Marwood V.C. Church of England Infant School

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to our school Prospectus. I am delighted to introduce you to our small, nurturing Church of England infant school, where every child is known, valued, and encouraged to flourish.

At the heart of our school is a strong Christian ethos that shapes everything we do. We believe that each child is a unique gift from God, and we are committed to providing a safe, loving, and inspiring environment where children can grow in confidence, curiosity, and compassion. Following inspection in 2026, we were chosen by the Church Schools inspectorate (SIAMs) to be included in their case study library due to our exemplary practice.

Our dedicated staff work closely with families, the church, and the wider community to ensure that every child receives the best possible start to their educational journey. Through a rich and creative curriculum, we aim to spark a lifelong love of learning and help our children develop the skills and values they need to thrive in the world.Whether you are a current parent, a prospective family, or simply interested in learning more about our school, I hope you find this prospectus helpful and informative.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you would like to visit us, we would be delighted to welcome you.

With warmest wishes
Mrs Dorothy Walton (Headteacher)

Setting

Our school is proud to be housed in a beautiful Grade II listed building, nestled within stunning grounds that offer a truly enriching environment for learning and discovery. With the River Leven flowing gently past the front of the school and the 12th century All Saints Church standing beside us, our setting is both peaceful and inspiring. Children enjoy a vibrant outdoor space that includes a wildlife area, a small pond, gardening beds, a Sacred Space for quiet reflection, and even our own school hens. The playground is full of opportunities for active play, featuring colourful markings and a timber trail. This exceptional environment supports our children's wellbeing, creativity, and curiosity, helping them to flourish in every way.

Happy Friends Learning Together

Our Vision

Everyone in school is greatly valued as unique with different gifts and skills. Guided by our core Christian values, we support each other as we strive to achieve our best in all we do. Seeking to transform lives, we develop a lifelong love for learning, for each other and for our neighbours locally and globally.

'Love your neighbour as yourself' Matthew 22 v 39

Our Christians Values

Love, Friendship, Forgiveness

Our Staff

Our school is fortunate to have a team of highly experienced and dedicated teaching and support staff who bring a wealth of knowledge, skill, and care to their roles. Many of our staff are long-established members of the school community, creating a stable and nurturing environment for our pupils. Their commitment to excellence is reflected in the high-quality learning experiences they provide every day. Together, our team works tirelessly to ensure every child is supported, challenged, and inspired to achieve their best.

Headteacher & Class Teachers

Mrs Dorothy Walton
0.8 Headteacher
(on site 4 days p/w)

Mrs Emma Anderson
Reception Teacher
(Headteacher 1 day p/w)

Mrs Kelly Grossett
Year 2 Teacher

Mrs Kelly Spenceley
Year 1 Teacher

Mrs Pam Tann
Teacher
(Reception & Year1)

Teaching Assistants

Mrs Janet Leng

Mrs Julie Barnett

Mrs Vicky Gawthorpe

Miss Eleanor Churchill

Administrator

Mrs Alison Lambert

Governors

At the heart of our school community is a committed, caring, and active governing body dedicated to supporting every aspect of school life. Our governors bring a wealth of experience, passion, and integrity to their roles, working closely with staff, parents, and pupils to ensure the highest standards of education and wellbeing. United by our shared vision, they play a vital role in shaping the strategic direction of the school, championing inclusivity, and fostering a nurturing environment where every child can thrive.

Headteacher: Dorothy Walton

Chairman: Vicky Bradley

Foundation Governors

Vicky Bradley
Claire Sheridan
Rev. Sarah Cliff

L.A. Representative: Jonathan Grimbley
Co-Opted Governor: Jenna Chester
Co-Opted Governor: Katie Fletcher

Staff Governor: Emma Anderson

Parent Governors: Lynda Austin
Hayley Hunter
Vic Price
Holly Barnett

Clerk to the Governors: Alison Lambert

Admission Procedures

We warmly welcome prospective parents to arrange a personal tour of our school, led by the Headteacher, where you can experience our vibrant learning environment and see firsthand what makes our school so special.

Children are admitted into the Reception Class at the start of the academic year in which they have their fifth birthday. Information is distributed by North Yorkshire County Council - Children and Young People's Service giving guidance on how to apply on–line for a place in school. Information about applying for a place can also be found at www.northyorks.gov.uk/admissions.

Our School Day

The school day begins promptly at 8.55am and ends at 3.25pm.
Lunchtime is between 12 noon and 1pm.

Breakfast Club Facility 7.30am to 8.55am £5 per session
This is held in school, run by our experienced school staff and includes a healthy breakfast.

Early Morning School Supervision Facility
To help parents who have an older child at a different school or who need to leave for work a just little bit earlier than school starts, a member of staff is available in the shelter on the school playground from 8.45am. There is no charge for this facility.

After School Club until 5.15pm
This is held in school and run by our experienced school staff.
3.25pm - 4.30pm (including a piece of fruit) **£5 per session**
3.25pm – 5.15pm **£8 per session**
(Includes a piece of fruit and children are welcome to bring their own healthy packed tea.)
(10% reduction if more than one child from the same family is also attending WAC.)

We are also pleased to be able to offer the facilities of the privately run Stokesley Kids Club who run extended hours before and after school up until 6pm. Staff from Stokesley Kids Club drop off and collect children from Marwood School.

Please contact our school office for further information.

"The way Marwood use every inch of the grounds to create fun and educational spaces that even schools with very large spaces don't have means the children have such rich experices that they will never forget"
- Marwood Parent

Safety Around School

The safety of the children is our first priority and, for this reason, digital locks with a secure code are fitted to the external doors. Both gates to the playground are kept locked throughout the school day so, to gain admittance to school after morning registration, please press the buzzer on the intercom system at the main entrance door to school.

As a Gold Award Healthy School we encourage active transport to school.

Parents who need to travel by car are asked to use the parking spaces on Low Green and park and stride to School.

The Curriculum

The curriculum for the Reception Class is the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum, which is made up of seven areas of learning.

Prime Areas: These areas are particularly important for building a foundation for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, forming relationships and thriving.

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development
- Communication and Language

Specific Areas through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding of the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Each of the areas is equally important and they are inter-linked.

.

“ A fantastic school with amazing teachers, what more could a parent ask for! ” -Marwood Parent

Year One and Year Two cover the subjects within the Primary National Curriculum: English, Mathematics, Science, Computing, History, Geography, Music, Art, Design Technology, Physical Education, Religious Education and Relationships and Health Education

The children learn and develop their knowledge, skills and understanding through a range of experiences, opportunities and activities. We operate a thematic approach to the curriculum through cross curricular topics. The emphasis is on active learning and providing memorable experiences for the children.

Writing

Writing is taught through structured lessons with skills applied throughout the curriculum. Children are given many opportunities to write in a range of activities across the curriculum. They use a variety of contexts and styles such as stories, descriptions, letters and factual accounts. Children are taught grammar, spelling and handwriting in a structured way to ensure continuity and progression.

Mathematics

Mathematics is taught with the emphasis on oral, mental and practical activities especially in the early stages. Children develop an understanding of mastery in number and apply this knowledge to a variety of contexts. They use their developing mathematical language to talk about their methods and explain their reasoning when solving problems. They also learn about measurement, shape and space.

Science

Science is taught through a variety of themes designed to capture the interests and imagination of children. Wherever possible, science is delivered through first-hand experiences and practical investigations.

Phonics

At Marwood CE Infant School, we believe that all our children can become fluent readers and writers. This is why we teach reading through Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised, which is a systematic and synthetic phonics programme. We start teaching phonics in Reception and follow the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised progression, which ensures children build on their growing knowledge of the alphabetic code, mastering phonics to read and spell as they move through school.

As a result, all our children are able to tackle any unfamiliar words as they read. At Marwood CE Infant School we also model the application of the alphabetic code through phonics in shared reading and writing, both inside and outside of the phonics lesson and across the curriculum. We have a strong focus on language development for our children because we know that speaking and listening are crucial skills for reading and writing in all subjects.

Comprehension

At Marwood CE Infant School we value reading as a crucial life skill. By the time children leave us, they read confidently for meaning and regularly enjoy reading for pleasure. Our readers are equipped with the tools to tackle unfamiliar vocabulary. We encourage our children to see themselves as readers for both pleasure and purpose. Because we believe teaching every child to read is so important, we have a Reading Leader who drives the early reading programme in our school. This person is highly skilled at teaching phonics and reading, and they monitor and support our reading team, so everyone teaches with fidelity to the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised programme. More information about our phonics scheme can be found at:
https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/

Computing (ICT)

Children experience a wide range of ICT equipment in all year groups, including access to laptops and iPads. They learn to use computers independently to write, draw and handle information. Computers are linked to the internet via a secure community network for schools which ensures their safety at all times. Children have access to interactive whiteboards, CD players, programmable toys, digital cameras, laptops and i-pads. Children also have access to online resources and activities at home.

History

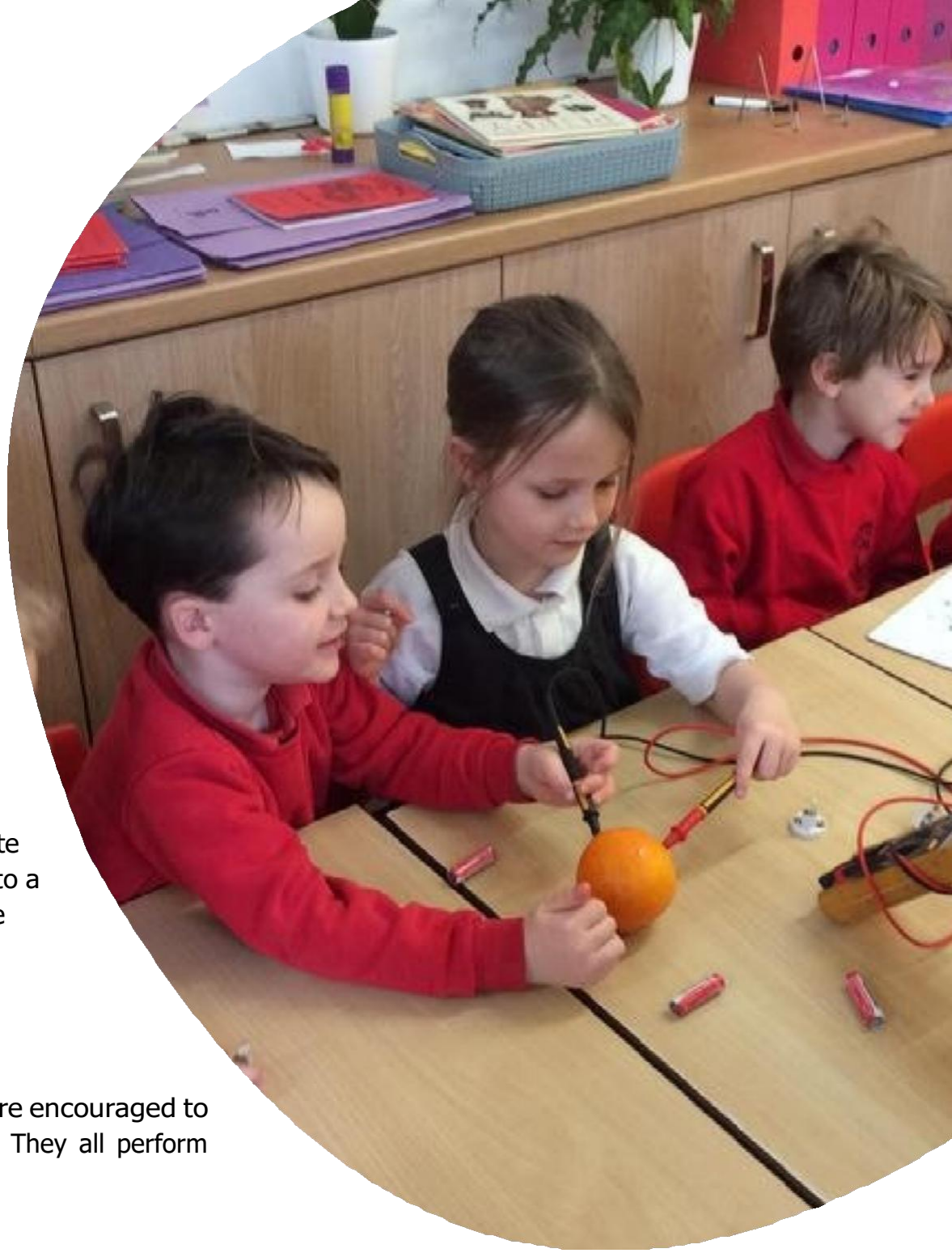
Children are given opportunities to develop an awareness of the past both within and beyond living memory. They compare the past with present times using a range of sources of evidence. They find out about their own family history and learn about the lives of famous historical figures and events.

Geography

Children develop their knowledge about the world. They investigate the physical and human features of the local area and compare it to a contrasting locality. Educational visits are carefully used to provide meaningful first-hand experiences.

Music

Music plays an important part in the life of the school. Children are encouraged to sing, play musical instruments and compose their own sequences. They all perform at various functions, services and concerts.



Art and Design

Children experience a variety of media and techniques and to develop their skills of observation and imagination. They develop their understanding and appreciation of art and design through the study of famous artists.

Design Technology

Children learn how to think imaginatively and to talk about their likes and dislikes when designing and making. They take part in focused practical tasks in which skills and knowledge are taught and developed and have experience of a wide range of materials and components such as textiles, food, construction kits and reclaimed materials.

Physical Education

We promote a positive attitude towards a healthy lifestyle and believe that PE is an important way of learning through action. Children walk through the vicarage garden to the nearby, fully-equipped church hall for PE. Games, gymnastics and various styles of dance are taught. We also take full advantage of the outdoor spaces, often teaching on the school playground when the weather allows. Children are also given the opportunity to take part in sporting activities in the locality including Maypole dancing and swimming. An outdoor Sports Afternoon is held in the summer term. Parents are invited to attend this enjoyable event.

Religious Education

As a Church of England Voluntary Controlled school the RE curriculum follows the North Yorkshire Agreed Syllabus. RE in our school seeks to promote knowledge, understanding, respect and tolerance of the beliefs and practices of all faiths. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from Religious Education and should discuss the matter with the Headteacher if they wish to do so.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education (SMSC), British Values and Citizenship

This is an important and integral part of the school. Children are taught to gain skills, knowledge and understanding to lead confident independent lives and to become informed, active and responsible citizens. We hold a Gold Healthy School Award in recognition for our work in promoting a healthy lifestyle.

Relationship and Health Education (RHE)

RHE is taught in the context of relationships. It promotes self-esteem and emotional health and well-being, helping children to form and maintain worthwhile relationships, based on respect for themselves and for others, at home, school, work and in the community. They also cover aspects of this within their science work.

Equality

Our Equality Scheme builds on our core values and ethos. We provide a broad, balanced and creative curriculum for all pupils. As a school we aim to tackle any form of discrimination and promote equality and good relations in all school activities. Our Equality Scheme is available for parents on the school website.

Child Protection

The Staff and Governors at Marwood School place the protection of children in our care as its main priority and responsibility. Teachers and other adults associated with the school are in a unique position and are well placed to observe children and note any signs or symptoms which can lead to the early detection of child neglect or abuse. We recognise that the relationship between teacher and children, which fosters respect, confidence and trust, can lead to the discovery of abuse and the subsequent protection of children. Whilst we recognise the need for good relationships with parents and children in their care and attempting to preserve these wherever possible, the school acknowledges that the child's protection is paramount.

Children with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

All class teachers ensure that the needs of individual children are met within normal classroom practice. If a child's progress is causing concern the class teacher will discuss the issue with the parents and additional help will be given to support the child in school. If a child is considered to be in need of more specialist help, full use is made of the services provided by the Local Authority's SEND Hub. We believe firmly in inclusion and all children will be admitted providing the school can accommodate their needs. We have wheelchair access to all the school doors and an accessible toilet. A copy of the school's SEND policy and Access information for parents is also available on the school website.

Gifted & Talented Children

We maintain a Gifted and Talented register where we identify children who demonstrate gifts in any areas such as music, art, sport, academic subjects or social awareness. We meet their individual needs through providing extended, challenging activities and opportunities.

Assessment

Children are continually assessed by their teachers to see how well they are actually learning what is being taught. The teachers use this information to plan their next lesson and to set targets for children so they understand their next step of learning. Attainment is measured against age related expectations and closely tracked. Parents are informed of their child's progress during parent consultation meetings and receive a detailed annual report in July. In Reception children are observed during a range of activities to assess their progress in each of the areas of learning. These observations inform the teacher's assessment against the Early Learning Goals. This information is used to match the appropriate work to meet the needs of the children to ensure children are making progress and are being challenged. In Year 1 the children complete a statutory Phonics Check.

Collective Worship

Collective Worship is a very important, fully inclusive, daily event in the life of our school. Themes for Collective Worship are planned reflecting the Church's year and are underpinned by Christian Values. Rev. Sarah leads a Collective Worship each week and children visit Christ Church for Collective Worship each term. Parents and families are warmly invited to join us for these services in church.

Parents have a right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship and should discuss the matter with the Headteacher if they wish to do so.

Jesus said, "Love your neighbour as yourself"

Matthew 22:39

Behaviour & Rewards

Golden Ribbons

A 'Golden Ribbon' with certificate is awarded to one child in each class per week for an achievement during the week – it could be for good work, good behaviour, being kind or simply trying very hard to do something that they find difficult. The children wear their golden ribbons on their sweatshirts for the whole of the following week as we are very proud of them!

Golden Rule

Each half term a Golden Rule is chosen and one pupil from each class, who has followed this rule most successfully, is awarded a Golden Rule Certificate and a golden Headteacher teacher award sticker.

Our Golden Rules are:

- Be Gentle
- Work Hard
- Be Kind and Helpful
- Listen
- Look after Property
- Walk in School

Children are regularly praised throughout the school day and can receive stickers, stamps, verbal praise and certificates in recognition of their good behaviour and for keeping the school rules.

Community Links

Our school takes great pride in being an active and enthusiastic part of the local community. We regularly take part in cherished village traditions such as pancake races, maypole dancing, and visits to local sports clubs, helping to foster strong connections and shared joy. We also support initiatives like the community garden, where pupils learn about sustainability and teamwork while contributing to a greener environment. These experiences enrich our curriculum, strengthen community ties, and help our children grow into thoughtful, engaged citizens.

The school is proud to hold a Bronze Christian Aid Global Neighbour Award.

Enrichment

Our school is proud to offer a rich variety of enrichment .experiences that bring learning to life and spark curiosity in every child. Thanks to the incredible support of our passionate PTFA (Parents Teachers & Friends Association) we're able to enhance the curriculum with hands-on activities and memorable adventures linked to our school topics. From trips to local farms and museums to magical theatre visits, our pupils explore the world beyond the classroom. We also welcome exciting visitors and give children the chance to witness the wonder of life cycles by hatching chicks, butterflies, and tadpoles. These experiences not only deepen understanding but also create joyful, lasting memories.

Homework & Extra Curricular Activities

Homework

Parents make an important contribution by supporting their child's learning at home. Children in Reception and Year 1 bring home weekly phonics homework along with a matched reading book. Further reading books and library books are sent home weekly. Year 2 children bring home longer reading books to share with parents and apply their phonics skills to build up fluency. Children in Year 1 and Year 2 bring home spellings to learn each week. Creative homework tasks are also suggested relating to topics with helpful information shared on the half termly curriculum statement. Optional handwriting and maths homework is also provided.

Extra Curricular Activities

At various times during the school year children are able to participate in extra curricular school clubs. Presently these are:

Choir
Story Club
Gardening Club
Fitness Club

Attendance & Absence

If your child is ill and unable to attend school please inform school as soon as possible by telephone. We have a statutory obligation to monitor the attendance of all pupils and will contact you on the first morning of absence if any child is absent and the school has not been notified. When your child returns to school we ask that you complete a form so we have a written record of any absence. We understand that it is sometimes necessary to take your child out of school during school hours e.g. hospital appointments. Please let us know in advance if your child has an appointment during the school day. Government legislation regarding leave of absence during term time states that headteachers cannot authorise absence from school for holidays and can only authorise leave of absence in extreme circumstances. All applications must be made in writing using the leave of absence form which is available at the school office. Where a child is taken out of school for the purpose of holiday in term time without the permission of the school, the absence will be coded as unauthorise and, as such, may result in a Penalty Notice. Penalties are applied by the Local Authority and, as such, are not at the discretion of the headteacher.

Lunchtime

High quality school meals are served on the premises and are eaten in the classrooms where a family atmosphere is encouraged. All children in Reception, Year One and Year Two are provided with a free school meal under the Government's Infant Free School Meal Scheme and our menus are available on our website. Children may bring packed lunches (in accordance with our Healthy Eating policy). The lunch should be placed in a container which can be carried by the child and stored in the cloakroom at school.

Children are very well supervised during the lunch period by Teaching Assistants. A variety of playground games and equipment is available at lunchtimes for the children to enjoy which are managed by trained play leaders from Year 2.

School Uniform

We encourage all the children to wear the school uniform which is a red school sweat shirt/cardigan with a white or red polo shirt underneath.

School Uniform Recommendations

Red embroidered school sweatshirt/cardigan

Red or white polo shirt (plain or embroidered)

Dark coloured skirts, pinafore dresses, trousers or shorts

Red and white gingham dresses in summer

Sensible flat soled/low heeled black shoes

School Bags

Please note that children will be provided with a red Marwood School reading folder and a yellow library folder to carry books and information to and from school.

For Health and Safety reasons we do not allow children to wear jewellery for school

P.E. Kit

P.E. KIT RECOMMENDATIONS

P.E. Bag to keep kit in on cloakroom peg

Red or White T Shirt (plain or embroidered)

Black Shorts/Leggings

Socks

Black Plimsolls/ Trainers

<u>For outdoor P.E. and cluster school events</u>

Black Jogging Bottoms or Leggings

Marwood Jumper/Cardigan

Waterproof Jacket

Trainers

SCHOOL HEALTH

We appreciate that many children are able to return to school following an illness but need to have medicine administered for a limited period. We can only administer medicine prescribed by a doctor and with written consent. Parents are required to complete an authorisation form with the child's name, date, type of medicine and the amount to be administered. In order to control children's diseases, the following periods of absence should be followed:

Disease	**Minimal period away from school**
Chickenpox	6 days from onset of rash, dry spots
Diarrhoea and/or Vomiting	48 hours from last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting
German Measles	4 days from onset of rash
Measles	7 days from onset of rash
Mumps	until swelling has subsided (min 7 days)
Whooping cough	21 days from onset of distinctive cough
Covid	3 days following a positive test

Parental Involvement

We are extremely fortunate to have tremendous support from parents and families who give their time to help in many ways. We welcome parents into school to help in the classroom on a regular basis, support a special project and join us for school visits and events. We have an active Parent Teacher and Friends Association (PTFA) to which all parents past and present belong. They organise a wide range of successful social and fund-raising events. The funds raised make a tremendous difference to all the children and have been used in the past to pay for school visits, theatre groups, artists and musicians to work with the children.

Home/School Agreement

Parents/Guardians will:

- see that my child goes to school regularly, on time and properly equipped;
- notify the school in writing of any absences;
- let the school know about any concerns or problems that might affect my child's work or behaviour;
- support the school's rules for behaviour;
  - Be kind and helpful
  - Listen
  - Be honest
  - Work hard
  - Look after property
  - Walk in school
- support my child in opportunities for home learning;
- attend parents' evening and discussions about my child's progress;
- respect the school's requirement that photographs of children taken at school events are for personal use only and are not shared on social networking websites.

School will:

- care for your child's safety and happiness;
- contact parents if there is a problem with attendance, punctuality or equipment;
- let parents know about any concerns or problems that affect their child's work or behaviour;
- inform parents half termly about what teachers aim to teach through Curriculum Statements;
- send home an annual end of year report;
- regularly send home opportunities for home learning e.g. reading, spelling, topic related activities;
- arrange Parents Evenings during which progress will be discussed;
- keep parents informed about school activities through regular letters /
- emails detailing news and notices about special events.

Home School Communication

When your child has been admitted to school, there are a number of opportunities for the teacher and parents to meet together and discuss your child's progress. Parent Consultation evenings are held in the Autumn and Spring terms and a school report is provided to all parents in the Summer term along with an optional consultation appointment. Parents of Year 2 children are invited to an additional meeting with their teacher to discuss end of Key Stage One assessment results in the Summer term. However, should you have any worries or concerns at any other time or would like to talk with your child's teacher do not hesitate to get in touch. A meeting will be arranged at a mutually convenient time. We write a weekly newsletter so that parents are well informed about events in school and to share with you what has been happening during the week. This newsletter is emailed to parents each Friday and can be viewed on our website www.marwoodschool.org and school noticeboard. Our website is regularly updated particularly the 'News' section which can be accessed from the home page.

Complaints Procedure

If a parent has a question or concern we ask that they first speak to their child's class teacher. The vast majority of queries can be answered and resolved this way. If parents would like to discuss a concern further they are very welcome to make an appointment to see the headteacher. More formal procedures for complaints are detailed in our Complaints Policy and a copy of this has been posted on our website and can be accessed via Key Information / Policies.

Information Pricacy Notice
General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) The school's Information Policy and Privacy Notice have been posted on our website and can be accessed via Key Information/Policies.

Publication Scheme
The school's Publication Scheme and details of information available under the Freedom of Information Act have been posted on our website and can be accessed via Key Information / Policies.

We look forward to a successful and happy partnership with you.