

Message from the Interim Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for such a warm welcome as I have met many of you on the gate in recent days. Mr Bracken continues to be absent through illness, and I am glad to be able to support the staff and school community in his absence. I am conscious of the uncertainty of recent weeks for the community, so I am keen to share a regular newsletter, even if this week's is lacking the usual pictures and colour!

Early priorities

My priorities in these early days as I get to know the children and staff and the systems of the school have been to support Mr Gentry and the school's leaders to ensure we are ready for our upcoming inspection. Children deserve the very best education, and inspections hold schools to account for the highest standards of practice. When the inspection comes, we look forward to evidencing all of the good work of the school and what makes this wonderfully diverse school community so special, particularly the academic success of our children, and how strong our curriculum enrichment provision is.

We are also beginning to prepare for September and beyond, working with the Governing Body to set a balanced budget and considering staffing arrangements to ensure the very best teaching and support for our children continues into the next academic year.

Ready – Respectful - Safe

In assembly this week, as part of our behaviour expectations of ready, respectful, safe, we thought about what it means to be 'Ready' at Marshgate. We thought of it in three ways:

- *Trying our best* – To be ready to learn is to be focussed, to listen, to contribute. The staff team support the children to develop their independence and other lifelong learning behaviours.
- *Overcoming mistakes* – To be ready to learn is also to be resilient to challenges and mistakes. None of us are perfect and it is often when we make mistakes that the best learning takes place. We will continue to support children to develop that growth mindset and resilience in their learning.

- *Excellent attendance* – To be ready to learn means being in school! We strive for 100% attendance for every child and, while we understand occasional illnesses can occur, we want to support you to see every child achieve excellent attendance. The best attendance in the infants was by both **Reception** classes this week, with **3B** and **6G** closely tied for having the best attendance in the junior classes.

Whole school attendance this week		96.5%	Most recent National attendance	94%
Whole school attendance this year		96.1%	National attendance this year	93.4%
Infants	% Attendance this week	Juniors	% Attendance this week	
Butterfly	97.7	3B	98.2	
Caterpillar	97.7	3FK	97.9	
Frog	97.1	4D	97.7	
Tadpole	93.2	4H	94.7	
Cygnets	97.2	5B	95.0	
Swan	95.3	5C	92.1	
		6G	98.3	
		6H	98.0	

The school continues to see much higher attendance than the national average but let's keep striving to make sure we are all here every day.

Challenge of the Week

Does your child read at home every day? Reading to an adult is wonderful. Hearing an adult reading to them is great too. Even just reading independently makes such a difference. We want every child to leave Marshgate as confident readers so if reading is not part of your child's evening routine, we encourage and challenge you to give it a go. It is never too late to develop healthy habits.

Next Week

We will be thinking about what it means to be 'Respectful', understanding bullying and how we all have a part to play to make sure no-one is treated unkindly in our school. The children have already shared how kind the children are at Marshgate but we should never take this for granted and there is always more we can do.

Next week's events include: Year 6 cycling, Year 5 water sports trip to Thames Young Mariners, an Egyptian day in Year 3, some of our children attending a pupil parliament event, and finishing it all off with a family bingo night on Friday. Marshgate is once again a hive of activity and enrichment!

Have a lovely weekend,

Mr Chamberlin
Interim Headteacher