July 2025 Newsletter

Marldon C of E Primary School

'Within the love of God, working together, growing together, for all to flourish.'

Dates for the diary:

Tuesday 2nd September
First day of Autumn Term 1

Friday 17th October
Last day of Autumn Term 1

Monday 3rd November
First day of Autumn Term 2

Friday 19th December
Last day of Autumn Term 2

Tuesday 6th January
First day of Spring Term 1

Friday 13th February
Last day of Spring Term 1

Monday 23rd February
First day of Spring Term 2

Thursday 2nd April
Last day of Spring Term 2

Monday 20th April
First day of Summer Term 1

Monday 4th May
May Bank Holiday

Friday 22nd May
Last day of Summer Term 1

Monday 1st June
First day of Summer Term 2

Thursday 23rd July
Last day of Summer Term 2

As we complete our final day of the schoo year, I would like to thank you for all of your support through our 2024-25 school year. It has been a fantastic year with so much going on and so much to celebrate:

A Successful OFSTED

We were delighted with the outcome of our OFSTED inspection in the Autumn term. The report highlighted our strong school ethos, high expectations, and nurturing culture. Inspectors praised our pupils' enthusiasm for learning, their personal development, and the wide range of enrichment opportunities we provide. We're proud that our school is recognised as a place where children flourish and feel fortunate to belong.

Community Connections

This year, we've focused on reconnecting with our local community. We've strengthened ties with Marldon Church, local sports groups, the village community and Marldon Pre-school. Highlights include new after-school clubs, regular visits to the Church, and exciting sessions with Torbay Tigers Basketball Club and Paignton Rugby club. We're already planning ahead for the new school year!

Enriching Personal Development

We continue to offer rich experiences beyond the classroom to help our pupils grow in confidence, develop life skills, and explore new interests. From trips and clubs to special events, we aim to ensure all children access opportunities that support their learning and personal growth.

Strong Pupil Numbers

While school numbers are falling in the wider area, we're proud that Marldon remains oversubscribed. This is a real testament to our dedicated staff and the caring, opportunity-rich environment we offer. Visitors often comment on how happy and engaged our children are — something clearly seen in the way many can't wait to get through the gate each morning!

Of course, all of this is only possible with your support - thank you!

Uniform:

Like myself, I am sure you will be spending some time over the summer getting school uniform together. Please do not forget to check our uniform policy before purchasing new items. As a reminder, children need to wear:

·a school sweatshirt or sweat cardigan with a school logo.
·a white or red polo shirt or short sleeved shirt.
·grey or black shorts/trousers/skirts or pinafore dress. (Children can wear a red and white gingham dress through the summer months.
·school shoes must be worn to school. These can be black/brown sensible shoes, not trainers. But at break and lunchtimes children can wear trainers for running around. (In the summer children can wear sturdy sandals which support their feet and have a back on them).

As we have done for the last few years we will be asking children to come to school in their PE kits on PE days (these will shared when your children return to school in September). PE kits should be:

·a plain white T shirt
·plain black shorts
·plimsolls or trainers
·a tracksuit may be worn in colder weather

Online Safety:

All through the year we have shared tips on staying safe on the apps and programmes we use online. Looking forward to the summer, we wanted to share a positive message, as the internet can be a supportive place for all of us as we enter the summer break, so please take a look at the attached poster all about how we can share kindness online this summer.

A message from Mrs Alix Harding, our Federation Mental Health Lead:

Supporting Our Children Through Big Feelings

As parents and carers, it can be really tough when our children have emotional outbursts—whether it's at home, out shopping, or in the middle of a playdate. These moments can leave everyone feeling overwhelmed. It helps to remember that when children are dysregulated, the "wise owl" part of their brain—the bit that helps them reason and communicate—goes offline. In these moments, they aren't ready to talk or be reasoned with. Three simple strategies can make a big difference: try to stay calm yourself (easier said than done, but powerful!), avoid trying to talk things through when they're very upset, and give them some space to calm down while making sure they're safe. For more helpful tips, check out this excellent article and short video from the children's mental health charity Place2Be https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/article/de-escalation-techniques-with-children

ARTICLE 28 - Every child has the right to an education

A message from Rev Jane:

'Could this be you?' Revd Jane asks…

As the end of another school year approaches, I wonder how it's been for your child/children & household? A bit of a roller coaster-ride?

Faith can be a source of stability and your child/children may well have enjoyed regular 'Open the Book' Bible story sessions with Sally Watson & Mandy Barfoot.

· If you and/or they would like to explore more about Faith Matters, do get in touch with me or Revd Chris Harris [details below].

· We are aware of several adults, young people & children across our team of 10 churches, to which St John Baptist Marldon belongs, who have expressed interest in, or who would like to invite to think about Confirmation - taking another step along a developing faith journey. There will be a Totnes Team Service of Confirmation with the Bishop of Plymouth on November 2nd.

We would invite any children & young people to come together for weekly sessions, starting in September (probably at the Bridgetown Vicarage, in Totnes but maybe at St John's church in Bridgetown itself if it's better suited). If a group wouldn't work for anyone for whatever reason, but confirmation preparation was still desired, then we could make other arrangements. Joining the group wouldn't lock anyone into getting confirmed – it could also serve as an introduction to faith for some, or it may be through exploring that someone decides that now is not the right time.

(We will also offer confirmation prep to any adults, in another setting.)

If you would like to know more, do contact Revd Jane Frost in the village tel 525171 revjanefrost@gmail.com or Revd Chris Harris chris@totnesrectory.co.uk

Thank you:

All that we achieve as a school is ony possible with the hard work, creativity, and compassion of our brilliant staff. From classroom teachers to support staff, our office team to lunchtime supervisors, every member of our school family plays a crucial role—and I would like to thank them all wholeheartedly.

To you, our parents and carers, thank you. Your continued support, encouragement and trust makes all the difference. Whether it's attending events, volunteering your time, or simply cheering your child on or supporting them with their homework, you help create the warm, connected community we are so lucky to have.

My final words must be for our departing Year 6:

As you embark on the next phase of your journey we would like to wish you every success and happiness in all that you do. Remember all things are possible if you believe in yourself!

For everyone else, have a fantastic Summer Holiday and I look forward to welcoming you back in September.

Kind regards,
Jon Arnold
Head of School

ARTICLE 28 - Every child has the right to an education

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one issue of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

10 Ways You Can SHARE KINDNESS ONLINE

Last year, around one in five young people aged 10–15 in England and Wales admitted experiencing online bullying: most commonly being insulted or sworn at, or having hurtful messages sent about them. To someone who's being bullied, the world can seem like a bleak, negative place – but just one kind word can be a ray of hope: a turning point that brightens their day and refreshes their perspective. That's why 'One Kind Word' is the theme of Anti-Bullying Week 2021. We're supporting this year's event by bringing you ten top tips for beating online bullying by replacing it with kindness.

1 PRAISE WHERE IT'S DUE

Sometimes a friend or relative might post online about something they're proud to have achieved: maybe an exam they've passed, a new skill they've learned or a task they've completed. Celebrate their hard work and determination by being kind enough to praise them for it publicly.

2 REACH OUT

It's not always easy to tell what kind of mood someone is in just from what they post online. Simply dropping somebody a message to say 'hi', to ask if they're OK or to tell them that you're thinking of them could totally make their day.

3 RECOMMEND FUN THINGS

If there's something you enjoy doing online – perhaps you play a particular game, or you've found a really cool site – share it with someone you think will enjoy it. Even recommending a film or TV show you think they'll like can bring a little happiness to someone who really needs it.

4 OFFER TO HELP

Sometimes you might see a friend or family member posting a question online or asking for help with something they can't do themselves. Don't just ignore it – if you can help, get in touch. Something that's difficult for them might be no trouble for you!

5 POST POSITIVELY

Lots of people seem to go online purely to complain about things or be negative. Just because you're communicating online (and not face to face) doesn't mean you can't be positive, though! Post about things that make you happy and that you're thankful for. It could brighten someone else's day.

6 SHOW YOUR APPRECIATION

If somebody that you know has done something positive or shown kindness themselves, go online and thank them with a message or a post. Expressing your gratitude costs nothing and showing someone that you appreciate them will really make them feel good.

7 BE UNDERSTANDING

Showing empathy towards others is an act of online kindness which often gets overlooked. If you notice that someone you know is upset, drop them a message. Sometimes people just need someone else to listen to them and understand their situation.

8 SHARE INSPIRATIONAL POSTS

When you see something online that inspires you or makes you feel happy, share it with people you know. A spot-on quotation, a beautiful photo or an uplifting video can lift someone's spirits and help them to feel better about life.

9 THINK BEFORE COMMENTING

Thinking before we act can be just as important as acting in the first place. Taking a second to consider what you're saying in advance could stop you from posting something negative, hurtful or offensive – even if you don't mean to. It's better to post positively or not post at all.

10 LIKE, LOVE AND ENGAGE

If somebody posts something that you like on social media, don't just scroll past – take the time to like it, love it or leave an appreciative comment! Reacting positively to other people's posts might seem like a small gesture but could mean a lot to them.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with more than 10 years of experience in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @natonlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

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