

Marsden Infant & Nursery School

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As we reach the end of our first half term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for helping to make it such a positive and successful start to the school year. It has been wonderful to welcome so many new children to our school and nursery. For some, this has been their very first experience of school, and I am incredibly proud of how well they have settled into their new routines, made new friends, and embraced learning with enthusiasm and confidence. This half term, many pupils have shown great courage by putting themselves forward for leadership opportunities within school. Congratulations to our newly appointed School Council, Reading Ambassadors, Eco Warriors, and Playground Buddies. These important roles help our school community to thrive, and we are very proud of everyone who applied.



Unfortunately, attendance has been affected for some families this half term due to seasonal illnesses, including temperatures and tummy bugs. We hope that the half term break provides everyone with the opportunity to rest, recover, and spend quality time together so that children can return refreshed and ready for an exciting Autumn 2 term.

Thank you for your understanding and support regarding the rescheduling of this week's Parents' Evenings. We greatly appreciate your flexibility and look forward to sharing your child's progress with you very soon.

This half term has also given us the pleasure of showcasing our wonderful school to our Ofsted visitors. It was a privilege to introduce them to our talented, caring, and enthusiastic children, who were fantastic ambassadors for our school throughout their visit. A huge thank you for taking the time to complete the Ofsted survey, and sending emails to share with the team. The lead HMI inspector shared some of your comments with us and we have been overwhelmed by your positivity, and your words even brought a tear to our eyes. It means so much to know that our hard work, care and dedication is helping your children to thrive. Thank you for your support, encouragement and trust. We are incredibly grateful.

Finally, thank you for your continued support. Working together as a school community helps us provide the very best opportunities for our children. I hope you all enjoy a relaxing and enjoyable half term break with family and friends. We look forward to welcoming all of our children back to school on **Monday 2nd November**, ready for another busy and exciting half term ahead. Kind regards, Mrs N Jablonski, Head Teacher



Dates for your diary

Friday 23rd October School Closed
INSET Day

WC 26th October Half Term

Monday 2nd November School re-opens for the Autumn 2 half term.

Monday 2nd November Neon Disco tickets go on sale £3.00. Exact money only please.

Monday 2nd November 6.00pm
Deadline for Parent Governor applications

Monday 2nd November Deadline for KS1 Singing Club enrolment

Thursday 5th November Singing Club commences at lunchtime.

Thursday 5th November Bonfire themed school lunch.

Wednesday 11th November
National Roast Dinner Day

Friday 13th November
Children in Need – 'Challenge Yourself'

Nursery Enrolment Now Open for January 2027

Please share with friends and family of 3 and 4 year olds.

Should any of our existing families with children in Nursery wish to increase their child's attendance pattern from January, please contact Caroline in the school office to discuss your requirements. Thank you.



PTFA (Parent, Teacher & Friends Association) Fundraiser

It's a long time since our last fundraising disco, so this will generate lots of excitement amongst the children.

Tickets go on sale on Monday 2nd November from the school office. For families who do not drop off or pick up due to other commitments, requests for tickets, along with payment, can be sent into school on an envelope clearly marked with your child's name, class.

Please note; on this evening our Sports Stars After School Club will not be running to allow the school hall to be set up for the Disco.

Harvest Celebrations with St Bartholomew's Church



On Monday 12th October, we were delighted to welcome **Rev Graeme Blackwell from St Bartholomew's Church, Marsden**, who joined us for a special Harvest assembly. Rev Graeme spoke to the children about the importance of **kindness, generosity and helping those who may be less fortunate than ourselves**. Through stories and discussion, he encouraged everyone to reflect on how small acts of kindness can make a big difference and reminded us that Harvest is a time to be thankful for what we have and to share with others.

The celebrations continued on **Wednesday 14th October**, when children, staff and families gathered at **St Bartholomew's Church** for our Harvest Festival. The children confidently shared their learning through a range of performances, including Harvest-themed songs and presentations of class work. It was wonderful to see the children showcasing their learning and reflecting on the importance of helping those in need.

These experiences supported our **EYFS** children in developing their understanding of the world around them, learning about communities, celebrations and the people who help us.

For our **Key Stage 1** pupils, the activities enriched learning within **Religious Education**, while also contributing to the development of speaking, listening and performance skills within the English curriculum, and encouraging pupils to think about their role within the wider community.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to **Rev Graeme Blackwell** and everyone at **St Bartholomew's Church** for supporting our Harvest celebrations. We would also like to thank all the families who joined us at church, supported with walking the children safely between school and church, and helped make the occasion such a special community event. Your support and encouragement mean so much to the children and contribute greatly to the strong partnership between home, school and the wider community.





Thank You for Your Harvest Donations 🍂

A huge thank you to all our children, families and staff for your incredible generosity in supporting our Harvest Appeal.

Thanks to your kindness, we were able to donate a large collection of food and essential items to the **Welcome Centre, Huddersfield**, helping to support local individuals and families who may be facing hardship. We were also delighted to contribute to **CART (Christian African Relief Trust)**, whose work supports vulnerable communities and families further afield.

Our Harvest celebrations provided a wonderful opportunity for the children to reflect on the importance of gratitude, compassion and helping others. We are incredibly proud of the kindness and community spirit shown by everyone in our school family.

Thank you for helping us make a difference, both in our local community and beyond. 💛

Singing Club We are planning to run a lunchtime Singing Club for interested children in Years 1 and 2, with the intention of arranging some performances within the village next half term.

To ensure we are prepared for these events, we are keen for our young singers to commit to a weekly 30-minute lunchtime rehearsal every Thursday.

The Singing Club will commence rehearsals after the forthcoming October half term, on Thursday 5th November.

If you would like your child to be a part of our Singing Club, please complete the e-form using the link below by Monday 2nd November

[Singing Club – Fill out form](#)



Our After School Clubs for the Autumn 2 half term are now available to book. There is a small charge for attending these extra-curricular clubs, however our providers keep these costs as low as they can to make them accessible for as many children as possible.



Children eligible for means tested Free School Meals (both Targeted and Expanded) can access 1 after school club free of charge per half term.

Registration forms are now available to collect from the school office.

Our extra-curricular offer for Autumn 2 is as follows:

Monday – Dance with Bernadette Hays School of Dance (£3.50 per session).

Tuesday – Arty Explorers (£5.50 per session). NOW FULL

Thursday – Sports Stars (£3.50 per session).

Clubs will run from Monday 2nd October, for 6-weeks, up to Friday 11th December 2026. Please note, there are no after school clubs on the last week of term ((w/c 14th December).

Gold Standard School Meals!

A huge congratulations to our fantastic catering team, **Becki and Natalya**, who have helped Marsden Infant and Nursery School achieve a **Gold Catering Standards Award** with an exceptional score of **98%**.

This award recognises the high standards consistently delivered in our school kitchen, including food safety, health and safety procedures, service standards and the quality of meals provided for our children. Their hard work, dedication and commitment ensure that our pupils enjoy nutritious, delicious meals in a welcoming environment every day.

We are incredibly proud of this achievement and would like to thank Becki and Natalya for all they do to support the health, wellbeing and happiness of our school community. Well done on this well-deserved recognition! 🌟🎉👏



Parent Governor Vacancy

Could You Make a Difference to Our School?

Marsden Infant and Nursery School currently has a vacancy for a **Parent Governor** to join our Governing Body.

Parent Governors play an important role in supporting the strategic direction of the school, providing challenge and support to school leaders, and helping to ensure the very best outcomes for our children.



Who can apply?

You may be eligible to become a Parent Governor if you:

- Are a parent, guardian or person with parental responsibility for a child registered at the school.
- Are committed to improving outcomes for all children.
- Can work as part of a team and bring a positive, professional perspective to discussions.
- Are able to attend and contribute to governor meetings and training opportunities.

Skills We Are Looking For

While all applications are welcomed, we are particularly keen to hear from parents with experience or knowledge in:

- **Health and Safety**
- **Marketing, Communications or Public Relations**

These skills would help strengthen the expertise of our Governing Body and support the continued development of our school.

Commitment

Governing Body meetings are usually held **in school during the evening**, with start times typically around **6:00pm**. Attendance at meetings is an important part of the role, and governors are expected to participate regularly and engage fully in the work of the Governing Body.

Interested?

If you would like to learn more about the role, we strongly encourage you to have an informal conversation with **Helen Allen, Chair of Governors**, before applying. Helen can be contacted via the school office.

To formally apply, please complete the Application Form shared via Class Dojo or download one from the school website. **The deadline for applications is 6.00pm on Monday 2nd November 2026.**

Becoming a Parent Governor is a rewarding opportunity to contribute to the future success of our school and make a real difference to the education and wellbeing of all our children. We look forward to hearing from interested parents and carers. 🌟🏡👥

Making Lunchtimes More Fun – coming soon!

To make our lunchtimes even more enjoyable, engaging and enriching for all children, we are introducing a themed lunchtime programme. After half term, each day we will offer a different opportunity for children to relax, socialise and develop new skills with their friends.

Mindful Mondays will provide calming activities such as colouring and mindful crafts.

Tuneful Tuesdays will give children the chance to listen to and enjoy music together.

Winning Wednesdays will focus on team games and sports played within class groups, encouraging teamwork and active participation.

Tabletop Thursdays will feature board games, card games and puzzles to develop thinking skills and cooperation. Finally,

Fun Fridays will bring a special activity or treat to celebrate the end of a successful week.

We look forward to seeing our children enjoy these exciting new lunchtime opportunities!



Children in Need: Challenge Yourself!

On **Friday 13th November**, we will be recognising **BBC Children in Need Day** and celebrating the fantastic work the charity does to support children and young people across the UK.

This year's theme is "**Challenge Yourself**", and we are inviting our children to take on a colourful challenge by coming to school wearing **as many different colours as they can!** We hope this fun and vibrant challenge will encourage children to think about how they can challenge themselves while learning about the importance of helping others.

While we will not be collecting donations in school, as we already support a number of charitable causes throughout the year, we are proud to join in with this national day of recognition and raise awareness of the valuable work carried out by Children in Need.

We look forward to seeing a rainbow of colours brightening up our school! 🌈

Parents' Evenings Rescheduled

Due to the recent Ofsted inspection taking place on **20th and 21st October**, we have unfortunately had to **reschedule our Parents' Evenings**.

During the inspection, teaching staff were fully involved in meetings, discussions with inspectors and lesson observations throughout both days. This left us with no practical option other than to rearrange the appointments. We would like to offer our sincere apologies for any inconvenience this may cause and thank you for your understanding and support.

New Parents' Evening Dates

-  **Key Stage 1 Parents' Evening:** Tuesday **10th November 2026**
-  **Early Years Parents' Evening:** Wednesday **11th November 2026**
-  **Time:** 2:00pm - 7:00pm

These are 10-minute consultation meetings designed to discuss how your child has settled into their new class, their progress and wellbeing, their attitude towards learning, and their attendance.

You will receive an email from **Parents' Booking**. Simply follow the link in the email, which will take you to our school's online booking page. You will be asked to enter your details, including your title, surname and email address, along with your child's name and date of birth.

Or you can access our booking page using the link below:

 www.parents-booking.co.uk/marsdeninf

Please note that the details you enter must match the information we hold on our school's data system. This is essential for the Parents' Booking system to correctly identify both you and your child. Please note that only **one parent/carers can book an appointment for each child**.

Booking open now

We encourage all parents and carers to book an appointment and take this opportunity to meet with your child's teacher. Thank you again for your patience and understanding. We look forward to welcoming you into school and sharing your child's achievements, progress and successes with you. 😊

Flu Vaccination Programme

We would like to inform parents and carers that the **Locala School Nursing Team** will be visiting school on **Thursday 26th November** to administer the **flu vaccine** to children in **Reception, Year 1 and Year 2**.

The vaccine is given as a quick and painless **nasal spray**, helping to protect children against seasonal flu and reduce the spread of infection within our school community.

Consent will be required before any vaccination can take place. Further information about the programme, including details of how to provide consent, will be shared with families **after the half-term break**.

Thank you for your support in helping to keep our children healthy and well throughout the winter months.

Growing Brilliant Mathematicians!

What a wonderful half term of mathematical learning it has been! Across Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, the children have shown tremendous enthusiasm, curiosity and determination as they have developed their mathematical knowledge and skills. It has been fantastic to see their confidence grow as they tackle new challenges, explain their thinking and apply their learning in different ways.

Reception have been exploring repeating patterns, learning to identify how patterns repeat and predict what comes next. During our *Mastering Number* sessions, the children have compared groups of objects, investigating which groups have more or fewer items while deepening their understanding of the numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4. They have also been developing their counting skills and learning to *subitise* - recognising small quantities instantly without counting. We are so proud of the progress the children are making as they build strong foundations for future mathematical learning.

Year 1 Maths

Our Year 1 mathematicians have been working hard to develop their understanding of addition and subtraction. We have been learning how to add numbers together and have discovered that when two parts are combined, they make a larger whole. The children have enjoyed exploring this through part-whole models and practical activities, helping them build confidence with number relationships.

More recently, we have taken our first steps into subtraction by learning how to find a missing part. Using practical resources and hands-on investigations, the children have shown great enthusiasm and determination as they worked out the missing numbers. It has been wonderful to see their confidence and mathematical thinking continue to grow.

Year 2 Maths

Year 2 have been impressing us with their developing addition skills, particularly when **crossing a ten**. For example, when solving $28 + 6$, the children know to add **2** first to make **30**, before adding the remaining **4**. Through the use of tens and ones equipment, they have been exchanging ten ones for a ten stick, helping them deepen their understanding of place value and number.

The children have also seen just how important their **number bonds to 10** are. Knowing facts such as $8 + 2 = 10$ allows them to solve calculations more quickly and efficiently. We are incredibly proud of the resilience, enthusiasm and growing confidence the children are showing as they tackle new mathematical challenges.



Celebrating Our School Values

At the heart of our school are our values of **Belong, Inspire, Nurture and Succeed**, and each week we are proud to recognise children who bring these values to life through their everyday actions.

During our celebration assembly, certificates are presented to pupils who demonstrate what it means to be part of our school community. Whether they have shown kindness and care towards others, inspired their classmates, nurtured friendships, or worked hard to achieve success in their learning, these children are wonderful role models for us all.

We are incredibly proud of each and every certificate recipient. Thank you for helping to make our school a place where everyone can **Belong, Inspire, Nurture and Succeed**. Well done! 🌟👏🏆



