Harbour Schools Partnership
A guiding light for education

Autumn Term 2026

Marwood School Newsletter – 18th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a real pleasure to welcome everyone back to school over the last 2 weeks and to begin another exciting year at Marwood. The school has been full of energy, enthusiasm and learning from the very first day.

I would like to extend a particularly warm welcome to all of our new children and families who have joined us this term. Our Reception children have settled into school exceptionally well and are already embracing school life with confidence and enthusiasm. We have also welcomed several children into other year groups, and it has been wonderful to see how quickly they have become part of the Marwood family. The kindness and friendliness shown by our existing pupils has made an enormous difference and reflects the values we are proud of as a school community.

One of the highlights of the summer break was the completion of our exciting playground developments. The children have loved exploring the new markings and activity zones, including the basketball area, football space and running track. The addition of new equipment, such as the stepping stones, has already encouraged active play, cooperation and plenty of imaginative games during breaktimes. It has been fantastic to see the playground so full of happy, active children.

Across the school, learning is well underway. In Class 2, Forest School has begun and the children are thoroughly enjoying the opportunity to learn outdoors, develop new skills and connect with nature. There have already been some wonderful experiences and discoveries, and we look forward to sharing more of these throughout the year.

This term we have also been talking to the children about the importance of taking pride in their work and presentation. Their books are a reflection of their learning journey, effort and attitude, and it has been lovely to see so many children already demonstrating excellent standards. Each Friday we celebrate this through our Perfect Presentation Awards, recognising not only outstanding work but also those children who have made significant improvements in their presentation.

Yesterday, we were delighted to welcome back Indi, a beautiful Springer Spaniel, and her owner Ali from Pets As Therapy. Indi has been working with some of our children and it was wonderful to see the positive impact she had straight away. We look forward to seeing this special partnership develop over the coming weeks.

There is plenty happening across all three classes. In Lower School, the children have made a fantastic start to their early reading journey and are quickly becoming familiar with classroom routines and expectations. In Middle School, Forest School and hands-on learning opportunities are helping children develop independence, resilience and curiosity. Meanwhile, Upper School pupils have returned with a mature attitude towards their learning and are already embracing the increased responsibilities that come with being the oldest members of our school community and excellent role models for younger children.

I am also pleased to share that we have appointed **Mrs Kerri Nias** as a Teaching Assistant. Mrs Nias brings a wealth of experience and will be working with us on Fridays, supporting children in both Class 1 and Class 2. She will officially join us at the end of September, and we are very much looking forward to welcoming her to the team.

It has also been wonderful to see our clubs up and running again. Children are already enjoying opportunities such as tennis, choir, cross-country, Movement Club and many more. If any parents have skills, interests or expertise that they would be willing to share through a lunchtime or after-school club, we would love to hear from you. We are particularly keen to establish a STEM Club later in the term.

Finally, a reminder that we offer wraparound care both before and after school. If this would be helpful for your family, please contact Mrs Drury or Mrs Lewis in the school office on **01271 850395** or by email at **marwood@thsp.org.uk**.

Please also keep an eye on our Facebook page, where we regularly share key events, celebrations and updates from school life. Our curriculum pages on the school website provide detailed information about this year's learning journeys and personal development programme, so do take a look when you have the opportunity.

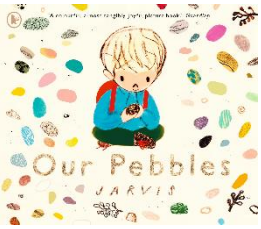
Thank you, as always, for your continued support. It has been a fantastic start to the year, and we look forward to sharing another successful and memorable year together.

Stuart Boon
Headteacher

Class Updates

Lower School

Reception and Year 1 have made a fantastic start to the new school year. Reception children have settled into school life brilliantly and are already becoming more confident and independent each day. Year 1 have returned ready to learn and have been excellent role models, helping our new Reception children settle into their routines and feel welcome in the classroom.



In English, we have been enjoying *Our Pebbles* by Jarvis. This beautiful story follows a little boy and his Grandfather as he describes a warm childhood memory of painting pebbles at the beach. The book has inspired lots of discussion, imaginative thinking and vocabulary development.

We have been working hard on our early writing skills. Reception children are focusing on holding a pencil correctly and sitting with good posture at the table, helping them to develop strong foundations for writing. In Year 1, children have been concentrating on neat handwriting and using capital letters correctly in their written work.

In Maths, Year 1 have been developing their understanding of place value by exploring teen numbers and learning how these numbers are made up of tens and ones. Reception children have been sorting objects into groups and beginning to talk about similarities and differences between sets.

During our extended provision sessions, we have been practising a wide range of skills, with a particular focus on developing fine motor control. The children have enjoyed writing in shaving foam, using small brushes to wash “muddy” cars in the car wash, and creating their own faces using playdough. These activities help to strengthen the muscles needed for writing while also encouraging creativity and problem-solving.

In History, we have started learning about Bonfire Night and discussing why it is celebrated. The children have enjoyed sharing what they already know and are beginning to learn about the events behind this important British tradition.

In Art, we have been exploring spirals, experimenting with making marks using both small movements and whole-body actions. This has helped the children understand how artists can create different effects and patterns while developing their control and coordination.

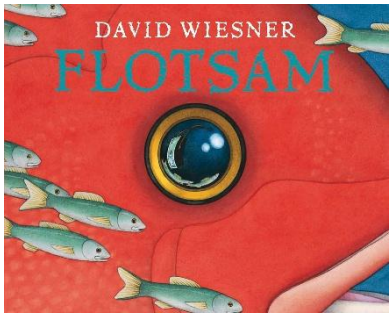
We are incredibly proud of how well all of the children have settled in and look forward to another exciting and productive half term.

Mrs Hume

Middle School

Class 2 have had a fabulous start to the new school year and have settled brilliantly into their new routines. The children have shown enthusiasm, resilience and a positive attitude to learning, making a fantastic start in all areas of the curriculum.

In English, we have been enjoying the beautiful wordless picture book *Flotsam*. The children have loved exploring the story through the illustrations, making thoughtful predictions about events and characters. They have also been developing their sentence-writing skills by using a range of prepositions to describe location and movement, helping to make their writing more detailed and engaging.



In History, we have begun learning about **Mary Seacole**, discovering her remarkable life and the important role she played in caring for soldiers during the Crimean War. The children have been fascinated by her courage, determination and kindness.

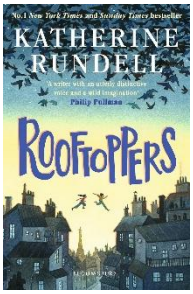
Our Science learning has focused on **animals and their basic needs for survival**. We have been investigating what animals need to stay alive, including food, water, air and suitable shelter. The children have enjoyed discussing different habitats and how animals are adapted to survive in their environments.

We are incredibly proud of how well the children have settled into Class 2 and look forward to an exciting and successful term ahead.

Mrs Jones

Upper School

What a fantastic week we have had in Year 6!



In English, the children have been exploring the fascinating characters in *Rooftoppers* and using their understanding of the text to support their writing. They are currently in the throes of creating an engaging newspaper report, and I have been incredibly impressed by their enthusiasm and creativity. Please do ask your child about their report and the exciting events they are writing about!

Our Play Leaders training was a great success. The children thoroughly enjoyed taking part and have learned lots of new games and activities that they can use on the playground. It has been wonderful to see them developing their leadership skills while helping to make playtimes even more enjoyable for everyone.

Science was another highlight this week. The children became young scientists as they investigated which materials could be used to make a complete electrical circuit. Through practical experimentation, they developed their understanding of conductors and insulators while demonstrating excellent teamwork and problem-solving skills.

As always, my door is always open, so please do come and have a chat with me if you have any questions or concerns.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Mrs Smales

Marwood School Association

🤝 Join Our MSA — We Need *You*!

Who we are & what we do?

We're the Parent-Teacher Association — a friendly group of parents, carers and teachers working together to make a real difference for every child at our school. In the past few years, we've raised funds for fantastic projects including our trim trail, new playground equipment, essential classroom supplies, extra curriculum resources, book corners in every classroom, library makeover with wall art and helped supplement trip costs so more children can enjoy amazing experiences.

Right now, we have just one PTA member keeping things going — and to reach our new fundraising goals, we truly can't do it alone!

We have more exciting plans ahead, but we need more hands, fresh ideas, and your energy to make them happen. You don't need lots of time or experience — whatever you can give will make such a real difference.

Come along to our first meeting:

🗓️ Thursday — straight after morning drop-off

📍 Staff Room

It's the perfect chance to find out more, ask questions, share your own ideas, and get involved. Everyone is very welcome!

Can't make it but still interested? Drop me a message 07961622673 or feel free to come chat.

Let's build our team and keep making great things happen — together! ✨

Many Thanks

Tayler (Parent to Jensen Upper School & Harper Lower School)

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 the 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

LUNCH MENU – WEEK 1

20th April – 11th May – 8th & 29th June – 20th July – 21st Sept. - 12th Oct.

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Available Every Day - Wholemeal Bread, Salad Bar, Fruit, Low Fat Yoghurts, Milk and Water .
All Special Diets catered for please speak to your schools Kitchen Manager for advice

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Cheese Pizza	Mild Beef Chilli with Rice and Nachos	Chicken & Stuffing	(Cheese) Butchers Beefburger in a Bun	Salmon Goujons
Veggie Sausage	Curried Noodles with Quorn Pieces	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	Peas or Cucumber Sticks	Roast Potato, Seasonal Vegetables & Gravy	Potato Wedges, Baked Beans or Peas	Chips or Pasta, Sweetcorn, Salad & Tomato Ketchup
Waffles & Summer Fruits with Syrup	Fruit Iced Smoothies	Lemon Drizzle Cake	Ice Cream Pots	Fruity Shortbread

Dates for Your Diary

Monday 21st September Pilton Community College Open Evening

Wednesday 23rd September Pilton Community College Open Morning

Thursday 24th September Upper School Volleyball Event – Southmead School

Thursday 24th September Braunton Academy Open Evening 5pm – 7.30pm

Thursday 24th September Park Community School Open Evening

Friday 25th September Ilfracombe Academy Year 6 Transition Festival

Tuesday 29th Appledore Book Festival Author Visit – Middle and Upper School

Wednesday 30th Appledore Book Festival Author Visit – Lower School

Tuesday 13th October Flu Vaccinations

Friday 16th October Stephen Shield Cross Country Event – Great Torrington School

Friday 23rd October INSET Day

HALF TERM
Monday 26th October - Friday 30th October

LAST DAY OF AUTUMN TERM
Friday 18th December