



Newsletter

Friday 21st December 2018

To all Parents/Carers,

And so ends another Autumn Term at Markeaton! Coming back after the Summer Holidays seems like a long time ago now and it is apt that tomorrow, the Winter Solstice, marks the beginning of nights becoming gradually lighter as we move towards Spring. Which also signals the end, hopefully, of our football team having to play the last fifteen minutes of their training sessions at dusk!

Even being away from school for one week on paternity means I have missed out on some fantastic highlights over the last seven days. All the children have been to their respective pantomimes, we have had another Drama

Assembly hosted by Miss Gamble (see above right) and our annual KS2 Carol Concert has wowed the crowds after school. Markeaton is a great place to be in the build up to Christmas and we like to take the time to talk with the children about the meaning of Christmas. We also talk about how some children/adults are less fortunate at this time of year and any act of kindness, big or small, is always welcome.

Moving forward, every year I like school to have a new year's resolution – something which sits outside the box and something which we could probably do better at. Having spoken to a number of parents/carers/children (and read some of the feedback given in the questionnaires), there seems to be a strong sense that we could be better at recycling. At the moment in school we mainly recycle cardboard and paper but there is so much potential for us to do more for the environment. If you have a particular expertise/interest in this area or you know of any schemes/projects through your own employment, then please contact school. I would also like to set up an Eco-Council and provide the children with more responsibility in this area and get them really thinking about how they can be more efficient with what we throw away.

And finally, I would like to announce two pieces of news regarding staff. As you are probably all aware, Mr Rowcroft is leaving us today and beginning his new career as a University lecturer at Nottingham Trent University in the new year. Mr Rowcroft has been a fantastic teacher at Markeaton and he will be sorely missed by the children, staff and the school community. His expressions, most known by his Y6 classes, such as 'dig deep', have become synonymous with him and his teaching style. We wish him all the best for the future. In other news, Mrs Simon (formerly Miss Grant) gave birth to her son Elijah a few weeks ago. Congratulations to Mrs Simon and her family from everyone at Markeaton and we will hopefully see you soon!

And one more thing...a huge thank you to everyone who helped raise over £2500 at the Christmas Fair – what an achievement and thank you for your support! Ok, I think that's it!

Have a restful and enjoyable Christmas Holiday and I will see you in the new year!

Mr I. Johnson



Drama Celebration Assembly

Some talented and brave individuals who showcased their skills at this year's Drama Celebration Assembly in front of the whole school. Well done!



Christmas Decoration Competition

Well done to everyone who entered our Arts Council 'Design Your Own Christmas Decoration'. All entries were judged by our school Arts Council and the winners were: Maddie (Y5), Poppy and Benjamin (both Y1). Congratulations!



School Dinners

The cost of school dinners for half term Tuesday 8th January to Friday 15th February is **£63.80**. Payment can be made half-termly or weekly and is due in advance.

Please refer to our School Dinners - Payment and Arrears Policy on our website.



Children In Need

One of our Y4 pupils raised £150 for Children In Need this half term by running her own Toy and Book Stall.

A great achievement and for a worthy cause.



We are a nut free school

Due to children who attend Markeaton Primary School that have a severe allergy to nuts, we kindly request that you do not send your child to school with nuts, or products containing nuts, for their snacks or in their packed lunches.

For some, contact with nuts could be life-threatening!

Thank you for your co-operation in making our school environment safe for all.



Highlights from this Half Term

A jam-packed half term, as always! Earlier in the half term we participated in Anti-Bullying Week by all wearing odd socks and generally spreading the message of 'being kind'. We've had Parents Evenings, football and cyclo cross competitions as well as a Drama Assembly. The Christmas spirit has definitely been in full flow these past few weeks with children taking part in Christmas performances, parties, pantos... to name a few.

Our **FS2** children have been celebrating Diwali 'Festival of Light' earlier this half term with cultural dancing from Deda. This week they also enjoyed a festive day out at National Forest Adventure Farm where they participated in a Nativity and met Santa!

Y1 have been making their own glove puppets and did a great job of performing 'Lights Camel Action!' - their Christmas production. We hope you enjoyed it. Together with Year 2, they also visited Derby Arena last week to see 'Jack and the Beanstalk' pantomime to get them in the Christmas spirit.

Y2 started off the half term with a visit to the National Space Centre as part of their topic 'To Infinity and Beyond'. Whilst there the children explored the amazing worlds of inner and outer space and constructed their own rocket. They've also been making their own rangoli patterns to celebrate Diwali.

Y3 enjoyed a workshop with Sophie Snell, story-teller, earlier this term. Knee-High Ninjas also came in to give the children an energetic taster of the club they run. As part of our festive activities, KS2 also went along to see 'Hansel and Gretel' at Derby Theatre last week.

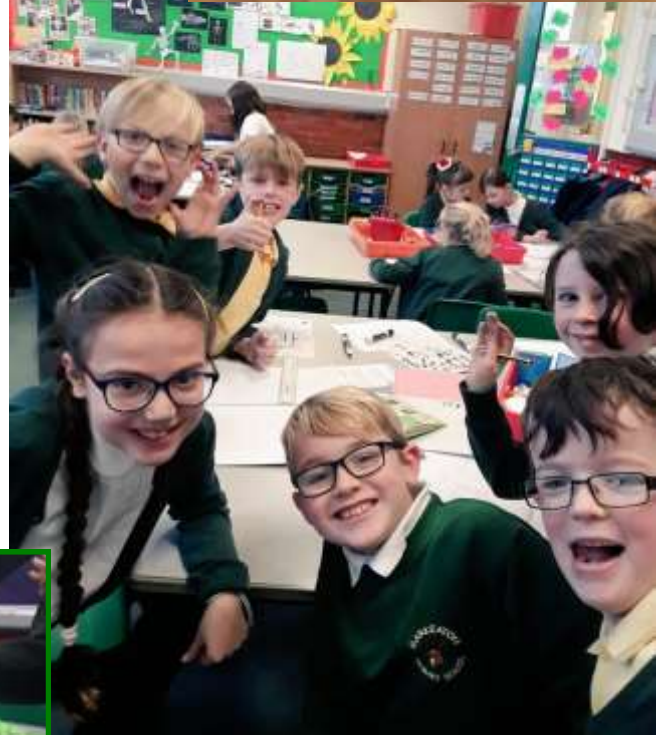
Y4 have been busy making collages, constructing simple circuits and learning about classification of the animal and plant kingdom this half term. They also enjoyed a trip to see 'Hansel and Gretel' in the lead up to Christmas.

Y5/6 have immersed themselves in their topic 'Romans': from creating their own Boudicca portraits to constructing aqueducts and participating in workshops at Derby Museum. They also entertained parents and carers in our KS2 Christmas sing-a-long earlier in the week.



Why not follow us on Twitter [@Marketon Primary](https://twitter.com/MarketonPrimary) to view more of our fabulous activities and events throughout the school year.







Markeaton PTEA Christmas Fair 2018



YMCA Wrap-Around-Care

Based at Markeaton Primary School

In partnership with Markeaton Primary School we provide a safe and friendly environment for your child that provides lots of exciting activities before and after school, including: problem solving, arts and crafts, a range of sports, help with homework and much more. Our wide range of activities will support children's natural stages of development and interests alongside ensuring healthy and nutritious food is provided.

We support daily routines to enable children to become alert and ready for the school day and then offer time for homework and fun and games after the school day so children go home relaxed.

The Breakfast Club includes a nutritious breakfast and the After School Club includes a nutritious tea.

To book your place, please visit:

<http://ymcaderbyshire.org.uk/about/what-we-do/family-work/markeaton-primary-school/>



You can now follow us on Twitter at https://twitter.com/YMCAD_YKidz



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

YMCA Holiday Club is only available on one day during the Christmas holidays:

Monday 7th January. To book your place go to

<https://ymcaderbyshire.org.uk/about/what-we-do/family-work/markeaton-primary-school/activity-club/>