

Marner Newsletter

Friday 4th September 2026



Dear Marner Families,
Welcome Back to Marner!

Dear Parents and Carers,
What a fantastic start to the new school year!

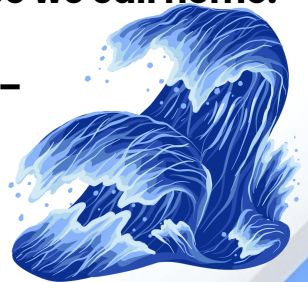
It has been wonderful to welcome our children and families back to Marner this week. The children have made an excellent first impression – they have returned ready to learn, full of enthusiasm and looking incredibly smart. Thank you to all our families for supporting us with our uniform expectations. Seeing our children together in their Marner blue creates such a strong sense of pride, identity and belonging.

We Belong at Marner

This year, we want to think even more deeply about what it means to belong to Marner – to know the story of our school, our community and the place we call home.

Our school identity tells a story.

The name Marner connects to the word mariner – a sailor or seafarer – and to our East London location beside the River Thames. The blue of our Marner identity and school uniform represents the sea and the Thames, the river that has shaped so much of the history of our local area.



The shape of our logo is inspired by a ship's wheel and a compass. Both are symbols of direction, navigation and journey. For us, they also represent the purpose of education: helping children find their direction, broaden their horizons and move confidently towards their future.



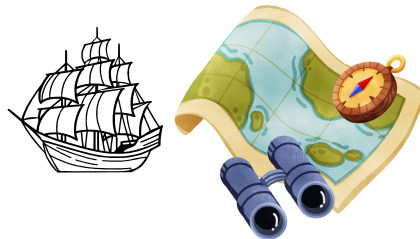
One of the lovely details in our logo is that the compass point sits just above East – reflecting exactly where our school is located on the map, here in the East End of London. This reminds us that our identity is rooted in this community and in the history of this place.



As a school, our responsibility is to help guide every child towards success, opportunity and happiness, always wanting the very best for them. This maritime story also connects strongly with the history of our community.

From the 17th century, the East India Company employed South Asian seafarers known as lascars to work aboard its ships. Many Bengali seamen hailed from eastern Bengal—specifically regions like Sylhet, Chittagong, Dhaka, and Noakhali—which later became East Pakistan and eventually Bangladesh.





So when our children put on their Marner blue, we want it to mean more than simply wearing a school uniform. It represents our connection to the water, journeys made across it, the history of our community and the many different stories that have come together here.

Our logo and our uniform are symbols of identity, heritage, community and belonging.

We want every child to be able to say:

"I belong at Marner. I am known. I am included. I am proud to be here."

Throughout this year, we will continue to explore the story and symbolism of our Marner identity with the children so that they don't simply recognise our logo – they understand what it represents and feel proud to belong to it.



What's On at Marner?

Next week, we will send out our new What's On Guide, bringing together everything happening at Marner this term – key dates, events, opportunities for children and families and lots more.

There is plenty to look forward to!



Free Breakfast Club – Open from 7:30am

It has been great to see more children taking up our Breakfast Club offer this week.

A reminder that our Breakfast Club is now:

FREE for Marner pupils

Open from 7:30am

Children can enjoy breakfast and begin their school day with their friends in a calm and welcoming environment.

If you would like your child to attend, please make sure that you register for a place.



Extended After-School Childcare

We also know that some families would value childcare at Marner until approximately 5:45–6:00pm, and we had hoped to introduce this through an external provider.

Unfortunately, there was not enough take-up for the external provision to go ahead. We completely understand that cost may have been one of the barriers, particularly as an external provider needs to charge a set price and there is no subsidy available. However, we have not given up on this. We are now researching whether we can develop an alternative model that could be run by Marner ourselves, which we hope could provide families with a more accessible option.



We will come back to you as soon as we have more information about what we may be able to offer at school.

In the meantime, if you were interested in extended provision and were disappointed that the original offer could not go ahead, we can signpost you to an alternative.

Young Performing Arts (YPA) offers after-school provision Monday to Friday, with a mixture of creative arts, sports and play activities, and can collect children directly from Marner.

We will share further information with families who may be interested while we continue to explore our own provision.

Meet the Teacher Meetings

Now that the children have met their new teachers and are settling into their classrooms, we would also like to invite parents and carers to our Meet the Teacher meetings over the next few weeks.

These meetings are an opportunity to meet your child's teacher and teaching team, hear an overview of the year ahead and find out more about important information such as PE days, homework, trips and expectations for the year group. There will also be an opportunity to ask any general questions you may have.

Please look out for communication on ClassDojo, where we will confirm the date and time of your child's meeting and provide all the information you need.

We really value our partnership with families and hope that as many of you as possible will be able to join us.

Thank you to our children, staff and families for such a positive beginning to the year. There has been a wonderful feeling around the school this week. It has been particularly lovely seeing children reconnecting with friends, meeting their new teachers and settling so quickly into their new classes.

We have an exciting year ahead of us and I am looking forward to sharing much more with you over the coming weeks.

Have a lovely weekend.

Sarah Bowmer

Headteacher

Marner Primary School

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