



School grounds looking wonderful in the Autumnal sunshine

Dear Parents and Carers



Welcome to our first regular newsletter of the year. I hope that everyone has been able to settle into their usual school routines in the mornings. We must congratulate our pupils and families in Reception for completing their first full week at school!

Our youngest pupils have settled really well and have been enjoying getting to know their surroundings and friendships. Congratulations must go to Mrs Corbett and the team in Early Years for the fantastic job they do with transition from nursery each year. Also, we extend a warm welcome to any families new to the school who have joined us this September. We hope you have begun to get used to the routines and you and your children have begun building relationships with the families at school.

Along with this newsletter there is a list of **key dates** for the year so that you can put them in your diaries. A theme from last year's parent survey was the request for more notice about events; we hope you appreciate this. Speaking of events, we have an exciting event next Wednesday, a **Mini Marathon**. Children will have 10-15 minutes to complete laps of the field and can collect sponsorship for their efforts. All monies received will go towards playground equipment for use at break and lunchtime. We look forward to this being a part of our back to September routine each year.

You will see that the **PTA** also have some dates lined up for events this year including a welcome back BBQ today! We look forward to seeing everyone mixing with friends whilst having the opportunity to support the school too!

There have been a number of questions relating to **PE kit**, especially hoodies. It is true that the school is considering replacing the current PE t-shirts and hoodies for something more suitable for sports wear. Any changes that we make will only become mandatory from September 2025 to allow enough time for parents to use any existing PE kit. We aim to use this year as a transitional year so that pupils can wear either the current kit or the new kit. We hope to have some updates on this in the next few weeks.



Children enjoying the new trim trail in KS2

You will see in your Arbor account our annual request for **voluntary contributions** to the school fund where the Governing board request termly voluntary contributions from parents. These funds are used to improve the learning environment and resources for the children. The current suggested donation is £22.00 per term or £60.00 per year. Again, this is voluntary and can be paid via Arbor. There is an option for another amounts should this be your preference.

Quotes of the week

Coming back to school...

"My teacher is very positive and this means I am happy as well" Harlow, Poplar class

"I have really enjoyed learning French in my new class." Autumn, Hazel class

"I love my new year. I have enjoyed lots of learning so far." Sebastian, Larch class

"I like the learning environment in my new classroom." Zach, Yew class

"My first impressions of Year 6 have been that Mrs Powell is really kind and we all enjoy laughing together as a class." Shelyne

"I am proud of the values stickers that I have earned this year. I enjoy the lessons." Marshall, Poplar class

"I have enjoyed making new friends." Rose, Alder class

Diary dates coming up



Friday 13th September
PTA welcome back BBQ

Wednesday 18th September
Mini Marathon

Tuesday 24th September
Pete Murray author visit - KS2

Thursday 26th September
Parent workshop - Mobile phone safety for children

Thursday 3rd October
Individual and sibling photos
NSPCC speak out stay safe sessions

Friday 4th October
Individual and sibling photos

Monday 7th October
Harvest celebration

Good News Certificates



EYFS: Sienna and Lola C

Year 1: Adam and Shaylen

Year 2: Isaac and Zannah

Year 3: Autumn and Ella

Year 4: Tylar and Amelia

Year 5: Ashton and Magnus

Year 6: Charlie and Ben

Attendance

Lower School: Alder + Beech joint winners with 96.5%

Upper School: Holly Winners with 97.9%

School attendance this week

95.1%

Last year average was 95%

Aiming for 97%

School Values



At the start of the school year, we are concentrating on explaining the whole school routines that we expect. This week, we explained about the routine for safe and happy breaktimes. This demonstrates our school value of Respect. Next week, we will explore routines for coming in to school each morning and leaving school at the end of the day.

Welcome meetings

We hope you appreciated the welcome meetings held by teachers this Monday. Just a reminder that any key information relating to your child's year group, including curriculum maps of what your child is learning, can be found on class pages of the school website. EYFS parents, if you haven't managed to log on to SeeSaw yet, please see your child's teacher.

Uniform reminders

It is wonderful to see so many children coming to school in correct school uniform. A gentle reminder that children should have black trainers for PE; not white ones.

Houses needed

We would love to publicise our school tours and open days a little more widely. Last summer, we asked for volunteers to have an estate agent board outside their house advertising the dates of our upcoming tours. We need more houses so if you are happy to have a board outside your house to help the school, please speak to Mrs Robinson our Business Manager.

School tours

We have published our dates for school tours for pupils starting school in September 2025. If you know anyone who will be starting school next September, please direct them to our admissions [website pages](#) for more information.

Character Curriculum

We looked at our first classroom expectation this week - sitting. We explained how sitting helps us and others concentrate with our learning and that this was respectful. We discussed about sitting on chairs appropriately and what we should do with our hands when we are sitting. Next week, we will focus on looking



How to sit on a chair or carpet



- Feet on the floor when on a chair
- Adjusting your chair to be close to the table
- What to do with your hands
- Looking at the person who is speaking



Positivity



Honesty



Respect



Pride



Roots and branches

Building the community together

Roots and Branches Parent Support Group

Maidenhead PCN Roots and Branches proudly present a parent support group for the families of Maidenhead. This is an opportunity to be supported by others in a safe environment. Come along and chat to other parents and our Children, young people and families social prescribers about your worries and challenges you may be facing that impact your daily lives.

Wednesday 2nd October 10am – 12pm

St Marks Hospital Maidenhead in the small conference room.
(Head to the Courtyard café and a member of the team will meet you there)

If this is of interest, please respond to this poster via email with confirmation that you would like to attend to be-pct.socialprescribing@nhs.net

We look forward to seeing you there Roots and Branches
(Maidenhead PCN)



What is Little Musketeers?

- The UK's No.1 dedicated primary school fencing programme.
- A welcoming and friendly club giving children a fun and safe introduction to the sport of fencing.
- Founded in 2009 by Olympian and 10x British champion James Beevers.
- Currently operating in 60 schools across Berkshire.



Why choose us?

Because its fun!



- Classes provide a unique mix of mental, social and physical stimulation.
- Strategic, disciplined, physical nature makes it attractive to a wide range of students.
- Endorsed by the worlds leading cognitive, developmental neuroscientist.
- Teaching the art of friendly confrontation & conflict resolution.
- Emphasis on a child's social emotional well-being.
- Development of a child's executive functions.



Dear Parent

Little Musketeers at Wessex Primary School | Orange Term – Creativity

Little Musketeers are back offering a fun, safe and educational environment for young children to learn the sport of fencing. What child has not grown up pretending to be a swashbuckling pirate, a dueling Musketeer, or even the master of swordplay himself, Zorro? Why do they do it? Because it's fun!

Little Musketeers provide bright coloured foam and plastic foils and plastic masks with mesh visors that are safe and yet hard enough to give children the real feel of fencing. We ensure visors are worn at all times giving peace of mind as well as that genuine fencing experience.

Little Musketeers classes are designed and managed by Olympic fencer and 4 times British National Champion James Beevers. All staff are CRB checked, First Aid certified and trained personally by James.

This term's course will focus on **Creativity** as well as teaching the children some different **forms of attack** that they can use in their matches! Once the course is completed, they will be awarded with the **Orange term wristband**.

We hope you can join us for our **11-week course** as follows:

- Monday 16th September - Monday 09th December 2024 / 08:00 - 08:45am / Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5, Year 6

The cost for the course will be **£88.00** per child.

If your child would like to sign up for this course, please visit:

<https://bookings.littlemusketeers.com>

Once there, follow the instructions to complete your booking online. **Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come first serve basis.**

Yours Faithfully

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