

## Dragon Class 2017 July Newsletter

Dear parents,

Wow!!! I can't believe this is our last month as K4 students and we will soon be moving into K5 or 'big class' as we call it.

I have witnessed an unbelievably amount of development over this year. The Dragons have grown up so much from the little boys and girls who were just finding their feet at Marshall when I first took over as their teacher to young boys and girls who are bubbling with enthusiasm and confidence. Throughout the whole class I have seen such improvement from the quiet kids who hardly spoke to me unless I spoke to them to the really confident ones who just love to talk and tell me little stories or ask questions to feed their curiosity.

Their behaviour has greatly improved to the extent that I received compliments from Teacher Sharon and Teacher Brant when they helped cover myself and Teacher Jady. I was very proud to hear this as it shows all the work we put in has paid off. Let's keep this going into next year!!!

The level of intensity will increase in K5 as we really start to fine tune their speaking, reading and writing skills so they can head off to their elementary schools as well rounded English students.

I'm sure with continued hard work our transition into K5 will be a successful and positive time for all!

Please note that I will be taking a vacation to see my family in the UK for the month of August. I have not seen them since December 2015 and it is my dad's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday this summer so I am looking forward to seeing them all. I will leave the class in the capable hands of Teacher Jady and a substitute teacher who I am sure will keep everything under control until my return.

Best wishes,  
Teacher Eamonn

Reading

Reading class is something we take a lot of pride in here at Marshall. We aim to have a class of independent readers with a full grasp of phonics and the pronunciation of words. This class is also great for building up their vocabulary which in turn benefits their conversation skills. I find this class feeds the student's imagination, inspires children to read stories in their own time and usually by the 3<sup>rd</sup> year they are wanting to write their own stories! As reading is a personal favourite pass time for me I take a lot of care bringing out the best possible results for the children in this subject and I hope you will all see a steady improvement in your child's ability.

July 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>: David and the Giant

July 10-14th: P.J Funnybunny Camps Out

July 17<sup>th</sup>-21st: Paddington Plays On

July 24th: Review

#### Core Material

This class is an all encompassing lesson for the children's reading, grammar and phonics skills. In these classes children are asked to analyse stories, practice vowel sounds and use a selection of keywords for sentence making and grammar. This year we have started to assess the students on their spelling and understanding of concepts. This is a non-pressurised situation where we review the core material and assess it through 'fill the gap' or 'choose the correct word' exercises. I am trying to encourage them to do it by themselves and not shout out the answers so everyone gets the opportunity to complete it independently. We then review and test the spelling of the keys words.

July 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>: Review Unit 2 Week 1

July 10-14th: Review Unit 2 Week 2

July 17<sup>th</sup>-21st: Review Unit 2 Week 3

July 24th: Catch up & Review

#### Math

We are using the MPM books and boxes for our maths class. They really have a unique and interesting way of delivering common mathematical concepts to the children often by using animals, colours and objects that children associate with fun and games! This month we will focus on...

July 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>: E5:P1-5 - Function

July 10-14th: E5:P6-10 - Function

July 17<sup>th</sup>-21st: E5:P11-14 - Path

July 24th: E5:P15-18 - Review

#### Physical Education

This is important for all everyone. In our busy lives we all often forget to exercise and I am a strong believer in "Healthy Body/Healthy Mind" so is vital for our younger generation to get lots of exercise and fresh air. Not only does it benefit our bodies but also our social skills such as teamwork, competition and fair play. I have started to include team activities to promote teamwork, encouragement and understanding consequences if you don't try hard for your team. Gross motor skills can aid with our fine motor skills too so I try to include activities such as relay races, follow the leader and co-ordination tasks which are fun and engaging.

#### Thematic Activity

Each month a different foreign teacher is assigned to plan and arrange activities of a given theme. This can be anything from small art projects, short field trips near the school or even a party in the classroom! The themes are often related to different festivals around the world so it really helps them to understand different cultures while having fun at the same time. July's activities will revolve around an international thematic activity for America such as traditional food, buildings, pictures or animals. These are always fun and exciting for the children.

July 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>: The Statue of Liberty

July 10-14th: Native American Craft

July 17<sup>th</sup>-21st: Teepee

July 24th: American Food

#### Song and Dance

This is a great opportunity for myself and the students to bond and enjoy some songs together. Singing and dancing not only teaches new words and tunes but also aids listening and Gross/Fine Motor skills as dancing involves learning movements so requires good co-ordination. These songs and dances are often included in our Drama Plays so are an important aspect of Marshall school life.

July 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>: Rock-a-bye baby

July 10-14th: Rock-a-bye baby

July 17<sup>th</sup>-21st: Thanks a lot

July 24th: Thanks a lot

#### Handwriting

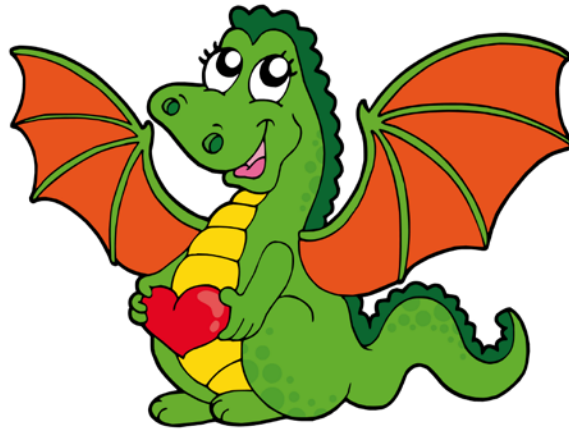
This year we have a handwriting class which continues to develop their Fine Motor skills. We are working towards independent or 'free writing' i.e. without the use of lines to guide or help them. The activities have a template of the target letter, capital and small, to show the students the correct way and then guide lines to allow them to practice by themselves. I am always saying 'remember the lines' to make them write it neatly. The aim is for 'muscle memory' to develop so they will be able to write freely. If we have some extra time I let them write words on the whiteboard as this is a good practice for free writing and spelling. I have seen considerable improvement through the class which is great to see!!

**Library/Storybook** Each week the children get the opportunity to borrow a book to take home and read by themselves. Recently I have been choosing a fun and interesting story to read to the class. I take my time to explain concepts and any morals from the story. It's lovely to see all of them listening to the stories and taking an interest! They really get involved with the stories and I believe it's good for their listening and their imagination!

I hope this has been an insightful newsletter for you all,

Thank you for reading!

Best wishes, Tr. Eamonn



## Dragon Class 2017 July Newsletter

親愛的家長：

我實在不敢相信這已是 K4 中班的最後一個月了！而且即將升為 K5 也就是我們所謂的“大班”了！我已經見證大部分孩子們這一年來令人無法置信地成長了！

小龍兒們成長的真是快！當初他們剛踏進瑪歇爾時仍是個幼嫩的小小女生和男生，而我從他們的老師那兒接過來時，他們從小男生和小女生，現已日漸在熱誠和獨立中成長著。在全班中我已看見一種很大的進步，就是一些較安靜的孩子們，從不敢和我說話到現在已能自然地和我對談，甚至有些孩子超愛告訴我些小故事，以及問我問題來滿足他們的好奇心。他們的大小行為舉止表現已經從 Sharon 和 Brant 老師分別在代我和 Jady 老師的班時，獲得兩位代課老師的讚賞了！當我聽到他們的表現，因我們平常的付出有了回饋的展現！我非常引以為榮。希望一直保持到明年！

升上大班 K5 時，程度明顯提升了！真的開始強調說的語調及閱讀和書寫，讓他們能順利升小學，成為英語流暢的學生。

我確信在持續的努力下，上大班將會是非常成功且充實的時光。

告知您八月份我將休一個月的假回英國探望我的家人們！自 2015 年 12 月後我就一直沒見過我的家人了！今年暑假是家父 70 歲的生日，我將回去看他們！我將班級留給能幹的 Jady 老師及代課老師，我相信他們會把班級帶得很好直到我回來！

祝福您們

老師 Eamonn

## 閱讀

閱讀課在瑪歇爾是最引以為傲的。我們將重點放在讓孩子們獨立掌握字的發音和語調。這堂課也在孩子們爭取輪流表達中，建立他們的字彙和會話的熟練度。我發現這課程能培養發孩子們的想像力並激發他們在擁有自己的時間時閱讀，如此持續第三年，他們正期待想要寫自己的故事哦。我個人最喜歡閱讀打發時間，在這個科目上，我花了很多時間來引導出最佳的可能結果給孩子們，希望你們能看見孩子們日積月累能力的進步。

7/03-7/07: David and the Giant

7/10-7/14: P.J Funnybunny Camps Out

7/17-7/21: Paddington Plays On

7/24: Review 複習

## 主教材

此課程大都圍繞在孩子們的閱讀，文法和發音技巧上。在這些課程的學習，孩子們被要求分析故事，練習母音發音，並用選取關鍵字造出句子和文法。今年我們已開始評估孩子們在拼字和概念的理解了。這是沒有壓力的學習情境，當我們學過主教材要複習之處，就會透過“填空”或“選出正確的字”的活動來複習。我試著鼓勵孩子們自己嘗試完成並不說出答案的作答，因此每位孩子們都有機會獨立完成。之後我們便複習並測試拼出這些關鍵字。

7/03-7/07:複習 Unit 2 Week1

7/10-7/14: 複習 Unit 2 Week2

7/17-7/21: 複習 Unit 2 Week3

7/24: 趕進度 & 複習

## 數學

目前我們的數學課使用 MPM 書當教材。他們真的有很獨特且有趣的方式，常透過動物，顏色，和些物件以及些孩子們互動的遊戲，給予孩子們一般的數學概念。本月我們將專注在...

7/03-7/07: E5:P1-5 -數字跟圖像的對應

7/10-7/14: E5:P6-10 -數字跟圖像的對應

7/17-7/21: E5:P11-14 – 路徑

7/24: E5:P15-18 – 複習

## 體能課

這是對每個人都很重要的課。在我們忙碌的生活中常忘記運動，但我篤信有健康的身體才有健康的心靈。所以讓我們的新一代運動呼吸新鮮空氣很重要。不僅只是對我們的身體有益，對我們的社交如團隊合作，比賽和公平遊戲都有益。大肌肉可帶動全身肌肉，故我整合成接力賽活動。服從領導和協調工作 都是有

趣又吸引人的。我開始介紹孩子們團體的活動，專注在教孩子盡全力取團隊的獲勝，學習重點是了解自己是團隊的一份子，學習如何盡全力幫助彼此，成就團隊。我試著讓孩子們了解考量他人的重要，而非自己本身。

### 主題活動

每個月都有不同的外師設計安排不同的主題給孩子們。這活動可以是小的美勞作品，短程的戶外教學，甚至是一個教室裡的主題活動！主題往往來自世界各地的相關節慶，所以這真能幫助孩子們在從事有趣的活動中同時了解不同的文化。六月的主題將以英國為主，如傳統的食物和建築，及圖畫和動物等。

7/03-7/07: 自由女神

7/10-7/14: 美國印第安人

7/17-7/21: 帳篷

7/24: 美國食物

### 歌曲律動

這對我自己而言，是一個很好的機會讓我和孩子們連繫在一起享受些歌曲。唱歌和跳舞並非只教些新字和旋律，也學了聆聽力和粗細動作，當他們在跳舞時需要學習好的合作關係。這些歌曲和舞蹈通常都會涵蓋在話劇表演中，所以在瑪歇爾的生活是很被看重的一部份。

7/03-7/07: Rock-a-bye baby

7/10-7/14: Rock-a-bye baby

7/17-7/21: Thanks a lot

7/24: Thanks a lot

### 書寫

今年我們仍持續有書寫練習來啟發他們小肌肉的應用。我們朝著用鼓勵獨立或不用分隔線引導來協助讓他們書寫。這些的活動是有字體的目標模式，大小寫，引導孩子正確的方法然後使用導引線讓孩子們自己練習。我總是提醒他們“要記得分隔線”讓他們寫得端正些。重點在於啟發“肌肉的記憶”讓他們能自由的書寫。如果我們有些多餘的時間，我會讓他們在白板上書寫，是很好的自由書寫及拼字練習。我已經透過上課，看見他們真的進步非常多，這真的是我所樂見的！

### 圖書室故事時間

每週孩子們都有機會借一本書回家自己閱讀，最近我選了一些好玩有趣的故事書在課堂裡讀給他們聽，我花了些時間從故事書中解說些道德的概念，看著他們充滿興趣的聆聽故事，真的很可愛！他們真的很熱衷於這些故事，我也深信這將有助於他們的聽力和想像力。

我希望我的這封信能帶給您們有所啟發。

感謝您的閱讀！

祝福您們，

老師 Eamonn