**RE: Community support for families**

During the second half of the 2023-2024 academic year and into 2024-2025, Marus Bridge were early adopters of the free support which was available to parents and families of children attending the school.

Qualified teachers with experience of teaching both in schools and to adults, were provided by community partners Competence at Wigan Warriors, to deliver typically 2-hour training sessions.

The main aim was to familiarise and upskill, in order to effectively support homework activities and everyday learning opportunities.

Multiply Maths is the initiative which facilitated these impactful trainings, so it was numeracy which was focused upon first. Mrs Atkinson was very keen to ensure that all delivery would tie-in with the school’s Calculation Policy, so meetings were held to ensure consistency of message.

The parents/families of children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 were grouped together to learn how the 4 Operations were taught. These interactive sessions, like all of the sessions, were well received and fully supported by the school in terms of promotion, timetabling and facilitation.

Year 3 and 4 parents/families focused on Multiplication, with Year 5 and 6 being SATs orientated.

After this first round of delivery, it was clear that several parents enjoyed re-engaging with the learning process and started to actively seek out accredited further development courses. These were often to support with job applications which ultimately, we hope, would improve the day-to-day lives of families.

For the 2024-2025 academic year, the focus has been on English. The groupings differed slightly to include a bespoke session for Reception parents/families. Much more focus has been on phonics and how they are taught. Even greater involvement with Mrs Carver, English Lead, has shaped sessions content and delivery preferences.

Throughout this partnership, it has been clear that Marus Bridge Primary School have been intent on tapping into the wider community to provide additional support for families. All staff encountered have clearly demonstrated the same drive and enthusiasm for continual and sustained improvements. We very much thank them for their approach and look forward to working together again in future.

Yours faithfully,

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