



Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back and happy New Year.

I hope you and your families managed to have a good balance of fun, food, family time and rest.

Our new term is already well under way and the children have been asked to think about New Year's resolutions for their learning and for themselves.

**Attendance - As a school community, our number 1 resolution needs to be Attendance.**

Last half term, we were hit with at least 3 separate waves of illness which have really hurt our figures, but more importantly meant that lots of children have missed out on more learning than they should have.

Over the coming weeks, we will be putting in several additional measures to reward children for their good or excellent attendance. We would also ask you to work with us if you are in a position where your child's attendance needs to improve. Good or better attendance is so important, while sustained Persistent Absence can be really harmful to children's learning. Please note Persistent Absence is anything under 90% (the equivalent of one day a fortnight). Attendance of less than 80% (equivalent to one day a week) is very serious.

To report a child's absence please use the email address [attendance@marvelslane.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@marvelslane.lewisham.sch.uk)

In terms of school hours, the earlier start to the day has been a huge success and, as such, we will now be opening the gates at 8.40am to enable as many children as possible to be in class for their 'early bird' work at 8.50am. Gates will still be closed at 9.00am.

**School Dinners**

Please can I apologise for the delay in our kitchen review. We hope to be able to write to you shortly with a menu update and details of several other changes we are making to our school dinner offering.

**Parent Governors**

I am delighted to say that I have received 3 nominations for Parent Governor. We will therefore need to hold an election. I will be in contact next week with the voting arrangements and self-written profiles of each of the candidates.

In the meantime, I would like to thank again everyone who made all the Christmas events such a success last term. Both the volunteers who gave so much time and energy organising and everyone else for getting involved in such a positive manner. I hope you all enjoyed the festivities. The children certainly seemed to.

**Class Information for this term**

Back to this year – please do look out on class doors, the website or on email for any changes to your child's class organisation for this term (PE days, trips etc.). In terms of their new topic, each year group's curriculum is available for you on the school website. New homework challenges will also be coming home soon if they haven't already.

...and finally, as the weather gets colder, please do wrap your children up warm and make sure that all their clothes, especially hats, gloves and coats have their names clearly written on the label.

With warmest wishes,

*Mr Edward Dove*

Headteacher