
Dear parents,

Welcome to the March newsletter. I have been considering changing the newsletter for a little while and this time have taken the plunge!! Please let me know what you think.

The spring term has flown by and we now find ourselves at the Easter holidays! This half term has been filled with plenty of learning, fun and laughter. It also brought with it a change in the weather which, I think we all agree, was much needed!

I hope you all have time over Easter to rest and spend time with family and friends.

Warmest regards
Teresa Bosley
Executive Headteacher



The Acorn Partnership

Manston Montgomery Primary School

Long Lane C of E Primary School



School Information

School Business Officer

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances the candidate offered the post withdrew their acceptance. We are continuing our search for a School Business Officer.

In the meantime, we will continue to receive support from Miss Baldwin, Mr Hopkinson (from the DDAT Central Team), and Mrs Redmond, who is an experienced SBM.

After the Easter holiday Mr Jones will return to his usual role. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for the support he has given us during the spring term.

Please continue to email any queries to me, and I will ensure they are directed to the appropriate person.

I would like to thank you all for your patience and understanding during this period of change.

Farewell to Miss Walters

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Miss Walters for her hard work and dedication over the years at Long Lane, she will be greatly missed.

I am sure you will all join me in wishing her good luck in her new adventure.

Newspaper and Magazines

After the Easter holiday, the Meadow Class will be using newspaper and magazines for their art lessons. If you have any you can donate, please send them into school thank you.

Please also send boxes, e.g. cereal boxes (nothing too large) for art in the Garden Class. Garden Class would also like materials for junk modelling, thank you.

Attendance

Absence Procedures

If your child is too unwell to attend school, please contact school by telephone or email before 9.00am and inform us of the reason for their absence and when you expect them to return to school.

From January, if you are emailing to inform us of an absence please include ALL of the staff below,

LLPS	Mrs Bosley: tbosley@acorn.derbyshire.sch.uk Mrs Norcross: lnorcross@acorn.derbyshire.sch.uk Mr Lovett: jlovett@acorn.derbyshire.sch.uk
MMPS	Mrs Bosley: tbosley@acorn.derbyshire.sch.uk Mrs Thomas: lthomas@acorn.derbyshire.sch.uk Mrs Sheen: nsheen@acorn.derbyshire.sch.uk

Attendance

As always, attendance continues to be a focus for schools. At both of our schools we have reviewed our target for overall attendance to 97%. This half-term we are achieving this target with the following overall attendance at each school, -

	Autumn	Spring	Total
LLPS	96.39%	95.44%	96.01%
MMPS	98.21%	94.5%	96.44%



Online Safety

Online Safety for younger children

The next three pages provide useful information on online safety. Although it is for younger children some of the advice is relevant to all children. I hope you find it useful.



Online Safety for Younger Children

1/4

Research finds that parents' attitudes to children's digital activity correspond to the United Nations



... and parents struggle to balance children's digital safety whilst ensuring children's rights and well-being



2/4

Parents believe selective technology use can support good child health and well-being

For example, through dance, listening to music, connection to distant family, co-viewing TV & co-using tech...

... but parents also fear tech over-use and passive, solitary use can harm children's health



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Artwork - Lynn Taylor

3/4

Parents believe digital media can support learning, often in fun ways,

especially language, maths and creativity...

... but parents are also concerned about poor quality media and apps, and using tech "too much too early"



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



4/4

Parents believe technology will be crucial for their child's success in education and work...

... but parents are aware that some children have greater digital access than others



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES





Online Safety for Younger Children

Think about how you and other adults and children use media at home
because you are modelling behaviours that the very young child will imitate and want to do
So, avoid using all the time - balance your own tech use with other activities

Be playful and do things together with tech
Talk with your child, carefully listen to them and promote a sense of enjoyment
Children learn best when they are interested and having fun

Use parental controls on ALL digital devices at home at ALL times
and think about what data might be stored on a cloud about your child

Top tips for young children's media use*
** It's what you do with the tech that matters, not the tech itself!*

Look things up together and talk about them
so children learn they can find valuable information using tech
Like the weather when you're deciding what to do - talk about the symbols and what they mean

Follow the child's interest
if your child develops an interest in a particular thing then you might find out about it online
For example, if you find a caterpillar outside, talk about it, read the Hungry Caterpillar story, maybe look up how caterpillars pupate in a book or online - integrate tech in everyday life in meaningful ways

Update your own learning of digital and e-safety for children
embed and model healthy digital behaviours

Toddlers, Tech and Talk

Led by Professor Rosie Flewitt

Partners: Economic and Social Research Council, Manchester Metropolitan University, Lancaster University, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST, University of Strathclyde Glasgow, Swansea University



Online Safety for Younger Children

The VERY YOUNG

C



Create a positive and interactive environment for media use

Illustration: Lynn Taylor

H



Help your child use media in ways that act as windows on the wider world

I



Include your child in digital activities - play with media together, watch films and videos together, talk together about what's happening, who the characters are

L



Learn about ALL your digital devices' safety features and always activate parental controls

D



Develop ways to negotiate the end of your child's media use, like waving goodbye to characters on screen, so these become familiar and accepted routines

AND

Top tips: How to Support Very Young Children's Safe and Purposeful Tech Use

T



Think about how you model healthy, interesting and safe media use - model good tech use (Are you on your smartphone more often than you'd like?)

E



Enjoy using digital media *with* your child, talk about what they are seeing and doing with media and connect digital experiences to 'real life' experiences

C



Call family members and friends with your child - staying connected with family via tech can foster relationships, communication skills, sense of identity and belonging

H



Help your child to use media purposefully, for example:

- enjoy looking at and talking about family photographs - this helps your child remember what they have done, and encourage your child to tell their own little stories about their lives, feelings and enjoyment
- enjoy songs and rhymes together, sing along and move in time to music
- take photographs and videos at home and in your wider community
- Balance your child's tech use with free play, face-to-face interaction, physical exercise and time with nature



Toddlers, Tech and Talk

Supporting Learning - Reading

Reading

Children read regularly in school, both independently and to an adult.

This happens in a variety of ways. They might

- Read their individual reading book
- Take part in guided reading
- Read the class story / text

Please listen to children read regularly at home. Reading little and often and talking about the books they are reading supports children to make progress.

In school children are rewarded when they read at home using our reading tree. As they move up the tree they earn dojos. Every 25 times of reading receives a certificate.



How many times have you read at home?

Read 25 - 5 Dojos



Read 23	Read 24
Read 21	Read 22

We are Woodland readers



Read 20 - 5 Dojos
Read 19
Read 18
Read 17

We are Oak Tree readers



Read 16 - 5 Dojos
Read 15
Read 14
Read 13

We are Sapling readers



Read 12 - 5 Dojos
Read 11
Read 10
Read 9

We are Seedling readers



Read 8 - 5 Dojos
Read 7
Read 6
Read 5

We are Acorn readers

Supporting Learning - Writing

Writing

In school we assess the children's independent writing using the Trust's Writing Assessment Spine.

This academic year 'Writing Checklists' have been introduced which share expectations in child friendly language.

We have used the checklists to share writing targets with the children. The children have the checklists or targets cards in their books so that they can use them to help them improve their writing.

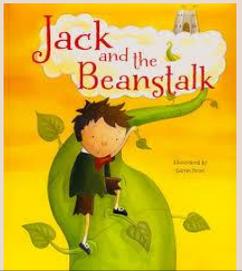
My Dragonfly Writing Checklist

Autumn; Spring; Summer.

Working at the Expected Standard, I can:				
1	Form my letters so they are a correct size and shape ABC abc Begin to use some diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters.			
2	Use spaces between my words which reflects the size of my letters.			
3	Use capital letters correctly.			
	Use full stops to end my sentences.	●		
	Use question marks to end my sentences.	?		
	Use exclamation marks to end my sentences.	!		
4	(Co-ordination) Join words and clauses with: and, but, or	+		
5	Use expanded noun phrases. E.g. The shiny, red car. The delicious, gooey cake.			
6	Use the correct choice of tense.			
7	ch/ai/n - chain Segment words into phonemes and represent with graphemes spelling most correctly.			
8	Spell common exception words			
9	Write about real events, simply and clearly.			
10	(Subordination) Join words and clauses with: when, if, that, because		
11	Can't Begin to use apostrophes for contraction.			
12	Begin to use commas in a list. E.g. Please take your pencil, ruler and crayons from your drawers.	,		
14	Begin to use the singular possessive apostrophe E.g. Ben's jumper. The dog's collar.	,		
15	Re-read to check my writing makes sense.			
16	Proof read to check for errors in spelling, punctuation and grammar.			

What have we been learning in the Garden Class?

Our English text this term has been Jack and the beanstalk. We completed some excellent modelled writing to improve our writing and innovated our own stories.



In maths we have been learning about multiplication and division, odd and even numbers and measuring using cm and metres.

In school we celebrated World Down Syndrome Day. In Garden class we really enjoyed trying to copy a picture with our wrong hand wearing a sock. It was very hard! but really helped us understand some of the challenges a child with Down syndrome may face.

In History we have really enjoyed learning about Rosa Parks. Our favourite lesson was where we acted out what happened to Rosa on the bus and afterwards, we talked about how Rosa might feel and how that what happened influenced what happened in her life



Our reception children's theme this half term has been Come Outside. A lot of our learning has been linked to Jack and the beanstalk. Through our challenges we have built giants castles from small and large construction indoors and out, ordered numbers on beanstalks, innovated Jack and the beanstalk stories by changing the characters and described the giant's character.



What have we been learning in the Meadow Class?

History

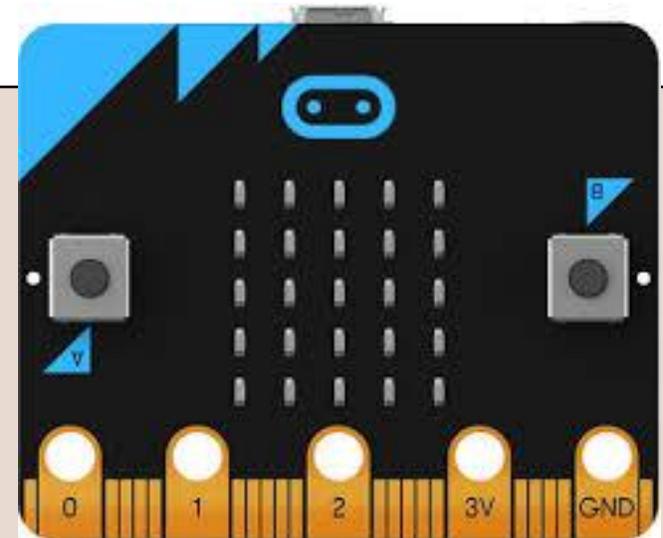
The children have built on their knowledge learnt on the Cadburys world trip about the Maya. They have looked at where in the world they lived and how the recorded numbers and use a codex to write.

Science

Year 3/4 have learnt how to carry out scientific investigations using the correct process and vocabulary
Year 5/6 have looked at how materials can change, either through mixing or chemical reactions and seeing what changes are reversible or irreversible.

Computing

Micro:Bits were introduced to the children as a device they could program in many different ways. Using their new programming skills, they turned it into a compass and a step counter.



World Book Day – 05/03/26

We enjoyed welcoming family members into school to join our World Book Day celebrations.

At Marston the children all participated in a 'Little Red Riding Hood' themed Kiddiactiv session. While at Long Lane teams worked hard to make a costume using newspaper, Sellotape and other resources which they needed to buy!

FOMM: Golden ticket
 Marston were also incredibly lucky, FOMM arranged for a visit from Willy Wonka (aka Mrs Charlesworth) who was selling chocolate bars, some of which contained a golden ticket.

Golden Ticket winners won a book token.

Huge thanks to FOMM for organising this – the children thoroughly enjoyed it!



Staff at Long Lane dressed up as colour monsters.



The children decorated potatoes as book characters.



Willy Wonka visits Marston.



Staff at Marston dressed up as characters from Little Red Riding Hood.

World Down Syndrome Day – 20/03/26

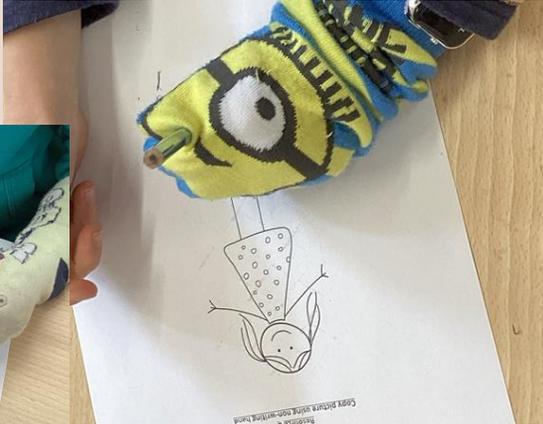
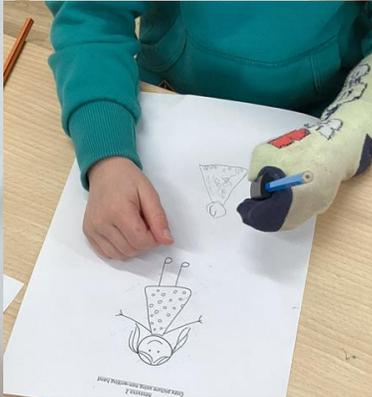
We wore odd socks to school to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day. Our children, in both schools are able to articulate how everyone is different and everyone is special. In both schools they show this daily through their actions.



Long Lane's odd socks



Marston's odd socks



Children at Long Lane tried to copy a picture using our wrong hand wearing a sock to help us think about some of the difficulties children with Down's Syndrome might face.

The children learnt to spell their names using Makaton and signed along with Old Macdonald

Sports Events

Y3/4: Dodgeball Finals – 12/03/26

The children from Year 3 and 4, Mrs Coward and Mrs Bosley all ventured to Derby Arena to participate in the dodgeball finals. On the coach the children excitedly planned their tactics and how they would work together. The children worked well as a team, supporting and encouraging each other. They worked hard and played well against some very strong competition.

Well done Year 3 and Year 4, we are all proud of you.

KiddiActiv – Every Thursday

The children in Garden Class enjoy the KiddiActiv sessions. They balance, jump, sing action songs and practice catching and throwing. It is great fun and on World Book Day Meadow Class got to join the fun for a Little Red Riding Hood themed session.

Forest School

The Meadow Class at both schools have enjoyed Forest School with Primary Stars. This is what they had to say about the sessions.

At forest school we chose a wild name and nature names and had a competition to do task master in teams. We made pictures on the ground of animals and then we made vehicles out of sticks, stones and logs. We listened to a story and we learnt we had a grandmother tree. (This is the oldest tree in the space we have). After every session we thanked the grandmother tree.

Meadow Class: Small school Sportshall – 03/03/26

The children in Meadow class took part in small school sportshall finals at Wirksworth. They had lots of fun competing against their peers and cheering each other on. They excelled in track events! Well done Meadow Class 😊



What have we been up to at Long Lane?

Little Monkeys – Every Friday

This half term we have run a couple of more relaxed Little Monkeys sessions. During these sessions we have offered a couple of sessions outside, and we loved getting on the field again in our wellies, exploring all the areas. During our indoor sessions, Our Little Monkeys have had the opportunity to experience how the reception class work , again having the opportunity to develop their independent play though exploration of sand, water, role play, art, playdough and small world construction.

Mothers' Day Service – 13/03/26

Thank you to all those how joined us to celebrate our Mums. The children reminded us how important all the ladies who care for us are.



Easter Service – 27/03/26

Our Easter service reminded us of the importance of Easter in the Christians calendar and the reasons for this. Well done to the children for their participation in the service and thank you to all who were able to attend.



Summer 1 2026 Events

30/03/26 to 10/04/26		Easter Holiday	
13/04/26	School reopens	8:55am	
16/04/26	Primary Stars – lunchtime club and PE	12:30pm	Children will need to have their PE kits in school on these days.
23/04/26			
30/04/26			
07/05/26			
14/05/26			
21/05/26			
21/04/26	School photographs		School photographs for parents to buy will be taken today
30/04/26	FOLL: Film Night		Look out for more information from FOLL nearer the time
04/05/26	May Bank Holiday	All day	School closed
11 to 14/05/26	KS2 SATs Week	Monday to Thursday mornings	Children in Year 6 will take their SATs this week
18 & 19 / 05/26	Joint PSHE Days	All day	Children from both schools will join together for the RSHE aspect of our PSHE curriculum
20 & 21 / 05/26	Joint DT Days	All day	This is in place of the postponed days at the end of the spring term
22/05/26	Joint Sports Event – focus TBC		Children from both schools will join together for a joint sports event
25 to 29/05/26		School closed for half term	
01/06/26	School reopens	8:55am	
03/07/26	INSET Day		School closed
06/03/26	INSET Day		School closed

Summer 1 2026 Events - Dates to share

Please share details of these events with friends and family who have pre-school children, thank you.

Everyone is welcome – the more the merrier!

Long Lane – Events in Summer 1 2026			
17/04/26	Little Monkeys –	1:30pm to	Pre-school children and a family member / carer are welcome to come and join the Garden Class for these fun weekly sessions
01/05/26	Outdoor session	3:15pm	
15/05/26			
24/04/26	Little Monkeys –	1:30pm to	
08/05/26	Indoor session	3:15pm	

Marston Montgomery – Events in Summer 1 2026			
30/03/26 to 10/04/26		Easter Holiday	
16/04/26	KiddiActiv	9:15am to 10:15am	These excellent session are led by Primary Stars staff and are located in the Village Hall behind the school.
23/04/26			
30/04/26			
07/05/26			
21/05/26			
16/04/26	Marston Tots –	1:30pm to	Pre-school children and a family member / carer are welcome to come and join the Garden Class for these fun weekly sessions
30/04/26	Outdoor session	3:15pm	
14/05/26			
23/04/26	Marston Tots –	1:30pm to	
07/05/26	Indoor session	3:15pm	
21/05/26			