



Live to Learn. Learn to Grow

Newsletter
September 2019

Dear Parents

A warm welcome to the first Newsletter of the new School Year! All the children have settled into their new classes and are enjoying the beginning of term. The children are looking smart in their new uniforms and we are looking forward to the challenges of another School Year.

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Welcome EYFS

The new intake of children into the Reception classes have settled in so well and they are already so eager to talk about their learning. I have been into the Dining Hall at lunchtime and the children are all happy and already know the importance of eating a healthy lunch. I am sure that they will continue to grow and become independent learners – securing an enjoyment for learning and living our motto: Live to Learn. Learn to Grow.

KS2 Playground Equipment



Every day, I am filled with joy listening to the excited laughter from the children as they play on the new pieces of playground equipment; developing their stamina, strength and overall fitness. We were honoured to have at the official opening the Mayor and Mayoress of Pendle, as well as Andrew Stephenson our elected member of Parliament.

School Uniform

The children are wearing their uniform with pride and I thank all of you for committing to the change. It certainly has made a big difference; providing the learners with a strong sense of identity and belonging within our school and local community.

All learners are now required to wear the full school uniform which consists of;

- The Marsden School jumper or cardigan with logo
- White shirt with rigid collar
- School tie (only available from school)

- Black skirt/trousers/pinafore
- White/black socks or tights – **no leggings/no coloured socks**
- Black school shoes – **no trainers/ no ballet pumps/boots**
- **Please note there will be no summer dress.**
- School bag with the new logo (only available from school – not compulsory)

Start and Finish of the School Day

Start of the day:

We would like to remind you that all children are required to be on the school site by 8.55am at the latest. The School doors will be opened from 8.40am and the School gates will be locked at 9.05am to allow parents time to leave the grounds. Learners walk straight into their classes so that learning can start promptly at 9.00am. Children who arrive late need to walk through the front office. However, this does tend to distress some of them, particularly the younger children, as this is an unfamiliar entrance. As a result, we ask that your child arrives at school in good time.

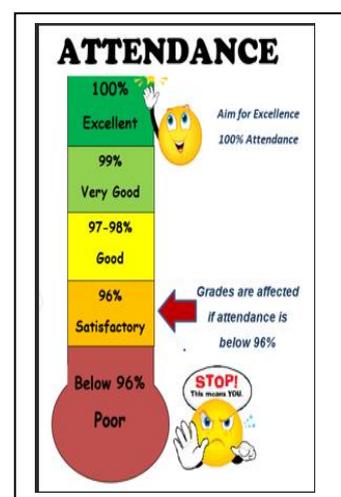
There are still a number of children arriving at school late; please help the school and your child by being on time which means that they can begin their learning promptly. If you need to speak to your child's class teacher about an issue, please see them at the end of the day when the rest of the class has been sent home. Please do not hesitate to speak to a senior teacher on duty in the morning if the matter is important and needs to be dealt with urgently.

End of the day:

It is very important that you inform the school if someone different to normal is picking your child up from school. Children will not be allowed to go home with anyone under 16 years of age unless you have completed a consent form that you can collect from the School Office. Please ensure that your children are collected from School at 3.20pm. We have a very large number of children not being picked up until much later. Again, this causes distress to your children.

Attendance:

The school's attendance target is 97% for every pupil. Please ensure you make every effort to bring your child to school every day. We understand that children do get poorly. However, it is the parents' responsibility to contact the school on the first day of absence. Proof of sickness must also be provided in order for the absence to be authorised. We consider proof to be a doctor's note or pharmaceutical prescription dated for the day of absence. If attendance declines; a referral to Lancashire Attendance service will be made and they may issue a fine. If you have any concerns over your child's attendance please speak to Mrs Arif.



Whole School Attendance so far 96.6%

Class Attendance September 2019

RM	1M	2M	3M	4M	5M	6M
97.0%	97.4%	94.4%	95.6%	98.7%	98.7%	96.8%
RS	1S	2S	3S	4S	5S	6S
95.9%	95.0%	97.5%	94.4%	97.9%	98.5%	94.8%

Extended leave during school time:

It is the school's responsibility to provide the best education possible. We can only do this if your child / children attend regularly.

The law gives no entitlement to parents to take their child on holiday during term time. Any application for leave must only be made in exceptional circumstances and I must be satisfied that the circumstances are exceptional and warrant the granting of leave. I am not expected to deem any term time holiday as exceptional. Parents will be fined by the Local Authority for taking their child on holiday during term time without consent from school.

Additionally

- All requests must be in writing on the Application Form for Leave of Absence in Term Time. This is available from the School Office
- Requests must be made at the earliest opportunity
- Absences, where permission has not been sought, and retrospective applications will not be authorised

Reading at Marsden



Have You Visited our School Library?

Our School Library is amazing....it is full of wonderful books suitable for all ages and has a range of text types to choose from, including bilingual books. All our learners have the opportunity to visit and exchange books throughout the day. You too can visit the library with your child daily from 8.30am.

Every Wednesday, you are invited to a Reading Breakfast. On this day, not only can you take out a book but you can also sit and enjoy the books with a piece of toast and a drink. In addition to this we also have Reading Workshops. Please look on the website for all reading events. Staff look forward to welcoming you to the library – why not come and see what it is all about!

Reading at Home

Please can you make sure that your child/children read every day. A child's reading skills are important to their success in school as this will allow them to access the breadth of the curriculum and improve their communication and language skills. Good readers are good writers and spellers! In addition, reading can be a fun and imaginative time for children. It also opens doors to all kinds of new worlds for them.

As part of our curriculum review at Marsden, we have identified 'reading' as a key area for development and this is included in the school's strategic improvement plan. We will be focussing heavily on developing learners reading skills at school but cannot do this without support from home. At home they need to be embedding their skills and reading at length to develop their stamina. This, as stated earlier, needs to be encouraged on a daily basis. Your child's class teacher will be tracking the amount of books/words read weekly and there are prizes and certificates for those who read widely and often.

Why is reading so important?

Studies show that reading for pleasure makes a big difference to children's educational performance. Evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment every day not only perform better in reading tests than those who do not, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding.

Our Newly Designed Website

Our Website is now up and running with all the information that you need. Please refer to this on a regular basis as we keep updating it. Watch out for the class Learning Zones!

Key Dates:

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	Theme
17.10.19	6M	Biography
7.11.19	5S	Myths and Legends
21.11.19	3M	Healthy Humans
5.12.19	6S	Classic Fiction
16.1.20	5M	Victorians
30.1.20	1M	Toys
13.2.20	RM	TBD
5.3.20	4M	Healthy Eating
19.3.20	1S	Plants & Growth
2.4.20	3S	Light
30.4.20	RS	TBD
21.5.20	4S	Greece
18.6.20	2M	Persuasion
2.7.20	2S	Meer cat Mail

Holiday Dates:

HOLIDAY	SCHOOL CLOSURES	SCHOOL RE-OPENS
2019 - 2020		
Summer Holidays 2019	Tuesday 23 rd July 2019 at 3.20pm	Tuesday 3 rd September 2019
Autumn Half Term 2019	Friday 18 th October 2019 at 3.20pm	Monday 28 th October 2019
Christmas 2019	Friday 20 th December 2019 at 3.20pm	Monday 6 th January 2020
Spring Half Term 2020	Friday 14 th February 2020 at 3.20pm	Monday 24 th February 2020
Easter Holiday 2020	Friday 3 rd April 2020 at 3.20pm	Monday 20 th April 2020
May Day 2020	Monday 4 th May 2020 (School closed for Bank Holiday)	
Spring Bank 2020	Friday 22 nd May 2020 at 3.20pm	Monday 8 th June 2020
Summer Holidays 2020	Tuesday 21 st July 2020 at 3.20pm	TBC

Finally:

May I take this opportunity to thank you in advance for the support that you continue to provide for your child and the School. Here's to another successful year at Marsden Primary School.