

MARSHLAND ST. JAMES SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



ISSUE 13- FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy week it has been in school. We have been hit as a staff by all the winter bugs that are going around, so there has been some flexibility in terms of which adult has been in which class this week - with the children's well-being always at the forefront of our minds.

We are still very much on timetable in terms of delivering lessons, and will be until the end of term. We are of course practising for our festive performances, but these are planned around our core subjects. This week and next are assessment weeks across the school. This is so that we have an accurate picture of current outcomes which will enable us to plan targeted keep up or catch up interventions for each child. We will inform you of these when in place so that you are aware of the support being provided for your child. The class teacher is always the best first point of contact, but of course in the case of class 12B, then please do come and talk to me. There will be further information being sent out to you before the end of the coming week as I know that this has been a time of change for everyone.

I have heard some comments this week around the invacuation that we carried out in school last week. This is a statutory requirement for both our Safeguarding and Health & Safety responsibilities as a school. I told all the children that they would hear a loud noise whilst they were outside (an air horn) and that they should follow their teachers' instructions. The children all did this perfectly, they walked into their classrooms, windows, doors and blinds were closed and the children sat on the floor or in their seats. Afterwards, I spoke again to all children and said that this was a practice in case we ever needed to leave the playground in the event of something like a gas leak, or air pollution (from a nearby fire) or an animal on the loose (like a dog). I spoke very clearly about this with the children so that they were not worried or alarmed. We do not warn children about these practices in the same way that we do not alert them to a fire alarm where we exit the school as we need children to react in the way they would in a real instance so that we can mitigate any risks. Please do chat to your child about this now that you have the rationale behind it.

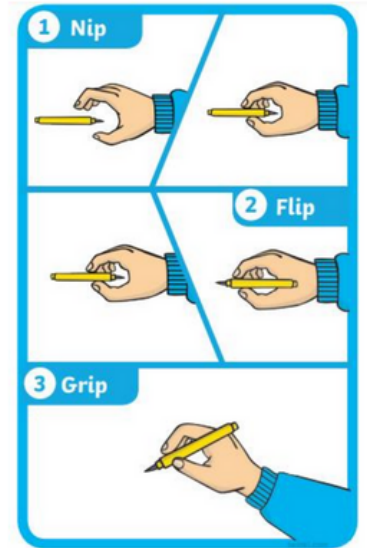
Wishing you all a lovely, peaceful weekend,

Ms Lucca and the MSJ team.

GENERAL ROUND-UP IN SCHOOL THIS WEEK!

EYFS

This week Nursery and Reception have been busy developing their fine motor skills. Reception have been practicing their pencil grip with the 'Nip, flip and Grip' technique and we have been engaging in daily Dough disco before Phonics to get our fingers ready for writing. Nursery have also been developing their fine motor skills and made some excellent snowmen, practising the rolling technique to create 3 balls. They listened very well to the instructions and created some great snow figures!



KS2

This week in PSHE, the children have been learning about the stress bucket analogy. We explained that everyone has an imaginary bucket that collects their worries and stresses throughout the day. If too many worries build up, the bucket can start to overflow and make us feel overwhelmed. The children explored ways to “pierce holes” in their bucket by thinking about the things that make them happy or help them calm down. These positive activities act like little release valves, allowing stress to drain away. The class really enjoyed discussing their own strategies and thinking about how they can keep their stress bucket from overflowing.



December

UPCOMING EVENTS



8th - GenR8 Christmas visit and Collective Worship

10th - Pantomime @Kings Lynn Corn Exchange. Thank you for giving consent, more details will follow regarding timings etc.

11th - Year 3 & 4 Trip to Gressingham Hall

16th - NRC (Only Nursery and Reception) Nativity: Performances at 9.15am and 2pm. (Tickets will be available from 9.12.25)

17th - Christmas lunch day - book up now!

17th - Christmas clothes non-uniform day - monies raised will be donated to Heart Valve Voice Charity and Queen Elizabeth Hospital Kings Lynn Intensive Care unit. This is now open for donations on MCAS.

18th - Years 1 to 6 - Carol Concert in the school hall: Performances at 9.00am and 2pm. (Tickets will be available from 9.12.25)

19th - Last day of term

MORE DATES WILL
BE ADDED EACH
WEEK SO PLEASE
DO CHECK.

WHOLE SCHOOL FUNDRAISING - FOSA CHRISTMAS FAYRE

We would like to say another massive thank you to the members of FOSA who gave up their time to organise and run the very successful Christmas Fayre after school on Thursday. It was a lovely start to the festive season in school and if the amount of visitors is anything to go by, then a significant amount of money will have been raised for the children of our school! Thank you also to all of the families that took the time to attend and support this event - we couldn't do it without you and everyone I spoke to clearly enjoyed themselves, despite the awful weather outside..!

I'd just like to remind you again that the 17th December is our Christmas dinner day. All children will eat together in the hall with all staff taking part in the celebrations too. Also on this day, we will be raising money for the Heart Valve Voice Charity and Queen Elizabeth Hospital Kings Lynn Intensive Care unit through our Christmas themed non-uniform day which is now open on MCAS.

STARS OF THE WEEK



A massive Well Done to **Santanna, Layla , Sataya** and **Jackson** for being our stars of the week. Another sibling week... I promise you that we do not plan this!

Thanks as always to our families for sharing our Celebration Worship today, it's a time when we can all reflect on our week and the successes we have had and share how proud we are of the children.

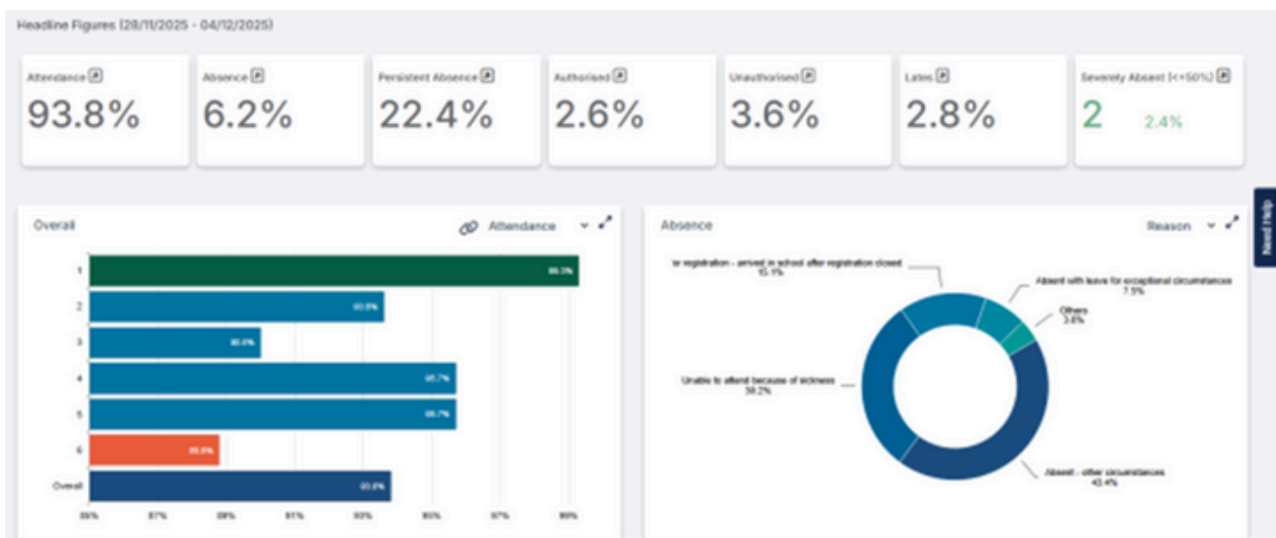
ELY CATHEDRAL CAROL CONCERT



Year 6, Mrs Matthews and I had a wonderful visit to Ely Cathedral on Monday when we attended the DEMAT Together Carol Concert. It was truly magical to sing in such a majestic venue, with acoustics that performers can only dream of! The children were an absolute credit to themselves, to you as parents and to our school. I couldn't have been more proud of them from start to finish. Their excellent behaviour was remarked upon by other Hub Leads too which was a testament to them.

It was a wonderful start to the festive season and an experience that we won't forget.

ATTENDANCE & SAFEGUARDING



Attendance has gone up slightly this week but we are still showing a declining picture overall and our Persistent Absence (PA) is very high compared to national figures and other schools in our trust.

If you are having problems trying to bring your child into school, please speak to their teacher and if that hasn't supported the issue, then please make an appointment to see me. I know that receiving the low attendance letters may be a shock, but we can still impact positively on individuals at this point in the year if we work together. We WANT your children to be in school!

I will be inviting families in to meet me over the next weeks so that we can talk about attendance and what we as a school can do to support you further.

YEAR TO DATE: 94.1%