, landmarks, and culture. This has been a wonderful way to broaden their global knowledge while also making links to our local area.



We have also been developing our food preparation skills, learning how to safely cut different vegetables and prepare ingredients to create delicious vegetable tarts. The children have been practising careful cutting techniques and understanding the importance of healthy eating, all while having fun in the kitchen!

A highlight of January has been International Week, where each class had the opportunity to explore a different country. **3B** focused on Japan, learning about its traditions, language, and even creating Mount Fuji art!

Meanwhile, **3FK** explored Finland, discovering its stunning landscapes, the Northern Lights, and some rather chilly temperatures! This was a fantastic celebration of the rich diversity in our world, and the children thoroughly enjoyed their learning.



It has been a brilliant start to the spring term, and we are so proud of how hard the children have been working. We look forward to seeing all the amazing learning that the next half-term will bring!



Mrs Davies
4D Teacher

YEAR 4



Mr Harrison
4H Teacher



What a wonderful start to the new year we have had!



After coming back refreshed and ready to learn, we sparked their imaginations with the wonderful story Aladdin and the Enchanted Lamp by Phillip Pullman. The vivid language that the children used to recreate the story was sublime. Then, they delved into the world of the genie in the lamp and created their own stories encompassing his history; how he was banished into the lamp; how his lamp mysteriously ended up in a cave to then be discovered by their original protagonist - Aladdin.



Having learnt that their peers in Year 5 had been learning about similar writing features. Our Year 4 children shared their exceptional stories to them. The feedback was phenomenal - how proud we are of our aspiring authors!

We have had a sporty start to the year as well where our girls' football team came second in their tournament! Well done girls!

As you may have noticed, many of the children came home from school at the end of the first few weeks showing off their incredible pavilion structures. We had a great time using problem solving when using woodwork skills and supporting structures.

As we come to the end of the month we have been celebrating International Week. The children have learnt about Spain (4H) and Vietnam (4D) where children have been taught short phrases, about artists and famous landmarks. The children also enjoyed learning about Bulgaria from our very own **Mrs Jasper** who proudly taught a traditional folk dance too!





Miss Beck
5B Teacher

YEAR 5



Miss Charlton
5C Teacher

We have had a fantastic start to 2025 in Year 5! The children have been working incredibly hard across all subjects, showing dedication, enthusiasm, and creativity. Here's a look at what we have been learning this half-term.

Our **English** lessons have focused on biography writing: celebrating the achievement and success of worldwide inspirational figures, with a particular emphasis on **David Attenborough**. The children have researched and written about famous individuals who have inspired them and created positive change in the world. From historical figures to modern-day heroes, it has been wonderful to see the children so engaged.

In **Maths**, we have successfully completed our unit on Multiplication and Division, with the children demonstrating excellent problem-solving skills. We have now moved on to learning about perimeter and area, a topic that has been met with great enthusiasm and dedication. The children have been measuring, calculating, and applying their knowledge to real-world scenarios, showing fantastic progress.



Our **History** lessons have taken us back in time to the Victorian era. The pupils have been fascinated by the differences between life then and now, particularly the contrast between Victorian schools and modern education.

Science has been full of exciting experiments as we explore the properties and changes of materials. The children have thoroughly enjoyed hands-on investigations and their curiosity and scientific thinking has been truly impressive.



A highlight of this half-term was our wonderful International Week! Class 5B had an amazing time learning all about Miss Beck's home country of **Australia**, while 5C explored the vibrant culture of **Brazil**. The food market and art activities were particular highlights, giving the children a chance to experience different cuisines and express their creativity through cultural artwork.

As we look forward to the rest of the spring term, we are excited to continue our learning journey with even more engaging and enriching experiences.



Miss Gray
6G Teacher

YEAR 6



Mr Healy
6H Teacher

The start to the New Year has been a busy one for us in Year 6. We've started our brand new units in all the different areas of learning.

The highlight of the month so far has undoubtedly been the educational visit to the **Imperial War Museum**. Whilst at the museum we saw so many amazing artefacts from the time and got an amazing insight into what life was like in Britain during World War 2 while also taking part in the 'Documentary Challenge'. In particular, we enjoyed seeing the Spitfire plane hanging from the ceiling towering above us! It has also been a very valuable opportunity to recall our previous learning.

With our computing learning this half term we have been learning how to program variables using scratch and we have begun designing our own games after looking at and learning from the code from other scratch games. It's been exciting seeing these projects develop and we are all looking forward to playing and evaluating each other's work in the next few weeks.



This half term we are focusing on geography after finishing our topic on the Second World War in history before Christmas. In particular, we are looking at one of the most impressive and powerful physical features of our planet: mountains. So far, we have looked at the location of some of the world's most well-known and majestic mountain ranges and used atlases and the internet to learn about the different heights of the highest peaks! In addition to our studies on mountains, we are currently writing non-chronological reports in English which are focused on the Himalayan mountain range.

We've also built on our prior learning from Year 4 to learn more about the fascinating science of electricity. We've been using circuits to investigate how wire length can affect the brightness of a bulb as well as extending our learning to look at series and parallel circuits and the differences between the two.

Finally, as part of our English writing classes, Year 6 created stories for the famous **BBC 500 words competition**. This is a nationwide competition where children can write any composition up to 500 words. The focus being on originality and creativity. With tens of thousands of entries across the country, only 5000 go through for the second round of judging by the Reading Agency. Well done to Emma, Grace and Lily for making it to the second round of judging. We hope to hear more from the judges soon.

In the same vein as The Great British Sewing Bee, the children of Year 6 designed and constructed waistcoats in DT as well.



SPORTS NEWS

FROM MR HEALY



We are delighted to announce that we, Marshgate, have achieved the **School Games Gold Mark Award**. The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success. 92% of our young people achieved 30 active minutes per day while 57% of our KS2 pupils represented Marshgate in local inter-school competitions this year.

We are extremely proud of our pupils for their dedication to all aspects of school sport, including those young volunteers, leaders and officials who made our competitions possible. As part of our application, we were asked to fulfil criteria in the areas of participation, competition, workforce and clubs, and we are pleased that the hard work of everyone at our school has been rewarded this year. A special thanks to all the staff who have contributed and made this possible. We look forward to applying once again this year!



VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY

Space2grieve is a local charity, here to support Richmond Borough residents, adults and children, who have been bereaved, no matter when or how. We are locally run and managed, and based in East Twickenham at the ETNA centre, in the heart of Richmond borough. We are supported by The Bob Willis Fund, Hampton Fund and Richmond Foundation. As our reputation has grown and grown, demand for our service continues to increase so we are looking to recruit more volunteers to work with children and young people....

Are you passionate about children, and keen to develop the breadth of your skills? Join a fantastic team of volunteers offering one-to-one psychological support to bereaved children in the Richmond borough. Deadline for applications: 14th February 2025

Dates of training if you are successful:

Saturday, 26th April. 9.30-4.00

Thursday, 1st May 7.00-9.00pm

Saturday, 10th May 9.30-4.00

Thursday, 15th May 7.00-9.00pm

Sunday, 1st June 9.30-4.00

Saturday, 7th June 9.30-4.00

Saturday, 14th June 9.30-1.00 (half day)

To find out more visit <https://space2grieve.org.uk/volunteer/>

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