

MARSHLAND ST. JAMES SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



SPRING ISSUE 3 - FRIDAY 23RD JANUARY 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Here we are at the end of another busy week in school, filled with learning and new experiences for the children in class and whilst outside with their friends. All children have really enjoyed playing with the new play equipment and it has made a huge difference to children's social interactions at lunch time. Our House Captains are doing a sterling job of managing the resources, come rain or wind, they are very reliable and a great help to all children and adults.

This week in school we have been focussing again on our Behaviour Curriculum. We have had some slippage in some areas of the school, where children are not demonstrating our expected behaviours. We have addressed this by positively reinforcing what we DO expect from all of our children. In class, we expect children to listen, learn and act in a respectful way, for example, tracking the speaker and working in silence when working independently. When this is not the case, a reminder is issued, so that children have the opportunity to change their behaviour. If it continues, then a warning will be given, another chance to change the behaviour. If the unwanted behaviour still continues, then a consequence will be put in place. This will be time taken from break time which will then escalate into lunchtime and further responses should the behaviour continue. The consequences are for all children who display behaviours that contravene our policy and graduated approach to behaviour. Some children will have individual behaviour support plans and therefore may have a slightly different approach, but these are the exceptions not the norm. We aim for 100% of children to understand the expectation and have spent this week reminding children and adults to ensure consistency across the school. Next week I will send out the documents as we are meeting as a whole staff to really fine tune our approach.

From this week, we now have 'Well-being Wednesday' class assemblies, so that we can discuss any issues arising and share ways to enhance our well-being and mental health in general. All at an appropriate level and in an accessible way. Ask your child about theirs next week!

Have a wonderful weekend,

Ms Lucca and the MSJ team.

HOUSEPOINTS Well done to the **RED** team again this week!

Everyone is working so hard to earn house points - keep it up - we love to recognise children who are doing the right thing and making good choices.

READING AROUND THE SCHOOL THIS WEEK

N/RC

This week in whole class reading Reception have been reviewing their Unit 5 sounds in the phonics book Mud. We read part of the story together and then the children take turns to read sections. The children have made so much progress within their reading since the beginning of our school year and it is a pleasure to listen to them, Nursery have been listening to 'How to catch a star' by Oliver Jeffers. The children have enjoyed this story and have discussed different ways they could catch their own star. The children in Nursery are making great progress in their attention and listening skills and are able to maintain this for longer carpet sessions.



1/2B

Years 1 and 2 are enjoying listening to and sharing the reading of our current Reading Canon text - Greek Myths . The stories are full of excitement and adventure and are inspiring our writing!



3/4A

This week, the children have been reading the classic 'The Illiad' which is the original version of the 'Wooden Horse of Troy'. Along with their teachers, they have begun to master the archaic language and familiarise themselves with Greek Gods and the pronunciation of character names such as 'Odysseus, Agamemnon and Diomedes.'



5/6P

In whole class reading this week, we have been building our fluency and pace in reading; developing different reading techniques like skimming and scanning. The children have been delving deeper into the story of Journey to the River Sea and using ideas from the text to write their own narrative.



READING NEWS

From this week onwards, teachers will no longer be writing in children's Reading Records. We keep a detailed log in school and the reading record we send home is for you to share your comments with us about your shared reading with your child outside of school. We enjoy reading what you have written, and the impact of the consolidation of your child's learning is huge when looking at continued progress in both fluency and expressive reading (prosody). Our children all love to read and the books we send are designed for them to read more than once to practise known sounds from their Sounds Write lessons in previous units, so that they become proficient and confident readers.

On this note - Can I please take this opportunity to ask you to look for any books that have not been returned to school, particularly in class 1/2B. We have several outstanding, and we need them to be returned so that we can re-send to other children. As you can imagine, they are very expensive and we need them in school!

STARS OF THE WEEK

A huge 'Well Done' to:

Eliza, Patrick, Molly and Isaac for being our stars of the week. You should be very proud of yourselves!



I'm sorry that I was not able to be there and thank you to Miss Cadman for leading our worship today. I know that ALL of these children deserve these awards and try very hard in all areas of their school life.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February

9-15th Children's Mental Health Week

11th - School Disco: **R/1/2 - 4-5pm 3/4/5/6: 5.15-6.15pm**

13th - NON-UNIFORM DAY 'Come as yourself'

23rd - Bookable appointments in school with Georgie Baldwin (Early Help Community Worker) Please contact the school office to book. 12pm - 3pm.

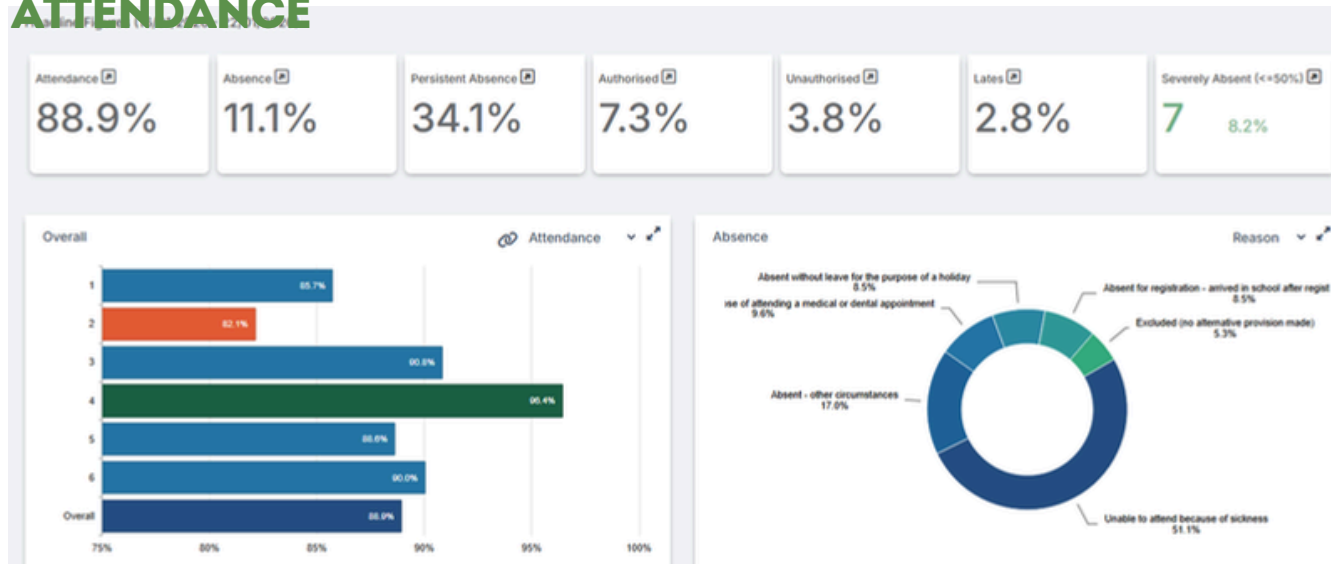


March

5th - World Book Day - dress up as favourite book character or come in pjs. (Age appropriate and sensible shoes as always please!) FOSA will also be organising an event on this day, more details to follow! (Think Golden Ticket..!)

12th - Parent Consultations - to begin at 1.30pm in the hall.

ATTENDANCE



YEAR TO DATE: 94.1%

Our whole school attendance for last week is very low. This time, it is mainly due to term time holidays., which we do not authorise. Whilst I understand the cost implications of going away during school holidays, I would urge you to try and bear in mind the impact this has on your child academically. A week lost can often mean a whole unit of work missed - we will catch your child up, but it does mean that it is much harder for them to keep up and we do not want any child to feel at a disadvantage.

SAFEGUARDING

We have been having an increase in reported instances of children in all years groups accessing both programmes and online content that is neither suitable nor age appropriate.

Monitoring online content is a challenge, we would recommend adding parental controls to devices and using search engines such as google kids to ensure that only appropriate websites are available. Internet Matters is a great place to start for advice around this!