



# NEWSLETTER February 2016

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Dear Parents & Carers,

### Parental Contact

I hope you were able to attend one of our two Parents' Evenings which were, as always, very well attended. The appointments at this time of year have to be short as we have so many parents to speak to, but you will have a chance to look at your child's work at the summer Open Evening. You will have received a written record of your child's progress and had a chance to discuss their attainment so far. It is your valuable support, e.g. encouraging them with homework, that contributes hugely towards their achievement.

**Reminder:** Please update the office with any change in your contact details, including your chosen emergency contact people.

**Lateness:** Too many children are arriving late for school, particularly those who come by public transport. I understand that it is unpredictable if buses or trains are late, but if children who live some way away are constantly late, then the Education Welfare Service will advise that they attend a school closer to home. Perhaps leave 10-15 minutes earlier to accommodate transport delays.

**Attendance:** Wow! Congratulations to Class 5 on their attendance for the Autumn term. 98% of children attended every day. In the juniors, well done to Class 8 who also had 98% attendance. If we look at totals for yeargroups (not classes), then praises go to Years 3 and 5 who had 97% of children attending every day of the Autumn Term. Well done to parents who ensure their children are great attenders.



**Cluckingham Palace:** Our nine hens seem to be in full swing now and we have a range of eggs for sale outside the Nursery every Tuesday 3.15-3.20pm. Where else can you buy eggs from hens with names?!

When your child has grown out of their school uniform, please donate the items to the school. We always need extra clothing for children, particularly young ones, who have toileting accidents.

Mrs. L Jackson, Headteacher.

## PARENT SURVEY 2016

Your opinion matters to us and *does* make a difference. Please complete the survey attached to this month's newsletter and return it to your child's teacher. You are not required to put your name on the form. The more surveys we receive back, the more accurately we can judge how well we are doing and what we need to do to improve.

Every year we ask you to complete one of these surveys. You will notice that several of the questions are repeated each year. This is so that we can compare results every year to make sure we remain highly rated in those areas of our practice.

We shall publish the results of the survey in our March newsletter, so please be aware that surveys need to be returned by **Fri 12th February** to be included in the analysis.



The form is also available to download on our website, but cannot be completed online.

Active Kids 2015



Sainsbury's

### WE'RE COLLECTING!

If you shop at Sainsbury's, please would you help us collect vouchers that assist us acquire more sports equipment? You will receive one voucher for every £5 you spend.

Please try to get family members who shop there to ask for vouchers when they check out their groceries. The scheme started up again on 27 January and finishes on 3 May 2016, so we haven't got long to collect.

There is a box outside the school office for children to drop in their vouchers.

You've been fantastic in the past with collections such as this and as a result, the school has been able to acquire a great deal of play equipment in the past. However, with constant use, breakages and loss, we are always in need of more.

To give you an idea, a super set like the one below will 'cost' us 3545 vouchers, so we have a LONG way to go!



## WELL DONE AND GOOD LUCK TO MARYLAND MOVERS

by Elspeth Cole, Sub-editor

Congratulations to Maryland Movers who have made it to the second round of The Great Big Dance Off!

As she does every year, Miss Steele has entered them into a dance competition. However, this year it is different. Usually, they enter into *The Red Cross Dance Make Your Move* competition, but this year they have entered the *Great Big Dance Off*. For the first round of this competition they had to send off a video of the rough copy of their dance, which is about a girl in her bedroom reading a fairy tale when, suddenly, her toys come to life around her... This competition is for primary schools and secondary schools only, so no professional dance schools!

The second round is going to take place in Wimbledon and they are all extremely excited and are looking forward to the day when they get to perform their dance.

On a different note, a huge well done to Yuniea who has won a bike through the *Be Bright, Be Seen* campaign to raise awareness of how dangerous cycling in winter can be and showing people how to make sure they are seen. She designed the best poster and as the winner, she won an amazing bike!

## CONGRATULATIONS TO MRS. SOMERVILLE



Here she is with her beautiful twin boys, Zachary & Oliver. They were born on 11th January, a little ahead of time. We wish Mrs. Somerville and her husband Chris, all the best for the future.

## 'MARYLAND LIFE' TV CHANNEL

Now that our second 'pod' is installed in the junior playground, all our families have the opportunity to view our own TV channel, called 'Maryland Life'.

At times when parents are in the playground before and after school, there are videos and school reminders on screen, on a loop every approximately 10 minutes. You will see a range of interesting information videos including a number of school-produced videos and slides shows that showcase children's work, e.g. We shall use the 'ticker' across the screen for reminders and upcoming events.

We shall also use the screens in both playgrounds during the school day to put on PE or games-type videos for children to interact with in the playground.

## MARYLAND UNITED NEWS

WE ARE WORKING TO IMPROVE YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL EXPERIENCE. **SHOULDN'T YOU?**



This year is our bi-annual Summer Fête year—always a grand and enjoyable event. Of course we always need volunteers to help, especially at an event on this scale. Since we are holding a fête this year, there will be no Cultural Evening. That doesn't mean we won't have a range of after school events for families, as we are planning the following:

- ◆ Music & dance evening
- ◆ Quiz night
- ◆ Mothers Day sale (please let us have any unwanted gifts you may have—they could be someone else's treasure.
- ◆ Why not attend our meetings to help us plan these and other successful events that raise much needed funds for our school?

### Maryland United Chairs

Staff Chairs: **Terena Bennett & Sevgi Kor (020 8534 8135)**

Parent Chair: **Michelle Edgcombe**

### BIRTHDAY SWEETS—NO CAKE OR GIFT BAGS PLEASE.

We make an exception to our 'no sweets' rule when it comes to children's birthdays. Many children like to bring in a box of sweets to offer the class children and go around to offer a sweet to adults. This makes their day a bit more special and we wouldn't want to disallow this small celebration. Of course, children do not have to do this—it is purely voluntary.

However, we do not permit parents to bring in gift bags, birthday cake, biscuits or any other celebration foodstuffs, so please do not be offended if teachers ask you to take any other celebration foods home.

### REMINDER ABOUT HOW WE SELECT FOR AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

#### Criteria:

1. We check our schools list for children who **do not attend any clubs** and they are given a place first.
2. After that children attending **one club** are given priority and so on.
3. We keep waiting lists to replace any children who may drop out.

Occasionally, we have a club that is by invitation only, as it will be aimed at pupils who may have particular needs. This will be made clear to the parents of those pupils.

### YEAR 1 PHONIC SCREENING TEST

There is an important meeting for Year 1 parents on **Thu. 11 Feb, 3.30pm in Class 4.**

At the meeting you will be informed about the national reading test that your child will be given in June 2016. You will see some sample materials and the teachers will explain how we are preparing your child for the test and also what you can do at home to help ensure our child passes the test well. Please set the date aside in your diary.

## THE DIARY FEBRUARY/MARCH 2016

Event	Date	Time/Comment
'Bike it' Breakfast	Wed 10 Feb	For Yrs 4, 5 & 6 pupils who wish to ride a bike to school
Year 1 parents' phonic screening meeting	Thu 11 Feb	In Class 4. Important meeting for all Yr 1's parents to attend
Last day of Term 3	Fri 12 Feb	School ends at 3.15pm
First day of Term 4	Mon 22 Feb	8.55am
Educational visits week	w/c 22 Feb	
World Book Day	Thu 3 Mar	Activities during the school day
Mother's Day Sale	Fri 4 Mar	After school in junior hall
Homework projects deadline	Mon 21 Mar	
Easter Assembly	Wed 23 Mar	2pm in the halls.
Last day of term 3	Thu 24 Mar	School finishes at 3.15pm

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

