

# MARCHWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER  
15<sup>th</sup> October 2010

Dear Parents,

Wow! ACE time has been ace! It has been wonderful to see so many parents enjoying being in school. The children were so proud to sit in the sunshine and share their learning with mums, dads, grandmas and grandads. Younger siblings (babies and toddlers) are very welcome to attend ACE sessions. We want as many parents as possible or other family members to come to be part of our Marchwood Family and enjoy talking about learning.

There will be six ACE sessions during the year (one at the end of each half term). We aim to vary the day each time to enable parents who work part time to attend. We do not expect parents to attend every single session, but the spread of sessions over the year provides ample opportunity for parents to join the Marchwood Family for the afternoon. If you cannot attend an ACE time, you are very welcome to make an appointment with your child's teacher to look through their learning after school or to send another family member in your place!

Now you know how great ACE time is, please put next half term's dates in your diary:

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2.30pm** Lower School ACE

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2.30pm** Upper School ACE

Next time, if you have a child in both US and LS and your commitments mean you are unable to attend both days, we will give you the opportunity to work with both your children on the same day.

## Feedback

Thank you to the parents who completed the short form about strengths of MJS and

things they would like to see improved. A brief selection of comments include:

### Strengths

Caring, friendly atmosphere

Children are valued and encouraged to get involved

Staff are approachable

Smart appearance and good behaviour insisted upon

Friendly and helpful reception staff

### Suggestions for improvements

Improve communication between home and school (We now have a weekly newsletter to aid with this.)

Children's toilets! (We are awaiting quotes for transforming one set of children's toilets.)

Parents more involved with school (We have introduced ACE time as a start.)

Ensure events don't clash with other schools (We have planned the same INSET days as the infant schools to aid parents and we also check to ensure key dates do not clash.)

Thank you for your comments. We do act upon suggestions wherever possible. A more detailed request for feedback will be provided during the spring term.

## Year 4 Sleepover

The Year 4 Sleepover took place last Friday. Fifty children returned to school in the early evening with their sleeping bags and overnight gear. After doing three different activities, including biscuit decorating, they watched a choice of films before their bedtime cocoa treat. It was so exciting to be in school when it was dark and to sleep in one of the classrooms. The children settled well and most of them slept through until it was light. Members of staff patrolled throughout the night. In the morning, more staff arrived to make breakfast or organize yet more activities. At 10.30 a.m. parents arrived to collect the children from their exciting adventure. It had been a great success!

Thank you to the 14 staff who helped on the Friday evening, Saturday morning or who stayed overnight and a special well done to Mrs Denison for her superb organisation and enthusiasm.

### **Pupil Voice**

The pupil voice reps have decided on their projects to improve Marchwood Junior School. In a meeting chaired by Adrian Mylrea, the reps agreed on one cheaper and one more expensive suggestion. Their cheaper idea was to use the Glades more during learning activities and for den building (!) and the expensive option was to extend the play trail. A working party of children has now been formed for the Glades activities. The extension to the play trail will certainly involve fundraising (and maybe some trips to other schools to see what they like playing on!). It is up to the children to move forward with these ideas themselves – adults will only be advising them so watch this space!

### **Next week:**

Half of year 6 are off to Normandy in France. They will have a wonderful time and return with stunning French accents. I will put a daily report on the whiteboard to keep you informed of their visit.

The remaining year 6 have a very exciting week planned. They will be developing their entrepreneurial and teamwork skills during Enterprise week.

Next week we are also having significant lighting improvements made to the corridors. Children will be reminded about the best way to move around school to keep everyone safe.

### **A few reminders:**

If you know your child will be late to school due to a medical appointment, please pre-order a dinner for them if required. It makes things a bit tricky for our kitchen staff if additional children turn up at 11.30am expecting a dinner. Many thanks.

Children may buy healthy break time snacks from the Snack Shack. Please limit your child to 50p per day. The children have been reminded of this in assembly.

If your child has a sore throat or cough and you consider cough sweets appropriate, please ensure they bring a note for their teacher from you. These are to be treated as medicines and so we require written permission from parents.

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October** at 7pm is the next PTA meeting. They are a friendly and welcoming group so if you have not been before do come along. You can come and do a little or a lot!

We are planning:

- Firework Night (Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November - gates open at 6pm)
- Christmas Fair (Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December - 5.30pm to 8.30 pm).

Thank you for your support.

Best wishes

Laurie Anderson

### **Sleepover photos**

