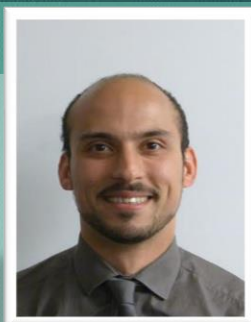


Marish Academy Trust Newsletter

Issue 56 - Nov 2023

Message from the Senior Leadership Team



One week back after half term and it feels like we have never been away! With the clocks changing; winter nights setting in fast; and so much negativity in the news, it was a

blessing to be in an environment where there is so much kindness and care. I'm sure I do not need to let you know, that your children are a credit to your family and our community.

It has been wonderful to also see so much hard work and research going on over this past half term, with some very creative and impressive projects arriving in all year groups.

We certainly haven't eased into the new half term. There have been plenty of trips, competitions and workshops occurring already. SU7 enjoyed a visit to The Curve library, Marish Y6 went to Langley Grammar School for a workshop, the dental team came to Willow, The children also learned about fire safety.

Last, but not least, well done to all the children who represented our school so well at the Sports Hall Athletics.

Mr Sinclair

Marish Academy Trust Newsletter

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SEN Unit Trip



Our young learners in SU7 had an incredible day at the Slough Library. They explored shelves filled with stories, learning about different cultures, adventures, and so much more. The joy on their faces as they discovered new tales was priceless!



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Year 5 Fire Safety workshop



Year 5 at Willow enjoyed a fire safety workshop this week. They learnt how to keep safe and saw some of the specialist equipment the Firefighters use. A highlight was exploring the inside and outside of a fire engine!



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Year 1 Toy Workshop



As part of the History curriculum, Year 1 took part in an exciting toy workshop where they were able to explore toys from the past with range of real and replica toys from 120-60 years ago. They were able to look at how different toys work and how they have changed over time. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves indeed!



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Sports Hall Athletics Event



Our energetic students participated in the Sports Hall Athletics event, showcasing talent and sportsmanship. Competing against 6 schools, they gave their best, making both schools proud. Well done to our young athletes for their outstanding performance!



Marish Academy Trust Newsletter

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BBC 500 Words Competition



Within school, we will also select one winning story per year group. The winner will receive a book token and have their story published on our newsletter and school website!

50 finalists, along with their parents or carers, will be invited to attend a grand final next February **at Buckingham Palace!**. Not only will the bronze, silver and gold winners of each age group have their stories read by celebrities, but the event will be shown on a special 500 Words programme with the The One Show, on World Book Day on 7 March 2024.

All the finalists will receive a £20 National Book Token and their stories will be recorded and published on our website.

The winners in each category will receive an array of prizes. As well as their stories being read out by celebrities, they will all receive a bundle of books.

- The 2 gold winners will receive the height of Sir Lenny Henry in books and their schools will receive 500 books
- The 2 silver winners will receive the height of Her Majesty, Queen Camilla in books
- The 2 bronze winners will receive the average height of a 7 or 11 year-old in books

Their stories will be illustrated by incredible children's illustrators, **Joelle Avelino, Axel Scheffler, Fiona Lumbers, Sue Cheung, Jamie Smart, and Steven Lenton**, framed and put into a 500 Words winners book.

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Parent Workshop Menu



All workshops will take place in the school hall. Pupils are welcome to attend with their parents and there is no requirement to reserve a place, all parents are welcome.

Date	Session	Staff Lead	Venue
7/11/23	Maths: Calculations KS2	Miss Stroud and Mr Fuller	Willow School Hall at 2pm
8/11/23	Maths: Calculations KS2	Miss Stroud and Mrs Ommer	Marish School Hall at 2pm
4/12/23	Phonics	Mrs Imtiaz	Marish School Hall at 8:45am
6/12/23	Phonics	Mrs Imtiaz and Miss Stroud	Willow School Hall at 2pm

Marish Academy Trust Newsletter

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Attendance

Marish

Nov 2023

Reception: 94.47%

Year 1: 92.07%

Year 2: 93.8%

Year 3: 95.01%

Year 4: 94.09%

Year 5: 95.82%

Year 6: 92.86%

Target: 96%

Willow

Nov 2023

Reception: 89.29%

Year 1: 91.55%

Year 2: 94.37%

Year 3: 98.95%

Year 4: 93.79%

Year 5: 93.45%

Year 6: 95.429%

Target: 96%



Last month's
100% attendance
reward was a
doughnut!



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 8:15am for all year groups.

SEN Unit:	Doors open from 8:15am to 8:45am and then at 3:00pm
Nursery:	8:00 – 11:00am and 12:00pm – 3:00pm
Nursery full time (Marish)	8:30am – 2:30pm
Reception:	8:30am – 3:00pm
Year 1 and Year 2:	8:30am – 3:00pm
Year 3 and Year 4:	8:30am – 3:10pm
Year 5 and Year 6:	8:30am – 3:10pm



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 has 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 nationalonline-safety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about



AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

In October 2022, the enormously popular social media network Twitter was purchased by tech tycoon Elon Musk. That sparked a host of changes to the platform – not all which have been received positively by its fans. The alterations have continued with each passing month, many of them raising online safety concerns among the 530 million users of Twitter (now rebranded as simply X). With further adjustments reportedly in the pipeline, X has attracted more than its usual share of controversy and caution in recent times.

A BLOCK ON BLOCKING

X has announced plans to remove its blocking feature. Previously, this stopped other users from viewing your profile or sending you direct messages, while also hiding their posts from your feed. Only this latter function will now remain. The decision has been criticised by some members, who feel that blocking (in its current form) protects them from X users who promote denial and hatred.

LIMITED REPORTING FEATURES

X offers a premium membership, with some functionality (such as controlling who can view and reply to your posts) increasingly being made exclusive to those who pay the subscription fee. Several commentators have speculated that X could one day become an exclusively paid-for service, with access to accounts being revoked for anyone unwilling or unable to take out a subscription.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Many of X's less age-appropriate posts can feature anything from extreme political views to pornography. While accounts marked as 18+ are restricted from non-members, it's still fairly easy to stumble across this material accidentally. X's new 'For You' page also shows content from accounts that a user doesn't already follow – meaning that almost anything could end up on a child's feed.

VERIFICATION FOR SALE

Historically, Twitter's moderators granted account verification: certifying someone as authentic by placing a blue tick next to their username. One of X's earliest changes was to place verification behind a paywall: this caused the number of celebrity impersonators to rise and left no way to distinguish, say, a legitimate influencer from a copycat fake account seeking to exploit other users.

BLUE TICK SALE

Advice for Parents & Carers

PROTECT PRIVACY

Unsavory characters may try to gain access to a young person's X account – either to view their posts and gather information on them, or to completely take control of it. To minimise risk, ensure the account has a strong password and enable the 'Protect Your Posts' feature (via the account settings), so that strangers can't view your child's posts without first being approved as a follower.

DON'T RISE TO THE BAIT

To gain more views and followers, some X users post deliberately inflammatory comments on sensitive topics such as race, sexual orientation and gender issues. Many young people could find this upsetting. Emphasise that, if your child encounters someone spreading hate on X, it's best not to give that person what they want: an argument. Ignore them, mute their account and move on.

STAY ALERT FOR IMPOSTERS

Make sure your child understands that X's blue ticks no longer guarantee the identity of anyone on the platform. While it might be exciting if a celebrity liked your child's post, it could just as easily be an imposter with malicious intentions. If your child's not 100% sure that an X user actually is who they claim to be, advise them to err on the side of caution and avoid interacting with that account.

ONLY FOLLOW TRUSTED ACCOUNTS

Using the 'Following' tab on X helps to ensure that the only content your child sees has come from accounts they've chosen to follow: this should reduce the chance of them inadvertently being exposed to harmful, violent or explicit content. Show your child how to report another user's account if, say, they're behaving inappropriately by spreading misinformation or offensive opinions.

BE READY TO TAKE ACTION

If your child suffers harassment on the platform or becomes the target of a hack, you could consider deactivating their account entirely. Recently, X's safety features have been criticised for allegedly failing to protect users' wellbeing – so if your child is being subjected to abusive messages or similar mistreatment on the platform, it might be prudent to remove them from X altogether.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GORcon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. Always eager to test out the latest apps, games and online trends, he's also a parent who understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



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Marish Academy Trust Newsletter

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E-Safety

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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

FIVE NIGHTS AT FREDDY'S

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI 12

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Five Nights at Freddy's is a series of indie point-and-click horror games whose word-of-mouth success and widespread spin-off content on YouTube have helped each of the nine instalments so far to sell almost five million copies on Steam (the PC gaming platform) alone. Set in various deserted locations at night, with creepy animatronic characters suddenly coming to life, the games are rated PEGI 12 for disturbing/violent content, mild profanity and horror themes.

FRIGHTENING THEMES

Five Nights at Freddy's (FNaF for short) doesn't feature bloodshed like many horror games – but it does build tension and use jump scares, which may be too intense for young players. The sinister animatronic characters and the sensation of being trapped and defenceless could be particularly unsettling, as could the inclusion of disturbing elements such as murder or possession by evil spirits.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

As a result of FNaF's popularity, a sizeable YouTube community based on fan-made content has developed around the game. While the majority of this material is still child friendly, there are a number of channels which are geared more towards mature audiences; they contain adult and disturbing themes, for example, and (in some cases) age-inappropriate language.

STRESSFUL SITUATIONS

Due to FNaF's suspenseful atmosphere, it can be extremely stressful for players. Constantly checking that one's surroundings are safe is a crucial part of the gameplay and could create residual stress or even obsessive-compulsive behaviours. Several media reports have suggested that some younger children have experienced severe nightmares or sleep anxiety after playing games from the series.

PLAYING IN ISOLATION

Many parents will be relieved to learn that Five Nights at Freddy's is a single-player game which doesn't include any online chat functionality. Conversely, however, this could also make playing FNaF quite an isolating experience – especially if your child is spending a lot of time investigating the game's spooky, shadowy environments alone in their room, for example.

IN-GAME SPENDING

FNaF doesn't foreground in-game purchasing as strongly as many other well-known games, but some titles in the series do offer additional content that promises to enhance the experience. Five Nights at Freddy's: Help Wanted, for instance, is complemented by a Halloween-themed expansion pack called 'Curse of Breadbear' (costing £8.99), which unlocks new levels and mini-games.

Advice for Parents & Carers

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Five Nights at Freddy's doesn't have conventional parental controls. However, if you're concerned about the potential impacts of the game's themes and content, you can simply choose not to let your child play it. If they use an Android or iOS device for gaming, you can adjust Apple and Google's built-in parental controls to restrict your child's access to certain content.

TRY IT YOURSELF

Every child is different, of course, so it could be worth playing Five Nights at Freddy's yourself for a while to gauge how your young gamer might cope with the series' more frightening and disturbing aspects. If they're old enough, you could spend some time playing it together – after all, it usually only takes between two and ten minutes to complete a level.

LIMIT SPENDING

Unlike many popular titles, Five Nights at Freddy's doesn't bombard players with tempting in-game purchase offers. It's worth noting, however, that some instalments in the series do provide the option for players to spend real-world money. With that in mind, it's important to either keep a close eye on your child's expenditure or limit their access to digital payment options.

SPOT THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child might be spending too much time on Five Nights at Freddy's, or you're worried that the game's scary themes are taking a toll, watch out for warning signs. Young people may start to prioritise gaming over everyday essentials like schoolwork or sleep; irritability or a lack of concentration could also indicate that their gaming sessions are going on too long.

TALK ABOUT THE RISKS

Before you allow your child to play Five Nights at Freddy's, it's wise to have a conversation about the game so that they're aware of the potential risks. Ensure that your child understands that the series is purposely designed to be tense and unsettling, and that they should stop or take a break if the intensity of the gameplay is making them feel uncomfortable or putting them on edge.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page 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.



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Marish Academy Trust Newsletter

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Some Useful Information

Confidence Building Fun

Try a FREE drama class



— My children have developed self-confidence, ease while speaking in public and a love of performing, which will be beneficial to them no matter what they choose to do for a career. Geraldine Zolynski



Reawaken your child's imagination

Perform's drama, dance and singing classes use the performing arts to

► Build confidence ► Boost concentration ► Enhance coordination ► Develop communication skills



Why try Perform?

- Unique performing arts-based games and exercises
- Focus on a different social skill each week
- Covid safe – full details at perform.org.uk/covid
- Small classes and feedback on your child's progress
- Specially created scripts, videos and apps to support your child's learning
- End of term presentation for family and friends



— I'm very impressed by the thoughtful way each session is run. It is great to know that Ethan is not just being 'entertained' for the hour but proactively being taught new life skills. Kate Whyley



Try Perform for FREE

Your child can come and try a class for FREE and there's no obligation to join afterwards. With almost 500 Perform schools, find your nearest and book online at

perform.org.uk/free

perform.org.uk

020 7255 9120

Marish Academy Trust Newsletter

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Some Useful Information

For any questions on dental and oral health, breastfeeding, weaning, sleep routines and more!



Parent and Child Groups

Do you have a baby or young child at home?

Do you want to get out of the house and meet other parents?

Why not come along to our parent and child groups with your little one to play, learn and meet others.

We provide a friendly and safe environment where everyone is welcome!

Running at:

- **Chalvey Grove**
Children's Centre,
Chalvey Grove, SL1 2TE
Mondays at 1.30-3pm
Starting on 6 November
T: 01753 574387.
- **Romsey Close**
Children's Centre,
Romsey Close, SL3 8PE
Thursdays at 9.30-11am
Starting on 9 November
T: 01753 540797.

Please call the centres to book your place.

CC-7039/26-10-23



www.slough.gov.uk
Slough
Borough Council

Marish Academy Trust Newsletter

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Some Useful Information



Slough Healthy Smiles



Oral Health Drop In

Come and chat to us about any dental/oral health concerns or questions you have within your family

LOCATION:

CHALVEY GROVE CHILDREN'S CENTRE

DATE:

**SECOND MONDAY, EACH MONTH
UNTIL APRIL 2024**

MONDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2023

MONDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2023

MONDAY 8TH JANUARY 2024

MONDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2024

MONDAY 11TH MARCH 2024



**11:00AM -
12:30PM**

Oral.Health@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk