

27th August 2021

Executive Headteacher: Mrs. S Hall

### Getting Ready for 'Back to School'

I thought I would take some time to get in touch with you and let you know about what has been happening. Over this last month, we have been preparing for the new academic year. Staff have been very busy getting classrooms ready and the whole site has had a deep clean. Mr Quinn has also been busy and has built a shelter/ stage on the Key Stage Two playground!



It's hard to include a photo that will do it justice but there have been many 'oh wows!' from staff and I know the children will be amazed when they see it. Not only will this give children some shelter from the rain or the sun, it will also be a great place for children to sing and dance on. I am looking forward to my future lessons on the latest Tik Tok dances!

### Uniform Expectations

With the pandemic, expectations about wearing uniform lapsed a little as people were keen to wash clothes more. Therefore I wanted to get in touch to share with you what we expect children to wear as September is always the best time to start as we mean to go on. We appreciate your support with this:-

- GIRLS - blue gingham dresses or culottes, grey/ black pinafores or skirts, grey/ black shorts or trousers, white polo shirts/ blouses, navy blue sweater/ cardigan/ fleece
- BOYS - grey/ black shorts or trousers, white polo tops/ shorts, navy blue sweater/ cardigan/ fleece
- All children are expected to wear black school shoes or plain black trainers
- PE Kit - Black shorts or jogging bottoms, plain white t-shirt and black/ navy hoody for outside (We do have plenty of PE kits in the academy so this is something we can provide). There will be **no** PE taught on Tuesday 7th September; the children's first day back.

If you do have any spare uniform, including underwear and socks, we are always happy to take it at Marshland. This helps a great deal!

### Building Work

After a long delay, due to Covid, Marshland is finally getting a whole new roof! This is something we put in a bid for as an academy and the DfE are funding this project for us, costing hundreds of thousands of pounds. The work is due to start mid-September so please do not be concerned if scaffolding is in place in parts of the building. We are working very closely with the DfE project manager and the contractors to ensure there is as little disruption as possible for our children and families.

27th August 2021

Executive Headteacher: Mrs. S Hall

### Reading

One of the main priorities when we come back is improving children's ability to read with confidence and fluency. This is really an area that we need your help with, sharing a book with your child 4 or 5 times a week.

Rather than buy book bags, which are not always popular with older children, every Marshland child from Y1—Y6 will receive their own backpack which has a pocket on the front for their reading book and reading record. Y1 and Y2 children have black, Y3 children have red, Y4 children have green, Y5 children have blue and Y6 children have grey backpacks. One of the activities on the first day back is to that the children will decorate their own key ring so we know whose is who! There will be lots of information coming your way about home-reading but in the meantime, I just wanted to let you know about the backpacks as it is an expectation that children bring these every day.

If you have had a sort out over the summer holidays and you have come across any books that belong to Marshland, then we would be grateful that they are returned.

### Parents/ Carers in Marshland

Obviously you will be aware that as of 16th August, many of the Covid restrictions were lifted nationally, especially with regards self-isolating. When you bring your children to Marshland there is no longer the expectation that you wear face coverings. However, you may still wish to do so and also, it could be that this is looked at if we do get an outbreak at the academy.

This means that we can slowly start to bring more parents and carers into the building for special events, which is one of the things we do best at Marshland!

If your child is in the nursery class, please feel free to come into the class in a morning if you want to do the morning activity and settle your children. The staff will be more than happy to be on hand if you have any concerns or questions, especially if this is your child's/ children's first term with us. This is also the case if your child is with Mrs Aston in Foundation Stage Two.

Also, we need your help with reading! If you have any spare time to offer us to hear our children read, then please contact the office for a volunteers form.

Although there is still some caution needed with regards Covid, it is exciting to consider getting back to normal at Marshland.

### ... and finally!

Enjoy your last week with your children and fingers crossed we get good weather for the final few days. I can't wait to see you all in September. If you need anything before then, please contact [ml-admin@vennacademy.org](mailto:ml-admin@vennacademy.org)

Mrs Sarah Hall

*'At the heart of it all is the child'*