

MARISH ACADEMY TRUST

MARISH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Tel: 01753 819900,

post@marishandwillow.co.uk.

www.marishacademytrust.co.uk

Executive Headteacher: Mrs H G Denham B.A., M.Ed. Headteacher: Miss A Court B.A., NPQH

Deputy Headteachers: Mrs L Howe, Mr D Sinclair, Mrs N Gentles, Miss E Dowe, Mrs S

WILLOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

Tel: 01753 551854,

officewillow@marishandwillow.co.uk



Dear Parents and carers,

Happy New Year! This might seem a strange thing to say well into January, in what has already proved to be a challenging time, but we need to maintain a sense of hope. I don't know about you, but in the midst of the madness, I need to believe that at some point 2021 is going to be happy, or at least better for us than 2020.

Last weekend I wrote a letter to you all which went viral over the internet and was quoted by Sunday afternoon, in many of the online versions of the national papers. On Monday I was interviewed by ITV and was fleetingly featured on the news at 6pm and the Slough Express have released a follow up article online today.

This was all because I wrote a letter to our community, responding to the concerns raised by parents and school staff, questioning the return to school for primary aged children in Slough. So I am slightly nervous now about posting any future letters on our website.

However, Marish Academy Trust, remains committed to supporting our community in whatever possible during this crisis and so I outline our offer to you below:

- We undertake to make provision in school for the children of critical workers as long as we have the staff available to do this.
- We will also contact parents of children who are entitled to have a space in school for other reasons and I explain what we mean by this below.
- For all children who are not able to attend school, we will provide online learning and for those who have difficulty accessing the internet, we will provide packs and workbooks.
- Those of you whose children are entitled to free school meals will be provided with as food parcel or a voucher as soon as we can get this organised. If you are in need of support with food for your family regardless of your entitlement, please let us know and we will assist.
- As in the previous lockdown, we will endeavour to contact every family every week to check on your wellbeing and to offer any further help you might need. If you haven't received a call from school as yet, please ring or email in so that we can check we have the correct contact details.

The Government guidance states that all vulnerable children should be offered a place within school. We appreciate that this is not a helpful word and not one that any parents want to hear used to describe their child. So at Marish Academy Trust, we will invite your child in if we think your child meets any of the criteria below:

- Children with any additional learning needs. This includes, but is not limited to children with an EHCP.
- Children who are not yet reaching their potential and would benefit from having more individual attention in a small group from teachers.
- Children who are known to social care, are looked after, or whose mental wellbeing is compromised by lockdown.
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The Marish Academy Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (registered number 08073873)
Registered office: Marish Primary School, Swabey Road, Langley, SL3 8NZ.

"WORK TO BE OUTSTANDING. DESERVE TO BE OUTSTANDING. WILL BE OUTSTANDING!"

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- Children who live in families in challenging circumstances such as where there has been a recent bereavement, serious illness of a family member in the household or are in receipt of pupil premium.
- Children, who despite the school and their family's best efforts, will find it impossible to access learning at home.

Please understand that whilst this list is not in priority order, we may need to make decisions to ensure numbers in school remain manageable. There is also a possibility that if staff or children contract covid, we may have to close bubbles or even the whole school to protect people from transmission.

One of the most important things in any crisis situation is trust. We need to work together as a community and not let fear destroy partnership. We may not be able to meet in whatever way we normally would and our children may not be able to physically come to school, but we can use this opportunity to improve communication and relationships and strengthen community bonds.

Just as we were in 2020, Marish Academy Trust is here to help in 2021. Together we can get through the challenges ahead and focus on the light at the end of the tunnel.



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