

PRE-SCHOOL NEWS

This term the children have been talking 'All About Me' and we've covered our families, our bodies, our senses, and our favourites. The children have enjoyed using their hands and feet to make some lovely wall displays and a beautiful rainbow which is now hanging in the window. As you can see on the cover, it's been a very messy but enjoyable experience!!!!



We are currently offering the following sessions:-

- Monday - Friday Mornings
- Monday - Friday Lunch (until 1pm)
- Tuesday - Thursday Afternoon (until 3pm)

If you are interested in your child joining Marcham Pre-school now or in the future (we accept children from their 2nd birthday) please contact us as soon as possible. Prospectuses and application forms are available NOW! Please phone Marion on 07749 245313 or e:mail marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk for further details.

NEWS FROM MARCHAM SCHOOL

It has only been six weeks since taking on the Headship at Marcham Primary and I already feel very much as if I belong. People have been extremely generous and I've been moved by the warm welcome and kind wishes I've received since taking on this new role.

Being a teacher is one of the most daunting but exhilarating roles. The challenge to stimulate the minds of the young, inspire them to explore and consider the world around them and prepare them to be positive and constructive citizens in the ever-changing communities of which they may be a part is a real thrill. Leading a team of teachers to do so is an honour. My time at Marcham School so far has started at a fair gallop. There has been so much going on. We are excited about the new building work which has taken place over the summer and given parts of the school a whole new lease of life. There has been a change in staffing and we are also delighted to have Pre-School now on the school site – which means that education is being provided in one place for children in Marcham from the ages of 2 ½ to 11.

I've been a teacher for 19 years, starting my career in Norfolk and teaching in Oxfordshire for the last 16 of those years. I am looking forward to a very positive and productive time at Marcham School, and hope to build on the already well-established relationships within the local community. I feel sure that together we can help to prepare children to face the future with confidence.

VIV HUTCHINSON, Headteacher, Marcham School

'On the 22 August 1485, out went the House of York the Tudors had arrived!'

Thus goes the first line of the song learned by Morland Class (ages 7 – 9) as they began their look at the Tudors. The highlight of this work was a trip to Sulgrave Manor in the north of the county at the beginning of October. The children gained a taste of Tudor life and due to the generosity of the PTA had the additional excitement of dressing up in Tudor clothes and taking part in role play. Children who normally say very little about their school day came out of school brimming over with their enjoyment of the trip. This is what some of the members of the class had to say:

Briony: I thought it was fun and exciting.

Jasmine: I really loved our school trip because we got to see in Mr. Washington's house.

If you run or are a member of a group, why not write a short report about it?

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Megan: I thought it was good wearing the Tudor clothes.

George: I thought it was very interesting.

Luke: I think it was fab.

Emily: I think it was the best school trip we have had for two whole years.

Jade: I think it was a really good school trip to go on and it was fun and fab!

Jessica: I think it was the best school trip ever.

And the enjoyment wasn't just felt by the children. **Miss Griffin** said, 'It was a joy to see the children so enthusiastic and engaged'. A big 'thank you' goes to the parents who came along and the PTA who helped to make the trip so successful.

RUTH ATKINS

COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORT

The traffic trial in Packhorse Lane unfortunately only lasted two of the four weeks that it was due to run. It was dismantled on the request of Thames Valley Police on Friday July 20th, the day of the floods. Marcham residents were invited to comment on the trial via an article in the MAD news, Peter Ronald at Oxfordshire County Council only received 12 responses. That level of response is not enough of an indication of the success or failure of the trial, for the parish council to pass judgement on it. In order for the scheme to go ahead as a permanent safety feature in Packhorse Lane, the endorsement of the parish council is vital. Therefore in order to establish local feeling, a questionnaire is being sent to all households in Marcham with a pre-paid reply envelope enclosed. Please send your replies to the questionnaire back, as they are important to the future of the scheme.

I have been interested by some of the letters in recent editions of MADNews, and one of them cannot go unchallenged. Mr Reading claimed that the annual government budget for highways was some £430 billion! Actually fuel and road fund duty combined, account for some £43 billion, and of that sum barely 60% finds its way to fund road maintenance and road building.

On the continuing debate about the recent floods and the aftermath, at a meeting in Grove two weeks ago, Ed Vaizey MP stated that in his opinion the Environment Agency should have the power of veto over any development that was planned to be built on or near a flood plain. He also said that the Environment Agency should be given more powers to clear waterways and the funds to enable this to happen. The present £800 million budget for flood defences is not enough to keep up with increasing demands and challenges, and may leave some of the residents flooded on July 20th, unable to insure their property in the future, as has happened in Oxford.

Finally, although I never thought I would be selected to join "the Local Panel" of "stakeholders" drawn up by Thames Water's consultants on the proposed reservoir, I was somewhat taken aback by the reason for my refusal. The reply stated "Due to the long term nature of the project, it was felt that we needed to encourage younger people to participate in the group". I am presently 43 years of age, but too old it seems to be of use to Thames Water, I wonder why?

CLLR IAIN BROWN

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**Abingdon European Society
Europe Through American Eyes**
Professor Kathleen Burk

Saturday 17 November, Trinity Church Hall,
Conduit Road, Abingdon at 7.30 p.m.
AES Members £4 Visitors £6.

Includes a glass of wine, soft drinks and refreshments.

Contact: AES Secretary 01235-525640