

Head Teacher

Miss Emma Churchman

Telephone: 01473 624409

office@martleshamacademy.org

www.martleshamacademy.org

HEAD TEACHER MONTHLY – FEBRUARY 2020

Dear Parents,

Please find below updated information on what has been happening in school over this half term and what is planned for next half term.

Staffing

We are currently recruiting a permanent teacher for Adonis Blue Class. We were delighted with the number of high quality applications that we received. Miss Hudson and I will be observing the applicants teach, interviewing them and also asking the children for their feedback. We will be able to share with you the result of the interview process after half term. The successful applicant will then start with us after the Easter Holidays.

Sadly, Mr King has made the decision to leave sports coaching and pursue an alternative career. We have made the decision to change sports providers after February half term. The reason for this is that I feel that consistency is key for our children as having a range of instructors impacts on the quality of coaching they receive. We are glad to be working with Inspire Suffolk and we welcome Mr Dowsing who will return to MPA and be our sports coach. He will be delivering the PE curriculum and also running the after school clubs. Please see the list below and note the changes for a Wednesday.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Gymnastics All Year Groups	Multi Sports All Year Groups	Net Games All Year Groups Football Selected Players	Dance Kids All Year Groups

After half term Band Academy will no longer be working at MPA. They made the decision to leave the school and focus on music tuition to smaller groups rather than whole class teaching. The children have loved the music experience offered to them so far this year. We wish them well for the future. Music sessions will be taught by the teachers for the rest of the academic year. Suffolk Music Service will continue to teach clarinet to the children in Adonis Blue Class. Mr Kershaw, the teacher, is very pleased with the progress the children are making.

Partnership with Ipswich Town

This year I have made links with Ipswich Town Football Club and I am delighted that our families are having the opportunity to watch professional matches. We have applied to be a "Wild Cats" centre for girl's football and we are waiting for confirmation of when this will start. It was due to start in January but it has been delayed. I will of course update you as soon as I have a date. We are also waiting for our Ipswich Town banner to arrive for our front gate. Once we receive this, we automatically get two tickets to every home game in recognition for backing the "Blues!"

World Book Day

I am aware via Parent Council that some parents are upset with the decision not to do a dress up day for World Book Day this year. Feedback from parents last year was that getting costumes was tricky as they were unsure who the authors were and that it was an additional expense that parents did not appreciate. Due to this, we have planned an alternative this year by decorating a potato as the children's favourite book character. This would involve a minimal expense and also allows the children to be really creative. World Book Day is on **Thursday 5 March** and there will be a day planned where we celebrate our love of books together. Further details will be shared after half term.

Reports

The annual report will be given to parents on **Tuesday 10 March** for all children in Year One to Year Six. I believe having a report during the year enables your child to meet their targets. At the end of the year you will receive a shorter report which outlines the progress made. Parent consultations will take place on **Tuesday 11 March 3.30pm to 6.30pm** and **Wednesday 18 March 3.30pm to 5.00pm**. I would encourage all parents to make an appointment to see their child's teacher.

Contacting Staff

As you know teachers are not available at the start of the school day but are always available at the end of the day. If you need to give a message to the teacher then please do this via the office in person, by phone or by sending an email to the office who will then forward this. Alternatively, you can send a note in with your child. Staff personal emails are not shared; all communication is via the school office email.

20 Books in 2020

We have launched our new reading at home initiative which is designed to encourage the children to expand their reading experiences. We will hold monthly rewards for the children who complete the challenge with a guest story reader, a hot chocolate and a sweet snack. In addition, the children will receive a certificate and they will have their picture taken for a display in school. We look forward to seeing the children complete the challenge over the coming months.

Sensory Garden

You will have seen the digger in school last week as we cleared the area that historically homed the chickens. Our plan is to make this a quiet sensory garden for the children to use. This will involve a bird feeding and watching area, a wild meadow, a bug hotel, wind chimes and seating space. Mr Francis is finalising the plan for this and we will share this with you next term.

Thank you to the team of volunteers who have already planted the trees. We are going to have a community day in the Summer Term where we can create some of designated areas together. We were thinking of having a BBQ too as a token of thanks to the families that can spare sometime with the project.

It has been an eventful half term and one that has presented us with challenges. I would personally like to thank you for working with the school and being very supportive. This means a lot to me and the MPA team. We wish you all a lovely half term and we will see you on **Tuesday 25 February**.

Warm wishes

Miss E Churchman
Head Teacher