



Dear Parents / Carers

A reason to be proud

I am proud to announce that we received a letter from the Department of Education congratulating us for our school results for the last academic year. These results placed us within the top 3% of schools in England. Below is a copy of the letter we received. I am sure you will join me in congratulating all staff for the dedication they show towards ensuring that your children receive the best possible education. I also want to thank all our children for working so hard and all parents who support their child's learning and ensure that their attendance does not drop below 96%.



Message from Ruby Anwar, Chair of Governors

Dear Parents,

I hope you all had a great half term holiday and are ready for another busy term. I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate everyone at Marsden for their continued hard work and success. The Department for Education has recognised our great achievements. In a letter we received, they stated that we are amongst the top 3% of schools in England as a result of our significant progress. This is an achievement to be hugely proud of. I'd like to thank the Leadership Team, all teaching and non-teaching staff, parents and most importantly the learners for their resilience and dedication.

There are always lots of exciting things going on at Marsden. I was particularly impressed with the athletics team who competed with other schools at Pendle Vale. Our team was the most well behaved and they cheered their team members on with real passion. There were so many performances that stood out, especially the girls relay race because they won by a long way. Good luck to the sporting teams with upcoming competitions.

Ruby



Is it true?.....Is Marsden thinking of opening a Nursery for 3 and 4 year olds?

We are so proud of the fact that we are a Community school. Now, more than ever, we feel that we have so much that we can offer our families. We want to strengthen our relationship with you by opening a Nursery for 3 and 4 year olds. Before this can happen, we need to know if you or your friends or family would take up the opportunity to send your child to a Nursery at Marsden. Soon we will be asking you for your opinion.



Safeguarding at Marsden

We recently had an external audit of our Safeguarding procedures in school. The report was extremely positive and this is another area of school life that we are very proud of. We can offer support for learners, parents or for the whole family. Please feel free to ask any member of our Inclusion team if you need support of any kind. School always tries to support parents themselves before signposting parents to outside agencies. Early help for families is our priority and parents have a choice whether they decide to access the support offered.

We can help you with any worries that you may have in relation to your child's education, behaviour and wellbeing. We are always here if you need someone to talk to. The team is approachable and non-judgemental.

Advice and support is confidential although concerns relating to the safeguarding of children will always be dealt with in accordance with the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Support for pupils includes:

- ❖ promoting good attendance and punctuality
- ❖ promoting self-esteem and confidence
- ❖ promoting positive behaviour
- ❖ providing one-to-one support

Support for families includes:

- ❖ providing information and signposting to other services in the local area
- ❖ liaising with a range of external services such as Housing, Children and Family Well-being Service, Health and Children's Social Care
- ❖ assistance in completing paperwork and forms e.g. housing, school places, reading forms etc
- ❖ attendance and support at school and other agency meetings
- ❖ advice and support in promoting positive behaviour at home
- ❖ guidance with career and personal development and access to training and workshops in school

How to get in touch:

Please call the school office on 01282 612769 and ask to speak to a member of the Inclusion Team or come to the main office and someone will always be happy to see you.



Attendance

Once again I am saddened by the amount of children who are missing out on their education due to extended leave. This is because in the majority of cases families are putting cheap tickets above their children's learning. Studies have shown that children who miss school find it difficult to catch up on their learning. Our own data shows that almost all learners who have missed school have made slower progress and fallen behind. For example:

Child A in Autumn Term Year 3 was **At Expected** on a 3E for Reading and maths.

He missed 2 weeks of school.

His Spring levels show that instead of being on a 3D he is still on a 3E for both subjects.

Child A is now **a term behind** where he should be!

Child B in Autumn Term Year 2 was at a **1E** for reading and did not pass the phonics test.

She started the year **2 terms behind** where she should be.

The teacher put in **interventions** and she was making **excellent progress** – within 6 weeks her level had gone up to a **1S** and with continued intervention would have got to a **2E** making her at expected.

She was taken out of school for 9 days.

Intervention could not continue so in Spring term, **instead of being on track**, her levels have now dropped to a **1D**.

Child B is now 3 terms behind where she should be.

This is how the data works:

In Autumn Term a child **on track** will be on an **E (Entering)** depending on the year group they are in (for example a child in year 5 would be a 5E)

In Spring Term a child **on track** will be on a **D (Developing)**

In Summer Term a child **on track** will finish the year on an **S (Secure)**

We do everything possible to help your child stay on track or to ensure they make accelerated progress towards being on track. Please think about their progress before you take them out of school.

Leave of Absence	Authorised and Unauthorised absence	Risk of losing a school place
<p>Following the September 2013 amendment to The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006, schools cannot authorise any leave other than in exceptional circumstances. Marsden is the person authorised by the 'proprietor' (i.e. the Governing Body), to make this decision. If the leave is being requested for a holiday, approval should be obtained prior to making any bookings.</p> <p>Leave of absence SHALL NOT be granted unless:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a request for leave has been made in advance, by a parent with whom the pupil normally resides, and the Headteacher considers that leave of absence should be granted due to the EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES relating to the request. 	<p>Examples of authorised absence: Medical or dental appointments, which relate directly to the pupil and unavoidably fall during the school day (evidence may be required prior to authorisation)</p> <p>Illness of the pupil (evidence may be required prior to authorisation)</p> <p>Leave which has been authorised by the Headteacher due to exceptional circumstances</p> <p>Examples of unauthorised absence: Parents/carers keeping children off school unnecessarily</p> <p>Truancy before or during the school day</p> <p>Absences which have never been properly explained</p> <p>Children who arrive at school after the register has closed</p> <p>Shopping, looking after other children or birthdays</p> <p>Day trips and leave/holidays in term time which have not been agreed</p> <p>Days that exceed the amount of leave agreed by the Headteacher</p>	<p>Parents may risk losing their child's school place if: they do not return from leave on a date discussed between parents and specified by the Headteacher and readmission cannot be guaranteed.</p> <p>leave is taken after a meeting with the Headteacher where the absence is deemed to be unauthorised and the school and Local Authority are subsequently unable to verify where the child is.</p> <p>parents do not notify the school of a leave of absence and the school and LA are unable to verify the child's whereabouts.</p> <p>Local Authority involvement: Families who request extended leave more than once during their time in school will be referred to a Local Authority Attendance Officer before seeing the Headteacher.</p>

School Closes: Friday 5th April 2019 at 3:20pm

Summer Term 2019

School Opens: Tuesday 23rd April 2019

May Day: Monday 6th May (School Closed for Bank Holiday)

School Closes: Friday 24th May 2019 at 3:20pm

Half Term Holiday: Monday 27 May 2019 - Friday 31 May 2019

INSET DAYS Monday 3rd June 2019 – Thursday 6th June (Includes Eid)















School Opens: Friday 7th June 2019

School Closes: Tuesday 23rd July 2019 at 3:20pm

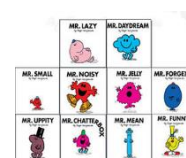
Attendance 2018-2019

School Attendance so far this year : 96.1%

Class Attendance for February:

RM	1M	2M	3M	4M	5M	6M
						
87.9%	91.9%	95.1%	97.3%	93.5%	99.3%	95.9%
RS	1S	2S	3S	4S	5S	6S
						
93.8%	91.9%	95.7%	98.4%	97.9%	95.2%	93.9%

World Book Day: We will be celebrating World Book Day on the 7th March. All children and staff are invited to come dressed as their favourite Mr Men or Little Miss Character or can wear colours of that character. Each child will come home with a pound voucher to spend on a book from local retailers like Morrisons and WH Smiths.



Class Assemblies:

Class Assemblies for parents are being continued this year to celebrate the learning that is being covered in class. Thank you again for attending these assemblies – the children love to share their learning with you! They take place on a Thursday from 2.30pm. Below are the dates for when your child's class assembly will be:

Date	Class
14.03.19	5S
21.03.19	4S
04.04.19	RS
02.05.19	1M
23.05.19	3S
20.06.19	6S
27.06.19	1S
04.07.19	2S

Welcome

We welcome Miss Cooper to our school. Miss Cooper will be taking all classes for Drama during the teacher's PPA. She is a highly qualified drama teacher and will be focussing on developing learners confidence through speaking and listening activities.



Best Wishes

We wish Mrs Fenna all the best as she begins her Maternity leave.

Thank you

Thank you to all families who completed the logo and uniform choice questionnaire. I will let you know the most popular design in the March newsletter.

Have a lovely weekend!