



THE MARTON ACADEMY

LABOR OMNIA VINCIT

*Challenging educational orthodoxies so that every child makes good progress in core subjects;
all teachers are committed to personal improvement and fulfil their responsibilities;
all children receive a broad and balanced curriculum;
all academies strive to be outstanding.*

Thursday 28th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

School Improvement Update - Spring 2021

As you will know, each term we send out a "School Improvement Update" to help keep everyone up to date with the developments in our academy. This letter reaches you at a time of great challenge for children and families in particular and comes at a time when the Marton Academy has faced and overcome its own difficulties. During this time, I have shared news at every turn and experienced the strongest of community responses. The Marton staff have been creative, flexible and hardworking throughout and the team has developed a system of remote learning to be proud of. Likewise, the wider community at Marton has been incredibly supportive and has engaged wholeheartedly with home learning, offered support with alternative accommodation and sent countless messages of heartfelt support. This all matters and makes a difference to us all. For this reason, the latest newsletter will not revisit the trials and tribulations of the previous term, but instead will instead focus on our achievements as both a celebration and a thank you.

- ✓ In the vast majority of lessons, we have 100% participation. Very few schools in the country can claim this and you should be proud!
- ✓ We have received positive feedback on our home learning offer and timely information where things need to improve. *This has enabled our team to strengthen provision in response to what works for you.*
- ✓ We have systems in place for supporting parents with access issues to remote learning.
- ✓ We rapidly assessed children in September and set up booster sessions to compensate for any lost learning. *This enabled focussed teaching to support children on their learning journey.*
- ✓ Children made rapid progress in the autumn term thanks to quality first teaching and the work that had gone in at home during the first lockdown. This is vital and continues to be so.
- ✓ In September, all of the children took part in a whole school project, linked to the Oliver Jeffers book: 'Here We Are'. This enabled us to work together as a whole school community and it gave children the opportunity to discuss any worries or concerns. *The children engaged*

with this wholeheartedly and the project supported many to re-engage with school and with each other. Staff were struck by the maturity of the children's responses.

- ✓ We have continued to improve how we teach phonics and early reading, and Mr Hessey is working closely with the Department for Education's English Hub to ensure our children benefit from the most up to date research and practice when it comes to teaching reading. This will ensure all children make rapid progress with early reading skills and are thoroughly prepared for Year 2 and beyond.
- ✓ We have purchased many new phonics books to support the teaching of early reading. Children began to take these home during the autumn term and this helped to reinforce learning.
- ✓ We continue to recognise the importance of 'Reading for Pleasure' within our school reading community. Staff prepared 'Reading Rivers', which was presented to children to demonstrate how important books can be. Children have been encouraged to develop their own 'Reading Rivers' to recognise which books they have particularly enjoyed. Reading for pleasure is well established in the school culture and we are delighted with the way pupils have engaged with this project.
- ✓ Our teachers have engaged with wider networks both within the trust and beyond to develop the curriculum. The curriculum has now improved and has been tailored to meet the needs of pupils at Marton.
- ✓ We have purchased eight new Chrome Books for school as part of a rolling programme of improvements. Children will benefit from engaging with more up to date equipment

As you know, we continually strive to improve the learning experiences of our children and we welcome your feedback. We would like to thank you all for your kind words of support and encouragement during these particularly challenging times. We will continue to communicate with you on any developments and we look forward to returning to normal routines as soon as possible.

L Taylor
Principal

S Green
Assistant Principal

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