

# Marish Academy Trust Newsletter

Issue 44 - February 2023

## Message from Mrs Denham & Miss Court

***Dear Parents and Carers,***

Welcome back to the second half of the spring term. There is a great deal to look forward to at Marish and Willow over the next few weeks: book week, lots of school trips, Saturday schools begin for Year 6 and a famous athlete to visit.

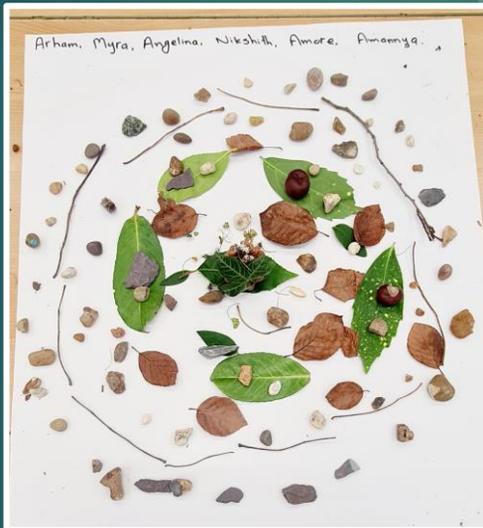
However, many of these enjoyable activities are being spoiled for all involved because of the problems driving to and from school. We know we do not need to tell any of you about the traffic issues in Slough, but it's time both our school communities do what we can to sort this out, before there is a tragic accident. Last half term a senior member of staff was nearly run over by a car reversing- it could have so easily been a child knocked down. So we are asking you all to drive and park considerately, regardless of others' behaviour. Coaches will need to access our schools for trips and given current parking habits that will be impossible. We know this is very frustrating and that you have complained to both the Local Authority as well as the police. Please continue to vent your frustrations in emails and complaints to SBC, rather than mirroring the bad driving habits of some irresponsible individuals. The schools will continue to send complaints and photographic evidence of parking infringements and dangerous driving to the police as well as SBC. Thank you for helping make our schools' streets safer.

***Mrs Denham and Miss Court***

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## Year 3 Art Work



Year 3 children have created Land Art using natural objects such as acorns, leaves and sticks etc. The Land Art was inspired by Andy Goldsworthy.

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School Council Meeting with Lord German OBE



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## Year 1 DT Activity



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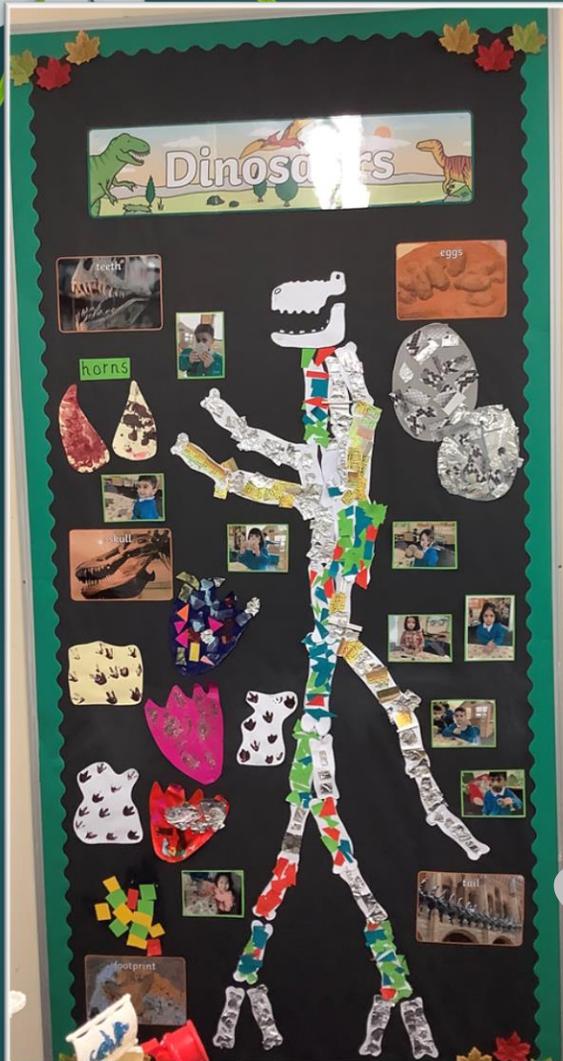
Year 3 Trip to Verulamium



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## Nursery Activities



Children in the nursery have enjoyed learning about the various types of dinosaurs, their physical characteristics and diets.

The children have been busy creating dinosaur fossils using clay, as well as decorating dinosaur bones, eggs, horns, and footprints using a variety of collage materials and paint.



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Year 6 Saturday School

## Annual SATs Preparation Saturday School

This will run on seven Saturdays, commencing on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February; followed by 4<sup>th</sup> March, 11<sup>th</sup> March, 18<sup>th</sup> March, 25<sup>th</sup> March, 22<sup>nd</sup> April and the final session will be on the 29<sup>th</sup> April, which is a week before SATs week (week beginning Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May).

Each Saturday School session will run between 9:00am and 12:00 noon and will be held at both Marish and Willow Primary School. Saturday School is not just about SATs preparation in a fun context. In fact, it is an important stepping stone in the transition to secondary school and increasing independence. In previous years, many children have got themselves up and walked to school with friends. Staff from across the Trust lead Saturday School and the children get to experience being taught by many different teachers, which again is good preparation for Year 7.

Therefore, we would urge you to encourage your child to attend all the sessions that they can, to maximise their opportunities for making the most of the end of Year 6 and the beginning of Year 7.

***Saturday School is completely free.***

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Admissions



**NURSERY SPACES  
AVAILABLE AT MARISH  
PRIMARY**

**We pride ourselves on offering children a stimulating environment, with enriching learning activities to enable the best start to their educational journey.**

**15 hours or 30 hours funded provision available**

**Contact the Marish school office on 01753 819 900 for more details**

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Book Week

## BOOK WEEK

27<sup>th</sup> February 2023- 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023



### Monday – Author Visit

Children get to meet our wonderful author :  
Jemma Hatt!

Jemma will be selling her books in school!

Tuesday – PJ story time at [Willow](#) 3:30-4:15

Reading parent workshop Keystage 1 and 2 3:30-4:00



Wednesday – PJ story time at [Marish](#) 3:30-4:15

Reading parent workshop Keystage 1 and 2 3:30-4:00

### Thursday – World Book Day

Dress up day! Come as your favourite book character.

Please bring £1

WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**

2 MARCH 2023



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## Attendance

### Marish

November 2022

Reception: **89.35%**

Year 1: **91.54%**

Year 2: **88.04%**

Year 3: **90.40%**

Year 4: **89.60%**

Year 5: **93.42%**

Year 6: **90.66%**

Target: **96%**

### Willow

November 2022

Reception: **86.72%**

Year 1: **96.33%**

Year 2: **92.33%**

Year 3: **91.64%**

Year 4: **91.15%**

Year 5: **94.33%**

Year 6: **94.83%**

Target: **96%**



**EVERY DAY  
COUNTS**

**Student success  
starts with  
attendance**



**Below 90% Serious Concern**  
Drastic effect on academic success

**95- 90% Cause for Concern**  
Negatively affecting academic success

**100%- 96% WELL DONE**  
Achieving full potential

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## Parent Notices

### Timings of the school day

Soft start is from 8am for all year groups.

<b>Resource Base:</b>	Doors open from 8.15am to 8.45am and then at 3.00pm
<b>Nursery:</b>	8.00 - 11.00am and 12.00pm - 3.00pm
<b>Reception:</b>	8.30am - 2.45pm
<b>Year 1 and Year 2:</b>	8.20am - 2.50pm
<b>Year 3 and Year 4:</b>	8.20am - 2.55pm
<b>Year 5 and Year 6:</b>	8.20am - 3pm

### School Grounds

Please do not bring bikes or scooters of any kind onto the school grounds at any time. Dogs are not allowed on site.

### Water Bottles

Children should bring in a water bottle every day, with their name clearly labelled on the bottle.

### No Peanuts

Please do not bring nuts of any kind. We are a nut free school.

### Lost Property

The lost property box in the playground is emptied weekly. Please check for any items that your child may have lost. Unclaimed items will be taken to charity.

### PE Kit

Please ensure your child comes to school wearing their PE kit on the days they have PE. PE Kit consists of T shirt, shorts, joggers/tracksuit bottoms, jumper and trainers.

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### E-Safety

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# WHATSAPP

UK AND EUROPE  
**16+**  
THE REST OF THE WORLD

WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service, with around two billion users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls. Its end-to-end encryption means messages can only be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp can read them. Updates to its privacy policy in 2021 (involving sharing data with parent company Facebook) caused millions to leave the app, but the new policy was widely misinterpreted – it only related to WhatsApp's business features, not to personal messages.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### SCAMS

Fraudsters occasionally send WhatsApp messages pretending to offer prizes – encouraging the user to click on a link to win. Other common scams involve warning someone that their WhatsApp subscription has run out (aiming to dupe them into disclosing payment details) or impersonating a friend or relative and asking for money to be transferred to help with an emergency.

#### DISAPPEARING MESSAGES

Users can set WhatsApp messages to disappear in 24 hours, 7 days or 90 days by default. Photos and videos can also be instructed to disappear after the recipient has viewed them. These files can't be saved or forwarded – so if your child was sent an inappropriate message, it would be difficult to prove any wrongdoing. However, the receiver can take a screenshot and save that as evidence.

#### ENABLING FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp has unfortunately been linked to accelerating the spread of dangerous rumours. In India in 2018, some outbreaks of mob violence appear to have been sparked by false allegations being shared on the app. WhatsApp itself took steps to prevent its users circulating hazardous theories and speculation in the early weeks of the Covid-19 pandemic.

NEWS

PRIZE

#### POTENTIAL CYBERBULLYING

Group chat and video calls are great for connecting with multiple people in WhatsApp, but there is always the potential for someone's feelings to be hurt by an unkind comment or joke. The 'only admins' feature gives the admin(s) of a group control over who can send messages. They can, for example, block people from posting in a chat, which could make a child feel excluded and upset.

#### CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a WhatsApp chat, you only need the mobile number of the person you want to message (the other person also needs to have the app). WhatsApp can access the address book on someone's device and recognise which of their contacts also use the app. So if your child has ever given their phone number to someone they don't know, that person could use it to contact them via WhatsApp.

#### LOCATION SHARING

The 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, allowing friends to see their movements. WhatsApp describes it as a "simple and secure way to let people know where you are." It is a useful method for a young person to let loved ones know they're safe – but if they used it in a chat with people they don't know, they would be exposing their location to them, too.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

CLICK HERE

#### CREATE A SAFE PROFILE

Even though someone would need a child's phone number to add them as a contact, it's also worth altering a young person's profile settings to restrict who can see their photo and status. The options are 'everyone', 'my contacts' and 'nobody' – choosing one of the latter two ensures that your child's profile is better protected.

#### EXPLAIN ABOUT BLOCKING

If your child receives spam or offensive messages, calls or files from a contact, they should block them using 'settings' in the chat. Communication from a blocked contact won't show up on their device and stays undelivered. Blocking someone does not remove them from your child's contact list – so they also need to be deleted from the address book.

#### REPORT POTENTIAL SCAMS

Young people shouldn't engage with any message that looks suspicious or too good to be true. When your child receives a message from an unknown number for the first time, they'll be given the option to report it as spam. If the sender claims to be a friend or relative, call that person on their usual number to verify it really is them, or if it's someone trying to trick your child.

#### LEAVE A GROUP

If your child is in a group chat that is making them feel uncomfortable, or has been added to a group that they don't want to be part of, they can use WhatsApp's group settings to leave. If someone exits a group, the admin can add them back in once; if they leave a second time, it is permanent.

#### THINK ABOUT LOCATION

If your child needs to use the 'live location' function to show you or one of their friends where they are, advise them to share their location only for as long as they need to. WhatsApp gives a range of 'live location' options, and your child should manually stop sharing their position as soon as it is no longer needed.

#### DELETE ACCIDENTAL MESSAGES

If your child posts a message they want to delete, WhatsApp allows the user seven minutes to erase a message. Tap and hold on the message, choose 'delete' and then 'delete for everyone.' However, it's important to remember that recipients may have seen (and taken a screenshot of) a message before it was deleted.

#### CHECK THE FACTS

You can now fact-check WhatsApp messages that have been forwarded at least five times, by double-tapping the magnifying glass icon to the right of the message. From there, your child can launch a Google search and decide for themselves whether the message was true or not.

### Meet Our Expert

Parveen Kaur is a social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks: a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.



[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) @natonlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

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E-Safety

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SPOTIFY

Spotify is a digital music, podcast and video service which gives users access to millions of songs and other content from creators all over the world. Since launching in 2008, Spotify has revolutionised the way music is listened to: it now offers the ability to manage and share more than 100 million tracks and five million podcast series, plus personalised recommendations, new release updates and the option to create collaborative playlists. As of February 2023, it is the world's most popular audio streaming subscription service with 489 million users globally.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### EXPLICIT LYRICS

As per Spotify's terms and conditions, people need to be at least 13 to use it. That said, the platform doesn't censor lyrics unless instructed to do so in the settings – so it's worth noting that young teenagers could still be exposed to age-inappropriate songs which contain explicit references to sexual behaviour, violence, discriminatory language and swearing.

#### AGE-INAPPROPRIATE PODCASTS

Spotify's podcast community has grown exponentially and it's become a popular base for millions of users to listen to shows, stories, interviews and more – with content covering an array of topics. This includes some material which isn't suitable for minors, including audio which is obviously adult-themed, but can be just as easily accessed as everything else.

#### ACCESS TO SPOTIFY LIVE

If your child has a Spotify account, they'll also be able to access the platform's audio-only chat service: Spotify Live. While it's a separate stand-alone app, Spotify Live allows people to listen to live discussions on the main Spotify platform and, more notably, lets users enter virtual rooms to chat with other users, opening up direct conversations with strangers and individuals who might not necessarily be there for the right reasons.

#### GROOMING TACTICS

Although Spotify doesn't come with dedicated chat functionality, concerns were raised in January 2023 after reports of an 11-year-old girl being coerced into sharing explicit pictures of herself on the platform. The case highlighted predators' tactics of sharing empty playlists with other users: their messages were being exchanged undetected through edited song titles and descriptions, bypassing security measures.

#### OVERSHARING

Spotify provides a perfect way to play music, with the ability to connect to another device, such as a Bluetooth speaker or an in-car stereo. While this is a useful feature, it's also easy to forget your surroundings and inadvertently play content which isn't appropriate for all listeners (especially those under the age of 18), potentially causing alarm or distress.

#### PARENTAL ADVISORY EXPLICIT CONTENT

#### ADVICE FOR PARENTS & CARERS

#### SWAP TO SPOTIFY KIDS

If you're concerned about what your child might hear while streaming music, Spotify Kids is a separate, ad-free service specifically designed for children aged 12 and under. It allows younger users to enjoy human-curated, child-friendly content (such as music and audiobooks) and is available to users with a Spotify Premium Family subscription – meaning that parents can view and manage the content their child listens to.

#### TALK ABOUT THE RISKS

As with any platform, it's good practice to talk to your child about what they should be aware of when using Spotify. For instance, it's important they're aware never to share any personal information with strangers, and what they should do if they're exposed to inappropriate content. Encourage them to think critically about what they see and hear so that they feel comfortable raising any concerns with you.

#### KEEP AN EYE OUT

If you're concerned that your child is spending too much time on Spotify or you've noticed they're being particularly secretive about how they're using it, encourage them to talk about what they're listening to. It's always prudent to show an interest in their online habits from the outset – so you're confident they're using apps and services in the right way, for the right reasons, and they're not being drawn into anything they shouldn't be.

#### CENSOR EXPLICIT CONTENT

Regardless of what type of account your child uses to access Spotify, there is an option to turn off explicit content in the settings – greying out all songs marked with an 'E' tag. If your child has their own individual account, it's easier for them to turn it back on – whereas with a family plan, you're in control and your child can't alter the setting without knowing the password.

#### Meet Our Expert

Carly Pugs is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.

Source: <https://www.spotify.com/company/info/> | [https://www.spotify.com/privacy/files/Parental\\_Guide.pdf](https://www.spotify.com/privacy/files/Parental_Guide.pdf) | <https://www.spotify.com/us/live/> | <https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/police-confirm-investigation-launched-after-26916035>

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#WakeUpWednesday

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## Some Useful Information

Little Musketeers are pleased to announce the running of our HAF Easter programme offering children who receive benefits related free school meals the opportunity to receive them during the holidays.

Our HAF programme offers 4 hours of games, sport activities and lunch, teaching fencing as our main sport and branching out to other sports such as basketball and football.

We would love to offer the children at Marish Primary School, who receive free school lunches, the opportunity to enrol onto our programme this Easter at

**Singh Sabha Slough Sports Centre, Stoke Poges Ln, Slough SL1 3LW**

**Dates - Monday 3rd – Thursday 6th April 2023**

**Time - 10am – 2pm**

**Ages - 5 – 12 years**

**Cost - Free**

This Free Holiday Club is perfect for children on Benefits Related Free School meals. Spaces are limited and will be on a first come first served basis.

For further information and book the place, please contact **Elise Whyte**

[elise@littlemusketeers.com](mailto:elise@littlemusketeers.com)

<https://musketeerseducation.com/>

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## Some Useful Information

Have Your Say

Public consultation on proposed changes to

## Slough children's centres

- Complete the online questionnaire
- Fill in a paper questionnaire: these are available from all children's centres during the 6-week consultation or email [Childrens.Centres@slough.gov.uk](mailto:Childrens.Centres@slough.gov.uk) to request a copy.

Complete the survey online at:  
[slough.citizenspace.com/  
corporate/childrens-centres-consultation](https://slough.citizenspace.com/corporate/childrens-centres-consultation)



यदि आपको यह प्रस्तावकी किसी अन्य भाषा में चाहिए तो कृपया संपर्क करें, [childrens.centres@slough.gov.uk](mailto:childrens.centres@slough.gov.uk)

ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਇਸ ਪ੍ਰਸ਼ਨਾਵਲੀ ਦੀ ਕੋਪੀ ਦੇਣ ਦੀ ਜ਼ਰੂਰਤ ਹੈ, ਤਾਂ [childrens.centres@slough.gov.uk](mailto:childrens.centres@slough.gov.uk) 'ਤੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

Jezeli potrzebujesz tego kwestionariusza w innym języku, napisz na adres [childrens.centres@slough.gov.uk](mailto:childrens.centres@slough.gov.uk)

Haddii aad u baahan tahay su'aal-waydiimahan oo ku qoran luqad kale fadlan la xidhiidh, [childrens.centres@slough.gov.uk](mailto:childrens.centres@slough.gov.uk)

اگر آپ کو یہ سوالنامہ کسی دوسری زبان میں درکار ہے، تو براہ کرم فرام فرم کر دینے کی درخواست کریں۔ [childrens.centres@slough.gov.uk](mailto:childrens.centres@slough.gov.uk)



### Drop-in events

Drop-in at any point during the dates and times below to find out more information, ask questions and complete the online survey. No booking required.

#### February

Thursday 9  
10-11.30am

Penn Road Children's Centre,  
Penn Wood School, Penn Road, SL2 1PG

#### March

Monday 6  
12noon-2pm

Vicarage Way Children's Centre,  
Vicarage Way, Colnbrook, SL3 0JY

Wednesday 15  
4-6pm

Yew Tree Road Children's Centre,  
St Marys School, Yew Tree Road, SL1 2AR

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