

Weekly Word

25.9.2020

To all Parents/Carers,

Another week has flown by and without even realising it we are fast approaching the midway point in the half term. The children, by and large, seem nice and settled and happy to be back. Even though there is a little while to run on our survey the early results show that your children feel happy and safe. Of course, there are some children who are finding the return to school a little bit more difficult and we are working closely with them and their families. If you haven't filled in the survey then click on the link below: [Curriculum Survey Link](#)

School Development Priorities:

Each year we have a set of Whole School Development Priorities which identify areas where we want to improve or enhance what we currently do. This is usually based on a range of evidence such as pupil interviews, parent/carer feedback, results and what is generally happening in school. This year is slightly different after lockdown, as you might expect, so we have chosen to roll over the first target from last year and add in two that are new:

To further enhance the whole school's understanding of global citizenship and diversity at Markeaton;

To ensure that the key principles of a Recovery Curriculum are successfully implemented in all year groups throughout 2020/21;

To enhance provision, training and curriculum opportunities in Computing in all year groups.

A large part of the first target was the '[Connecting Classrooms](#)' project. We were fortunate enough to visit Tanzania but sadly the return trip had to be postponed. It is still very much up in the air at the moment but there are other ways we hope to push this target forward. The second target, around the Recovery Curriculum, is something we have talked about for a while now and is being implemented in classrooms; alongside increased outdoor learning opportunities. The third target is something we are always looking to develop but with [Remote Learning](#) becoming a more significant part of how the children learn we want to really enhance current practice in this area. In school there is nothing more we would love to do than purchase enough tablets/laptops and other devices for each child but the reality is, they cost a lot of money! **If you work in an industry that might be able to support us in this area, maybe if you are aware of bids we can submit or matchfunding, then please let us know!**

In other news, the PTFA had their AGM last night on Zoom and it was a chance for two things to happen. Firstly, we were able to say goodbye and thank you to the current team of Helen Joy (Chair), Jo Hinchley (Secretary) and Gemma Brown (Treasurer) – all of whom have been absolutely amazing and raised an awful lot of money for school. I would also like to thank Maria Kneale who Co-Chaired during their tenure. We have all benefitted from their hard work and enthusiasm so once again, from all of us at school, a huge thank you. The rest of the meeting was designed to employ a new team and thankfully, after some negotiations, we were able to appoint four new members. I will leave them anonymous for now, in case they change their minds (!), but I am sure they will be in touch once they have met and talked about how they want to operate this year. If you are keen to get involved then keep an eye on their [Facebook page](#). One thing we all agreed on is the importance of social media and raising the profile of events so if this is something you want to help with then please get in touch.

Also, in case you missed it, the new start times come into effect on **Monday 5th October:**

Reception:	8:40am
Y1 and Y2:	8:50am
Y3 and Y4:	9:00am
Y5 and Y6:	9:10am

Normal entrances and exits into school still apply

And finally, now is probably a good time to say congratulations to Mrs Clayton who is expecting her second child. We have already managed to recruit a teacher for when she is on maternity and she is called Mrs Fazal; starting after half term. I have asked her to write a letter introducing herself which will go out in the next few weeks. I am sure you will join me in welcoming her to the team and passing on our best wishes to Mrs Clayton and her family.

Take care and have a lovely weekend,

Mr I. Johnson