

Harbour Schools Partnership
A guiding light for education

Autumn Term 2026

Marwood School Newsletter – 6th November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been wonderful to welcome the children back after half term and see them settle so quickly into their learning. As you will read below, pupils across the school have enjoyed a busy and engaging first week back, with exciting learning opportunities in every class and visits from Coram Education and the Life Education Team helping to enrich the curriculum further and provide valuable workshops across the school for children's personal development. The team commented on how well children engaged with these workshops.

I would also like to thank the 15 parents and carers who completed our recent Parent and Carer Survey. While this represents around 21% of our families, the feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with 100% of respondents saying they would recommend Marwood School to another parent. Parents highlighted our caring and dedicated staff, strong sense of community, outdoor learning opportunities and the way staff know and support children as individuals. The survey also identified communication as our main area for development, particularly around advance notice of events and keeping families informed. We are grateful for this feedback and will use it to help shape our ongoing school improvement work.

To help prepare for our Christmas Dinner this year we are asking for parents to complete the short Microsoft Form linked HERE as an expression of interest. The options will be Roast Turkey or Roasted Vegan Fillet served with Yorkshire Pudding, Roast Potatoes and a selection of Vegetables. Please note; there will be no Baguette or Jacket Potato Options available on this day.

Finally, we are looking forward to seeing many of our children and families at the MSA Disco this evening, which starts at 5.00pm. A huge thank you to the Marwood School Association and all the volunteers who have helped organise the event. We hope everyone has a fantastic time.

Thank you for your continued support. Have a lovely weekend, and we look forward to another great week of learning ahead.

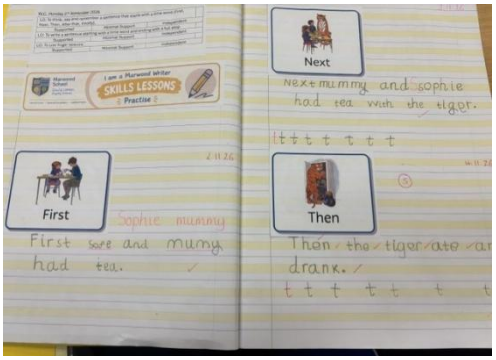
Stuart Boon
Headteacher

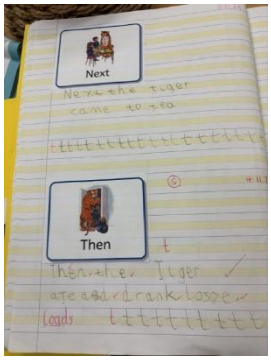
Class Updates

Lower School



This week, **Lower School** has been enjoying our focus text, *The Tiger Who Came to Tea*. The children have loved retelling the story, sequencing events, describing characters and settings, and developing their speaking, listening, reading and writing skills through a range of exciting activities.





In Maths, we have continued to follow the White Rose Maths scheme. Year 1 children have been learning about place value within 100, exploring tens and ones, and developing their counting, ordering and comparing skills. Reception children have been focusing on numbers 1-5, building confidence in counting, recognising numerals and matching numbers to quantities.

Our Geography topic this half term is *Around the World*, where the children are learning about the seven continents and exploring different countries, landscapes, climates, landmarks and animals. In Design and Technology, Lower School has begun investigating sliders and levers before designing and making their own moving pictures. Our PE focus is Yoga, helping children to develop balance, flexibility, coordination and body awareness.

In PSHE, the children have been learning about *Valuing Difference*, exploring kindness, respect and celebrating what makes each of us unique. In RE, they are considering the question, *"What does it mean to belong to a faith community?"* and learning about different faith communities and celebrations.



On Wednesday, **Lower School** enjoyed a visit from **Coram Education**, who led an engaging session about the human body and healthy lifestyles. The children learned about different body parts and discussed ways to keep healthy through nutritious food, regular exercise, good sleep habits and looking after their wellbeing. They listened carefully, shared their ideas confidently and showed great enthusiasm throughout the session.

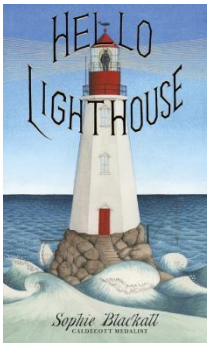
In continuous provision this week, the children have been developing their fine motor skills through threading and marble-rolling challenges, practising letter formation in sensory materials, sorting objects according to the materials they are made from, and building their understanding of numbers 4 and 5

through subitising and matching activities. Linked to our English learning, they have also enjoyed retelling and sequencing *The Tiger Who Came to Tea* using puppets, props and story cards, helping to develop their communication, comprehension and storytelling skills.

Mrs Hume

Middle School

The children in Middle School returned to school calmly after the break and quickly settled back into the routines of school life. It has been wonderful to see such a positive start to the half term.



In English, the children have begun their journey to becoming **'Clever Marwood Writers'**, our exciting new approach to the teaching of writing. We started the week by sharing *Hello Lighthouse* by Sophie Blackall. The children were intrigued by both the story and its beautiful illustrations. Using the text as inspiration, we focused on the story setting and discussed the features of effective descriptive writing. The children learned and practised key skills before applying them independently in their own writing.

Our new History topic is **Remembrance**. Over the coming weeks, children will develop their understanding of why remembrance is important and learn about the sacrifice and courage shown by those who have served their country.

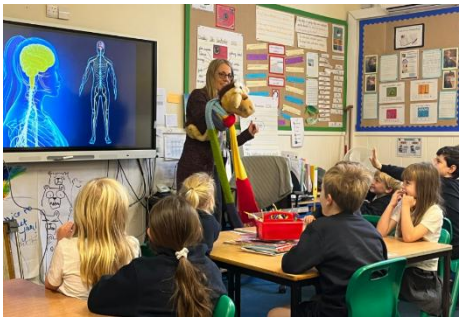
In Science, children have continued their learning about how to stay healthy, with a particular focus on healthy and unhealthy diets. Through discussion and investigation, they have explored how the choices we make can have an impact on our overall wellbeing.



Middle School have begun their Design and Technology unit 'Textiles and Joining'. Over the next half term the children will be working towards designing and making their own hand puppets. This week the children enjoyed investigating existing products and discussing materials used and how they were joined.



A particular highlight of the week was a visit from **Emma Louise** from the Life Education Team. During an engaging and thought-provoking session, children explored emotional wellbeing and learned how the brain controls the body through the nervous system. They helped Harold make healthy choices, discussed the effects of medicines, alcohol and smoking, and explored the importance of positive friendships. The children also learned about the benefits and potential risks of online activity.



It has been a busy and enjoyable week, and we are proud of the enthusiasm the children have shown in all areas of their learning.

Mrs Jones and Mrs Barnett

Upper School

The children have settled back into the term well and have continued to work hard. In English, we are now working towards writing our own narratives using our new **"I Am a Clever Writer"** approach. This encourages the children to make thoughtful choices about vocabulary, sentence structure and language features to engage their readers and improve their writing.

In Maths, we are currently focusing on multiplication and division and will soon be moving on to fractions. The children will continue to practise their times tables regularly, as a secure knowledge of these facts will support them throughout this unit of work and help develop their confidence and fluency in mathematics.

In History, we are moving on to explore the changing role of women throughout history. This topic links closely to some of the themes running through our class text, helping the children make meaningful connections across their learning. The children will eventually be writing an extended piece of writing on this topic, and we look forward to sharing their work with you once it has been completed.

In DT, we are learning to work with fabric and would like to reiterate our request for any spare wool or fabric that you may have at home. Any donations would be greatly appreciated and will help support the children's learning. Another exciting event on the horizon is our Enterprise Project, which will be starting very soon. The children are looking forward to developing their creativity, teamwork and problem-solving skills through this real-life learning opportunity. I'd like to thank you in advance for your support with this.

As always, my door is always open, so please feel free to come and see me, send me an email, or make an appointment to meet with me if you would like to discuss anything.

Thank you for your continued support. Have a lovely weekend and we look forward to another great week of learning next week.

Mrs Smales, Mrs Hesketh and Dr Boon

After School Club

Due to staffing changes, the After School Club is now capped at 15 spaces. Please ensure you book in advance if you know your child will require a space, as once all places are filled, we will be unable to accommodate additional children.

The system has also changed to charge based on bookings rather than attendance. If you book your child into either Breakfast or After School Club and then no longer require the place, we require at least 24 hours' notice; otherwise, you will be charged for the session. If you book your child into the After School Club and they do not attend, you will still be charged.

We understand that there may be occasions when there are genuine emergencies or illness, and we will consider these circumstances at our discretion.

The After School Club daily activity plan will remain unchanged as below.

Daily Activites

3.00 - 3.30	3.30 - 4.00	4.00 - 5.00	5.00 - 5.30
Snacks	Outdoor Play - Trim Trail/Top Pitch	Activity Time	Quiet Time: Reading/ Chrome books/ Homework

School Meals

Please be reminded School Lunches are now £2.70
Don't forget to complete the short Form HERE if you would like to have Christmas Dinner on Thursday 10th December

LUNCH MENU – WEEK 1
w/c 9th Nov & 30th Nov

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MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Cheese Pizza	Sausage Roll	Chicken & Stuffing	(Cheese) Butchers Beefburger in a Bun	Salmon Goujons
Veggie Sausage	Vegan Strips 'Chicken Style'	Cheese and Leeks Parcel	Veggie Burger in a Bun	Veggie Nuggets
Jacket Potato with Various Fillings	Jacket Potato with Various Fillings	Jacket Potato with Various Fillings	Jacket Potato with Various Fillings	Jacket Potato with Various Fillings
Cheese Baguette	Ham Baguette	Tuna Mayo Cucumber Baguette	Cheese Baguette	Ham & Cheese Baguette
Pasta, Corn on the Cob or Carrot Sticks	Wedges, Baked Beans or Salad	Roast Potato, Seasonal Vegetables & Gravy	Potato Wedges, Baked Beans or Peas	Chips or Pasta, Sweetcorn, Salad & Tomato Ketchup
Waffles & Summer Fruits with Syrup	Flapjack	Lemon Drizzle Cake	Ice Cream Pots	Fruity Shortbread

Dates for Your Diary

Tuesday 17th November – Animal Aid Assembly
Friday 20th November – Cultural Champion Visit - Sikhism

Monday 23rd November – Bookfair
Thursday 26th November – Tempest Photographs; including siblings not at school
Friday 27th November – Bookfair

Tuesday 8th December – Christmas Play Dress Rehearsal
Wednesday 9th December – Christmas Play 14.00 – 15.00 Marwood Hall
Thursday 10th December – Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 10th December – Christmas Dinner Day
Friday 11th December – Careers and people who inspire us morning.

LAST DAY OF AUTUMN TERM – Friday 18th December

Monday 4th January – INSET Day

FIRST DAY OF SPRING TERM – Tuesday 5th January

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITY CAMPS

£20 A DAY!

SWIMMING INCLUDED



CHRISTMAS CRAFTS AND BRACELET MAKING

Tarka Leisure, Barnstaple



FUN SPORTS LIKE FOOTBALL, DODGEBALL, AND MORE!

Date : 22nd December
29th - 31st December

Age : 5 - 13 years old



DELICIOUS LUNCHES AND SNACKS

Time: 10AM - 2PM

procoaching

BOOK ONLINE:
HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/EBRU2HRP
OR SCAN THE QR CODE