



NEWSLETTER December 2016

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Staffing: We say goodbye to our brilliant music and choir teacher, Miss Sophia, who is leaving to take up other opportunities. We shall announce the name of our new choir teacher in January.

Christmas Raffle: Note that the star prize is a *Kindle Fire* tablet, not an iPad. Apologies for the error.

Countdown to Christmas:

Fri 2nd December – Children’s Christmas card competition closes

Mon 5th – look at the lights on our Christmas tree in Natures’ Garden after school .The school post box will be available for children to post cards to their friends

Fri 9th – Christmas lights switch on at Maryland Point

Fri 9th – Family Disco – look out for tickets being sold at the gates and Children’s Centre

Mon 12th and Wed 14th – Children’s Centre Christmas parties

Tues 13th – Christmas Fayre 3.15-5pm – lots of fun activities and bargains to buy

Wed 14th – Children’s Christmas lunch for those who take a school dinner

Wed 14th – Christmas show – seating from 6pm. Raffle draw at end of show

Thu 15th – Project exhibition

Fri 16th Nursery nativity

Mon 19th – visiting PANTO

Tues 20th – Class parties – children can bring party food but we will provide the drinks.

HAVE A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY EVERYONE! See you on 5th January 2017.

Mrs.L.P.Jackson, Headteacher

MEETING AN ASTRONAUT ... FOR REAL!

On 2nd November four lucky children went to the PRINCIPIA Schools Conference to present their E-books from last year. At the conference, the UK Space Agency and its education partners celebrated the imaginative work linked to Tim Peake’s Principia mission that was done by children of all ages. Maryland Primary School was the only Newham school to be selected to attend the conference to showcase their work.

The grant we received helped us build our wE-PUBLISH website to showcase our children’s writing and the then year 5s launched the website with their wonderful books about the first child to go into space.

The people at PRINCIPIA were so impressed, that we were one of only 10 UK schools to be invited to present their work to other schools, scientists and space industry representatives at the conference held in Portsmouth. The highlight of the day was to meet Tim Peake, the first British astronaut to work on the ISS (International Space Station).

The lucky four to go from our school were Nabil, Mathew, Ivayla and Seynab, all from Year 6. They even got an exclusive interview with Tim Peake! Ms Boreham [Assistant Headteacher and class 10 teacher] and Mrs Cooper [Deputy Head] even took a sneaky selfie! Ivayla said, ‘At the start we saw lots of other schools who all had fantastic projects!’ Later all the children received a half-hour talk from Tim Peake about how it felt to be an astronaut. After his talk, we were the first to present our E- book work to other schools. Ms Boreham said, ‘We found the other schools’ presentations fascinating and will take some of that work back to our school.’ Mathew said, ‘We saw all sorts of experiments. They were great fun, but also taught us so much!’



He was so excited when his aunt came to collect him after the event, that he exclaimed, ‘I’ve got Tim Peake’s DNA on my hands!’

← Maj. Tim Peake with the Maryland group in Portsmouth

CHRISTMAS EVENTS NOT TO BE MISSED!

Family disco

FRIDAY 9th DECEMBER

Junior hall 6 - 8 pm. Parking in playground

Tickets on sale now from the Children’s Centre. Our ever-popular DJ keeps you dancing, taking part in games and competitions ... and that includes the adults, so put on those dancing shoes and dress to party, party, party!



Christmas Fayre

TUESDAY 13th DECEMBER

Infant hall starting 3:15 –5.00

Bake ‘n’ Take, great gifts to buy, sweet bags, Xmas biscuits, bouncy castle, raffle, games, Xmas theme face paints,



Christmas Show

WEDNESDAY 14th DECEMBER

Halls 6.30 - 8 pm. Doors open 6pm for refreshments. Parking in playground.

Our fabulous Christmas production. Nativity play, singing, dancing and limitless photo opportunities! Free entry.



Projects exhibition

THURSDAY 15th DECEMBER Middle hall from 3.15-4pm.

Children’s excellent autumn homework research projects on show.

MARYLAND— 5 STARS FROM THE RHS

The highest award the Royal Horticultural Society can give has been awarded to us for our outstanding *Nature’s Garden*. We have been given shields, a framed certificate and £200 worth of vouchers to spend on stocking and making improvements to our green spaces.

Well done to Ms Boreham and our children in the gardening club. Also to our Maryland United Chair, Michelle Edgecomb, who gives her time regularly to help keep the garden tidy and our plants growing healthily. Mrs Davies who retired last year has put a great deal of work into making our garden the wonderful place we all enjoy.

Thanks to you all.



PARENT NOTICE



We respectfully request that parents do not knock on classroom windows and doors or peer through windows to get the attention of our staff or a child.

Once the bell has gone in the mornings and before it rings at the end of the day, parents are asked to keep a reasonable distance from the classroom

so as not to disturb what is happening inside. If you wish to see the teacher, please make an appointment for a time after school.

GOOD LUCK, OMAR & Wafa

Omar in Class and Wafa in Class 6 have been competing in a Spelling Bee competition and have qualified for the finals, which will take place at Stratford Library on 17th December. Our good wishes to you both.

FIRST AID IN THE SCHOOL—Expectations and restrictions

We would like to make our parents aware of the limitations we work under with regard to administering first aid when children are sick or injured. Firstly, our first aiders are all trained and their training refreshed every 3 years.

To deal with cuts, bruises and sprains we are permitted only to use water to clean (not disinfectant) and apply a plaster. We may apply pressure to stop bleeding and a cold compress to prevent swelling. We are not permitted to provide pain-killers or any other medication. We send home a letter if your child has been injured and, if the injury is to the head, we give a sticker as well.

If your child needs any medical attention during the school day for a chronic or temporary condition, including injuries, you must meet with our Senior Welfare Officer to draw up and sign a health plan for your child. In this case only prescribed medicines can be administered, not over-the-counter medication.

If our first aiders consider the injury or illness serious or infectious, parents will be called to come and collect the child.

With winter upon us, please be aware of *Norovirus* guidance from the NHS. If your child has vomiting and/or diarrhoea, s/he must be kept at home **until 24 hours after the last symptom disappears**.
Headlice. We advise a child's parents when we see headlice on him/her. For how to deal with headlice (nits) see <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Head-lice/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

COLD WEATHER WARNINGS & POSSIBLE SCHOOL CLOSURE

The Met Office is predicting a tough winter ahead, so we'd like to take this opportunity to remind parents about the circumstances that may lead to unavoidable school closure.

If **one or more** of the following happens as a result of bad weather, we have to close the school at short notice:

- not enough staff are able to get in for the school to open
- the school is not accessible
- heating fails and the internal temperature falls below 18°C

How will you get information?

- A text message will go out before 7.30 a.m.
- A Tweet will be posted and
- automatically be placed on the home page of our website.
- **OpenCheck** is a service we subscribe to for you to check whether the school is open or not on any day. You can download an app for phones. You can check online at www.opencheck.atomwide.com or by phone (automated message). Alerts via the phone app.

If the weather becomes extreme during a school day when children are already in school, we will notify you of any change in collection arrangements.

Please ensure your child is dressed in a warm, water-resistant coat, hat, scarf, gloves, boots (they can change into shoes in class).

To summarise:

Be aware of forecasts and if extreme weather is expected, be alert to texts, some may be very early in the morning. Ensure we have your up to date contact details so that messages get through to you. If you call the school to confirm, it may be that no-one has been able to change the message and that the phones cannot be manned, so you may get the wrong information.

SANTANDER VOLUNTEERS

During the half-term holiday, seven volunteers from the banking group, Santander, came into the school.

They worked incredibly hard all day, painting in the nursery and nature garden. They managed to clear all the planters and the pond-sides ready for the winter and then spring planting. If you visit the nursery regularly, you will have noticed the 'toadstools' are looking bright and colourful.

We are most grateful to them for their contribution. Without such generosity, many jobs in the school would be difficult to manage.



IS YOUR CHILD EVER LATE FOR SCHOOL? WHY?

If you rely on public transport, especially buses or you drive your child to school, it is important to leave enough time for traffic problems in order to get to school on time every day. If your child has been late twice or more this year, you need to allow more time for your journey **every** day.



PUZZLE CORNER

Match up **one syllable** from each bauble to make **Christmas words**, for example, **sents** and **pre** = **presents**

THE DIARY December 2016 / January 2017

Event	Date	Time/Comment
Family disco 6-8pm	Fri 9 Dec	In halls. Entry through halls only. Parking in playground
Children's Centre parties	12 & 14 Dec	
Christmas Fayre & Bake 'n Take 3.15-5.00pm	Tue 13 Dec	In halls
Children's Christmas lunch	Wed 14 Dec	11.45am-12.55pm
Maryland Christmas Show 6.30-8pm	Wed 14 Dec	In halls. Free entry. Parking in playground.
Project exhibition	Thu 15 Dec	In halls
Nursery Nativity	Fri 16 Dec	11.15am and 2.45pm
Visiting pantomime 9.30am	Mon 19 Dec	'Peter Pan' (Oh, yes it is!)
Class parties & toy day	Tue 20 Dec	No electronic toys, please
Last day of Term 2	Tues 20 Dec	School finishes at 3.15pm
First day of Term 3 for children	Thu 5 Jan	8.55am
Parents' evening (1)	Wed 25 Jan	By appointment
Parents' evening (2)	Thu 26 Jan	By appointment
Yr 6 to theatre (during school)	Thu 26 Jan	'Romeo & Juliet'

Please contact **Mrs Cooper, Deputy Headteacher**, if you wish to advertise in our monthly newsletter.

