Newsletter

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Diary Dates

Here are some key dates for the next few weeks. Assemblies start at 9.10am.
Please see the website calendar for more dates.

2 November
Staff inset day - school closed

3 November
School opens - children back to school

4 November - 9.00am
NSPCC workshops for Years 2, 5 and 6

5 November
Years 5 & 6 Girls' Football at Teddington Lock

6 November - 9.00am
PSA Annual General Meeting

9 November
Cliff and Luke Harris - photo day

12 November
Year 2 trip to Windsor Castle

13 November
World Kindness Day

13 November
Cygnet class assembly

Dear families,
What a fantastic half term it has been! We've had so much to celebrate and we are incredibly proud of everything our pupils have achieved. Our littlest learners in Caterpillar class are settling into school life with ease. They are following routines, making friends and showing a positive attitude to learning, please see the lovely photos below.

We have had some truly fantastic class assemblies, showcasing the amazing learning happening across the school. It's been wonderful to see so many of you joining us to celebrate your children's achievements. We've also enjoyed success in our sporting fixtures, with pupils demonstrating excellent teamwork, resilience and enthusiasm.

A huge thank you to all parents and carers who attended our curriculum talks at the beginning of the term and our Teacher and parent/carer meetings this week. Your engagement in your child's learning makes such a difference, and we really value the strong partnership between home and school and we know that open communication is key to supporting your child's learning and wellbeing. We want to make sure that all conversations between home and school – whether in person, by phone, or via email – remain constructive and solution-focused. We know that AI tools can be useful prompts for written communications, but we urge families to engage personally wherever possible as AI-generated communications often over-complicate issues and managing them takes a significant length of time for senior leaders and the admin team. By working together respectfully, we can create the best possible environment for all our children to thrive.

Our PSA has been working incredibly hard behind the scenes planning lots of exciting events for the coming months. We're so grateful for their dedication and can't wait to share more details with you soon.

As we head into the colder months, please make sure your child comes to school with a warm coat every day (named). We go outside in all weathers, and it's important the children stay warm, dry and comfortable.

Good attendance is essential for your child's learning and progress. Every day counts, and we really appreciate your support in making sure your child is in school whenever possible. Please remember that we cannot authorise absence for holidays during term time. We understand families want to spend time together, but missing school can have a significant impact on your child's education.

Thank you for continuing to work with us in partnership. We wish you all a restful half term break and look forward to welcoming everyone back on Tuesday, 3rd November.

Laura Brooks
Interim Headteacher

Year 3 Explore Our Local Area

As part of our Geography learning about our local area, Year 3 enjoyed a walk around Richmond to explore some of the landmarks and features.

We visited a range of interesting places and talked about their history, purpose and importance to the local area. The children enjoyed spotting features they had learned about in class and finding out more about the places they see around them every day.

It was a fantastic opportunity to take our Geography learning outside the classroom and see our local area through a geographer's eyes. The children were enthusiastic throughout the walk and enjoyed discovering more about the local places that make Richmond special.

Mr Farrelly and Miss Kaur, Year 3 Teachers

2025.2026 Readathon

Thanks to the fantastic fundraising efforts during last year's Readathon, we have been able to purchase a wonderful selection of new books for our school library!

Each class had the exciting opportunity to choose a book they would love to see in the library, helping us make sure our new collection reflects the interests of our children. These books are now proudly displayed in our special Readathon Books section, ready for everyone to enjoy.

A huge thank you to all the children and families who took part and helped us to continue to develop a love for reading across Marshgate!
Miss Brewster, Cygnet Teacher

A reminder that some helpful key stage specific information was sent via Parent Mail earlier this month from Miss Brewster. This was regarding further promotion of reading at home.

Castle Day

Year 2 celebrated the end of their Castles unit of work in history by having a castle day. They dressed up and had great fun creating castle stories.

The children enjoyed trying to find the missing sword in maths and created their own shields at the end of the day!

Christmas gift from Her Majesty The Queen

To mark the Queen's birthday earlier in the year and to celebrate the National year of Reading 2026, The Queen is giving every child in Year 6 the gift of a free book to inspire a love of reading. The award winning children's book is called "Impossible Creatures" by Katherine Rundell.

As a passionate advocate for literacy, and inspired by the National Year of Reading, Her Majesty The Queen wanted to give children a persnal gift at the end of the year to inspire a love of ready. Our Year 6 pupils will be given their book on **11 December**. Please see the Literacy Trust's website for further information:

www.literacytrust.org.uk/resources/the-queens-christmas-present/

Music Assembly

Earlier this term Years 3 and 4 welcomed Samvid Sridhar to their music assembly. Samvid studies at the Royal College of Music, Junior Department, and is also a member of the National Youth Orchestra.

Samvid shared his experiences of playing the violin with the National Youth Orchestra and told the children about his musical journey, including how he first began playing the violin at a young age. He then treated the children to a wonderful performance of Li Zili – Fisherman's Harvest Song.

Years 3 and 4 thoroughly enjoyed Samvid's visit and asked some fantastic and thoughtful questions about his experiences as a young musician. We are incredibly grateful to Samvid for inspiring our budding musicians at Marshgate and for sharing his passion for music with us.

Mrs Valero, Music Lead Teacher

BBC London news report

We are delighted to report that our Kick PE coach, **Johnny Byamungu**, featured in a BBC London News report on 12 October. The report celebrated Johnny's inspiring recovery following a life-saving kidney transplant, as well as his fantastic achievements at the recent Transplant Football World Cup, where his team beat Spain in the final to lift the trophy!

A big thank you to some of the Year 2 children who took part in the filming.
Mr Gentry, Deputy Head Teacher

5H's Class Assembly – Space

5H treated us to a fantastic class assembly all about Space! It was wonderful to see all the learning about Earth and Space that had taken place, with the children sharing their knowledge and understanding so confidently.

The assembly was not only informative and entertaining but also gave us plenty of food for thought regarding climate change and how we can all help to protect our planet. Well done to all the children who worked so hard to learn their lines and performed so brilliantly in front of an audience. We are very proud of you all!
Mr Healy, 5H Teacher

Children's Artwork - festive gifts

Once again, the **Marshgate PSA** will be working with **Xmas4Schools** to offer you the opportunity to create personalised festive gifts right from your children's artwork! A wide range of products including greetings cards, calendars, mugs and gift tags can be viewed at: https://xmas4schools.co.uk/
Not only will you be able to create your own personalised cards and gifts from your family, but you will be helping to raise funds for Marshgate Primary School because £1 from the sale of each product will go straight back to the PSA!

All designs will be eligible for the Christmas Design Competition. Ms Brooks will select a design from each of the following categories with the winners receiving a commendation for their work!
The five categories will be:
Reception, Year 1 and 2, Year 3 and 4 Year 5 and 6
Please submit all designs by Friday 6th November 2026. We have listened to the feedback from previous years to bring this activity forward by a couple of weeks to enable the festive gifts to be received well in time for anyone wanting to send out by post to contacts globally.

Please follow these simple steps to create your artwork:
1. Your child will have a template and instructions sent home in their school bag today. Please complete the form, including the section which asks the teacher to complete the child's full name (please do not leave this blank). Please can parents/carers complete this section. Please also be sure to include your contact details on the form so that Xmas4Schools can send across order information.
2. Ask your child to create their artwork (or staple A4 size artwork) on to the template
3. Please return your templates with artwork to your child's class by Friday 6th November 2026
Next steps will be:
• Within a few days of returning your children's artwork you will receive an email and text message with your portal login details.
• Order online at https://orders.xmas4schools.co.uk/ The online purchasing portal will be open for 5 days once you receive your code
• Your order will be delivered FREE of charge to the school and put into your children's bag by 4th of December.
For any questions, please feel free to contact the PSA via email on marshgatepsa@marshgate.richmond.sch.uk

Your continued support is very much appreciated and makes a huge difference to our school community! Thank you so much and we hope that you all enjoy the activity! Our thanks to Mahesh Nair for organising this wonderful activity.

PSA Winter Fair
Please keep an eye out for communications from the PSA team about the Winter Fair.