



Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome back to the second half of the Spring Term and the school year!

I am writing with some highlights of key events coming up over the next five weeks as well some exciting things that happened last half term:

MARVELS LANE SCHOOL COUNCIL



We now have our first school council for a number of years. Children from Yrs 2 to 6 were voted by their classmates to represent them on the school pupil council. The children have already had their first meeting, supported by Miss Suleyman, and I am excited to hear what their first project is going to be. Congratulations to them all.

NUMBER DAY

Thank you to Mr Chown for organising such an exciting day last half term. It was great to see the children realising how much fun can be had with numbers in so many ways. Matching this fun with everyone practising their passport targets are two reasons why Maths continues to be such a strength of our school.

HOMEWORK

I have been asked by a couple of parents recently about the school's approach to homework. In short, homework is encouraged but voluntary. It is a combination of:

Reading - read, read, read, read, read and read.

Practice - practising basic skills that you already know (ie Mental Maths, Spelling) is a brilliant way of strengthening the foundations for future learning to be built on in school.

Challenge - for those who want to get involved with more - half termly challenges are sent home in the children's homework book. These are voluntary, but quality and quantity of completion will be recognised and celebrated in every class.

We strongly believe that getting a right balance for your children between these three different approaches will support their learning in school. Please note: there may be some additional expectations in Yr 6!

SPELLING

Please note that, in this context, we have decided to trial a different way of teaching spelling across the school. The main changes are that we will be spending more time teaching letter patterns and exceptions to these patterns. 'Tricky words' and 'topic words' will still be taught, but there will no longer be weekly spelling tests. Amongst other things, this will hopefully alleviate some stress at home.

If you would like to discuss homework or spelling in more detail, we are offering a Q&A meeting for anyone to attend from 3.30pm to 4:15 pm on Tuesday 24th March in the Bottom Hall. Please do come along.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance last half term was, I'm afraid, only **92.6%**. While this is not unusual for this time of year, we still need to bounce back to get our percentage up for the year as a whole. To support this we have introduced a new attendance prize called 'In it to win it'.

Each half term, all children who have perfect attendance for that half term will be put into a draw and 3 children will be chosen at random to receive a prize.

Congratulations to our first three winners (who will find out who they are on Friday assembly) who each receive a £10 Amazon voucher. The idea is that this will not only give a boost to those on track for perfect attendance for the year, but also an extra incentive for all those who have missed some time to strive for perfect attendance each half term.

You've got to be in it to win it! Good luck for this half term. Next draw Friday 27th March.

BOOK WEEK

We are very excited for Book Week next week. Lots of activities throughout the week, but particularly World Book Day on Thursday 5th March. Book Fair also arrives on that day so watch out for vouchers coming soon.

PARENT/CARER CONSULTATION DAYS

This year these will be taking place on Wednesday 18th March with a follow-up day for some classes on Thursday 19th March. Booking arrangements will be sent out later this week.

SPRING FAIR

This is planned for the final Wednesday of the term - Wed 25th March - in the playground, after school. Look out for additional information from Mrs Freeman and the Friends of Marvels Lane over the coming weeks.

Finally, good luck to our 30 Yr5 children who are taking part in this year's Lewisham Dance Showcase at the Broadway Theatre on Wednesday 4th March. We know they are going to be amazing, make the school proud and also make some fabulous memories in the process.

With very best wishes,

Mr. Edward Dove

Headteacher