

Friday 18th April 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

First of all, thank you all for welcoming me so happily into the Marsden Junior School community over the past two weeks. I have met so many lovely children who try their best each day to listen, learn and contribute positively to school life. The children have shown me their work, their favourite areas of the playground and their vibrant personalities in abundance. I am continually passing tests of 'Do you remember my name?' and I think sharing my recent bungee jump photos and favourite book went down very well!

As I am sure you are aware, what is immediately clear about Marsden Junior School is how hard staff work and how dedicated the whole team is towards fostering great relationships between home and school. This partnership remains a clear priority moving forwards and is certainly something that adds a real 'family feel' to our school.

Next, we need your help to further embed some key parts of school life for our children.

Attendance

Marsden Junior School's attendance for the year to date is 94.6%, which is the national average and so it would be great for this to improve to be above average. The positive impact of children attending school is well known. The Department for Education (DfE) website [Everything You Need To Know About School Attendance](#) highlights this clearly, and you may find the NHS guidance '[Is My Child Too Ill For School?](#)' useful.

Punctuality

School begins each day at 8:40am and, after a quick registration, learning starts promptly. The vast majority of children arrive on time, ready to start their day positively. While we are completely understanding that - on the occasional morning - getting out of the door can take a little longer, supporting your child to get to school on time is important for their school day, and for preparation for high school and later life.

Uniform

Marsden Junior School's uniform can be found on the school's [website](#). Please support your child to wear their correct school uniform and PE uniform each day unless agreed adaptations are in place, e.g. for children with additional needs. If you are struggling with uniform costs, please contact school or speak to a member of staff in confidence – we are happy to help.

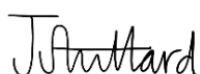
Mobile Phones

As per our Mobile Phone Policy, if your child is in Year 5 or 6 and does need to bring a phone into school, we use the '*handed in on arrival*' strategy to protect phones and safeguard children. Phones should be placed in agreed, safe spaces for the day and will be handed out again at the end of the day, unless agreed circumstances (e.g. medical needs). Any refusal to do this will be considered a breach of the school's behaviour policy.

Thank you for your support on these parts of school life and, once again, thank you for your warm welcome to Marsden. We also really appreciate your patience and care during this period of some change in the school office. I am sure you will agree that Mrs Stevenson and Mrs Bannon are doing a great job as our current office team.

I am looking forward to a positive summer term and towards getting to know more children and families over the coming weeks.

With best wishes,



Mr J Stuttard

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