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**From the Interim Headteacher: A few end of term messages including an invitation to all parents**

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School is now closed for the Easter break

We welcome the children back to school on Tuesday 22nd April at the normal time

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Dear Parents and Carers,

We have arrived at the Easter break with what I am quickly realising is the typical flourish of activities and excitement that fills our every week here in Marshgate - I have never known a school with such a wide offer of enrichment activities and opportunities for the children!

In the last week alone, with Y6 cycling, a Y4 residential, a borough basketball tournament, an Easter bonnet parade and a PSA Easter Egg hunt extravaganza, it really has been action packed! Thank you to all those who make such events possible from those going with the children (particularly those staff who supported on the residential), those in the office managing all the administration, and to all the parents who continue to support these events. Thank you for helping our children to grow and learn through so many rich experiences.

**Clubs**

Clubs are an important way that we look to provide additional inspiration and opportunities to our children and we are proud of the breadth of clubs on offer. We share your frustrations with the issues with the booking system this week and will be reviewing how to better safeguard against these problems next term. The office team have been liaising with parents who had difficulties to ensure every child is able to access a club in the summer term. If you haven't booked your child into a club yet, there are still a few spaces available so please take a look in the coming days.

**A coffee morning invitation - Wednesday 23rd April 2025 - 9.00am**

Having been part of Marshgate for a few weeks now, it would be lovely to have the chance to share with the parent community some of what I have seen in the school so far and what we are working on as school leaders. I would also like the opportunity to hear a little more from you about how we can work together more effectively to see every child flourish. As such, I invite you to an informal coffee morning at 9am on Wednesday the 23rd April in the school hall, please come straight into the hall after dropping off your child. We will be all finished by 9.45am. I do hope you will be able to join us but, if not, I will share the details in a follow up message afterwards.

**Pick up in the infants**

Staff would kindly ask that once your child has been released to you at the end of the day, you keep them close by until you are safely out of school. This will allow teachers to more safely ensure all children are accounted for. Thank you.

**Attendance drops ahead of Easter break but 5 classes have cause to celebrate**

At Marshgate, if we are to see every child safe and happy and flourishing, we need them to have excellent attendance. And this two week period before the Easter break is no different. A number of families have chosen to take holidays early and this is such a shame as these final days of term are

key times to assess the impact of teaching over the Spring term and to identify where to focus their support for the summer term. The table below shows a different picture to the positive attendance figures I shared two weeks ago in many classes. Leaders and Governors will review how to better ensure children are in school all the way through to the summer break to ensure they can all make maximum progress in their learning. Please be aware that the local authority can fine parents significant sums for failing to ensure excellent attendance so please do all you can to avoid absence during term time. This is detailed in our [attendance policy on our website](#).

That being said, there is cause for some celebration: both classes in Year 4 and Year 5, as well as Swan class, all improved their attendance this past two weeks, with 4D and 5B achieving excellent attendance during this time. Well done to these classes and to the individuals who have made a real effort to get their attendance back on track in recent weeks. It is never too late!

|                                                                                    |                             |                                        |                             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Whole school (past two weeks)                                                      | 94.5%                       | National attendance (recent week)      | 93.4%                       |
| Whole school (this year so far)                                                    | 95.9%                       | National attendance (this year so far) | 93.4%                       |
| Infants                                                                            | % Attendance past two weeks | Juniors                                | % Attendance past two weeks |
| Butterfly                                                                          | 92.3                        | 3B                                     | 94.9                        |
| Caterpillar                                                                        | 92.3                        | 3FK                                    | 96.2                        |
| Frog                                                                               | 87.4                        | <b>4D</b>                              | <b>97.9</b>                 |
| Tadpole                                                                            | 93.3                        | <b>4H</b>                              | 95.1                        |
| Cygnets                                                                            | 94.4                        | <b>5B</b>                              | <b>98.0</b>                 |
| <b>Swan</b>                                                                        | <b>96.1</b>                 | <b>5C</b>                              | 93.8                        |
| <b>Bold: Improved since last time</b><br><b>Gold: Excellent attendance (97+% )</b> |                             | 6G                                     | 95.1                        |
|                                                                                    |                             | 6H                                     | 94.6                        |

I hope this Easter break is a lovely time for all families across our community. Enjoy the sunshine forecast over the next week, enjoy rest and relaxation, and we look forward to welcoming you back on Tuesday 22nd April refreshed and ready to finish the year with a flourish.

Kind regards,

Mr Chamberlin  
Interim Headteacher