



MARVELS LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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12th September 2022

In addition to what's written below, you will now probably be aware that the Queen's funeral will be on Monday 19th September. This has been designated a bank holiday and the school will therefore be closed on 19.09.22.

9th September 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

I am obviously writing this first newsletter in the context of the nation's first day of mourning the death of our Queen, Elizabeth II. We took some time this morning in assembly to think about the different feelings that come with such a huge moment in history. In particular, we talked about sadness, gratitude and also celebration.

A very real sadness that someone who has been there for all our lives and who seemed so invincible had finally passed. Gratitude for all that she has done for so many people over so many years and also celebration of not only what she achieved, but the manner in which she conducted herself and the human values that she demonstrated throughout her life and reign.

She will be sadly missed by many, but the memory of these values can last way beyond now and help us all be better versions of ourselves in the future.

We will revisit these and other thoughts over the next 10 days and also keep you informed of any other national or local developments that impact on us in school.

In the meantime, we carry on....

Apologies for the length of this update, but please try and find the time to read it as there are several things we want to clarify at the beginning of a new year. Thank you.

Firstly, welcome back to everybody. It has been fantastic to see so many smiling faces coming in through the gates in the morning. A particular welcome to everybody who is joining Marvels Lane for the first time, in Year R (Reception) or anywhere else in the school. We look forward to doing all we can to help your child Be The Best That They Can Be in all that they do.

MEET THE TEACHER

Your children's teachers will shortly be in contact with a date and time during the week beginning 19th Sept, for you to join other parents in the class to hear about expectations and what the year ahead might look like for your child. We try and stagger the meetings across the week so that there aren't any clashes, so I hope as many as possible of you are able to take this opportunity to meet your child's teacher, listen and ask any questions you may have.

CLUBS

You should have already been contacted with details of all the clubs that are available for your child this term. Details for each club are slightly different, including cost, which may be free, a reduced rate (for Pupil Premium) or a full rate (still cheap compared to other schools). Please sign up to whichever clubs your child is interested in and we will let you know shortly if they have a place. In the event that a club is oversubscribed, children will be selected at random with those who are unsuccessful getting priority the next time the club is advertised.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

We are delighted to be able to offer musical instrument lessons (including the opportunity to borrow the instrument) for guitar, brass and violin. Currently, there are spaces for each instrument and I am particularly keen for Marvels Lane to regain its reputation for having excellent violin and brass players.

The cost is heavily subsidised, so if your child is interested and in Year 4 or above, please do contact Ms Mierzynski in the office. If your child is not sure, take the plunge and have a go!

UNIFORM

Please see the website for full details on uniform (under the 'Key Information' heading). As with many things, we try to get the right balance - in this case between belonging and being different. With everyone following the uniform rules we create a real sense of everyone being proud to belong to Marvels Lane School. Meanwhile, we hope that the flexibility, especially with jumpers/sweatshirts, allows for a level of individuality as well.

Please do work with us and do not spend a small fortune on trainers that are not black!

Finally, we are aware that there have been some supply problems from our uniform provider, so we will allow a grace period until the end of next week. Apologies for this and rest assured that we are working closely with them to improve their service (!). Unfortunately, we have only limited stock in school, but if you are struggling it is worth asking as we do have some good quality nearly new stuff too.

ATTENDANCE

We are going to have a huge push on attendance this year as, post-Covid, our standards have slipped. There will be a special attendance letter coming out next week for each child.

START & END OF THE DAY

Just a reminder that we are sticking with last year's arrangements for drop-off and pick-up.

Morning gates will open at 8.45am and close at 9.00am. Teachers will aim to open their doors (YrR to Yr3) or be in the playground (Yr4 to Yr6) by 8.50am. Register will start at 8.55am, with children beginning their learning as close to 9.00am as possible.

At the end of the day, gates are open from 3.10pm to 3.30pm. Children in Years R, 1, 2 & 3 need to be picked up from their classrooms by someone over 16yrs old. Year 4 are collected from their teacher in the playground and Year 5 and 6 will be brought down to the playground by their teacher

after which they are able to make their own arrangements to go home. Please see the attached guidelines for more details and/or confirm arrangements at meet the teacher.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Please don't forget that in addition to these Parent Updates, regular information and pictures are posted on the school website's home page and gallery (under 'Our School'). Also, we are posting more and more on our social media, so please follow us on

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/marvelsprimary>

Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/marvelsprimary>

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/marvelsprimary>

WELL-BEING

One of Marvels Lane's particular strengths is that we are a 'listening school'. Any child can talk to any adult and they *will* be listened to. Problems (small, medium or big) are there to be listened to, understood and dealt with. Often this can be done by children themselves (as they learn resilience and independence) or with the help of a variety of adults around the school. On top of this, on a Wednesday and Thursday, we have **Place2Be**, which is a listening, counselling and therapy service. This can be used by children as a drop-in service at lunchtime or, by referral, for more long term therapy. Please see the website and the attached letter for more information as well as details of how to opt out if you choose.

Finally...

As the term gets fully underway, we will try and get the right balance of giving you further information and updates without bombarding you with emails! However, if you have any questions or queries at any time, please do not hesitate to ask and we will do our best to help.

In anticipation of a fantastic year ahead....

Warmest wishes,

Mr. Edward Dove

Headteacher