



# NEWSLETTER

## January 2016

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Dear Parents & Carers,

Happy 2016! I hope you have had a very enjoyable and restful holiday. We had a wonderful end to the Autumn term with fantastic festivities. This term sees us returning to our usual curriculum so I will expect children to concentrate on working hard on their studies, ready for mid-year assessments. We want every Maryland child to be successful so please continue to support them with their projects and other homework, including 5 minutes a day with you on the *5 a day* book.

**Staffing:** Welcome to Mrs. Anne-Marie Stewart, who will be teaching Class 12, Year 5.

**Parental contact:** Please attend Parents' Evening (see article below) to discuss your child's progress. You will not view your child's books at this meeting, as this is a discussion meeting. You will soon receive a letter with a reply slip to book your appointment with your child's teacher. Bookfair will be open during both Parents' Evenings to give you an opportunity to stock up on books for your child's home library. Please balance their 'screen' time with 'book time'. We still encourage children to have a love of books even though we are moving forward with e-learning and technology.

We would appreciate it if parents would complete Ofsted's survey on **Parentview**, giving your views about your school. You can enter Parentview by accessing the Ofsted website [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk) or we can support you on how to do this when you attend Parents' Evening. We are due to have an Ofsted inspection in 2016 and Ofsted will examine Parentview before they arrive.

**Attendance:** Congratulations to Years 3 and 5 who remain our highest attenders.

**School lunch:** Most pupils stay for school lunch (you can check menus on the website). May I request that parents ensure their children know how to use a KNIFE and fork correctly, even if it is not usual practice at home? We teach good table manners and politeness at lunchtime (children are expected to say 'please' and 'thank you' to the kitchen staff when being served). Please reinforce good manners at home.

Thank you for your support.

Mrs. L Jackson, Headteacher.

### YOUR 1:1 MEETINGS WITH TEACHERS ARE COMING UP ON 27<sup>TH</sup> & 28<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

These are very important meetings to discuss your child's progress 1:1 with the teacher, so please ensure you get your appointment time booked.

Your appointment letter will be sent to you soon.

You will be asked to select a 10 minute appointment time with your child's teacher. If you have more than one child, we try to give you appointments at times as close as possible. The times available should suit all parents, whether they are working or not.

In order for the appointment system to work for all parents/carers, we ask that you **arrive on time** for your appointment and **keep to the 10 minute** restriction. If the meeting looks like it may overrun, the teacher will offer you another appointment after or before school on another day, but they will need to end the meeting on time. If you are late, the next appointment will be taken and the teacher will aim to slot you in after that. We suggest that if you have more than one child, you **DON'T** book back-to-back appointments, but ask for times at least 10 minutes apart.

All meetings should take the same format, that is:

- Teacher starts the meeting by updating you on your child's progress from November tests and **gives you a written record** of those.
- Teacher advises you on **next steps expected** of your child, how those might be achieved and how you might be able to help. Any behaviour or attendance issues will be raised for discussion.
- The last 5 minutes will be time for you to ask the teacher **questions**.



This year all results will be **reported in %** for all classes. Please note that we test pupils for **end of year expectations**. Average expectation by the END of the year for any child in any yeargroup is 55%-74%.

### GAMES BRONZE AWARD FOR MARYLAND

Ms. Griffiths and Mr. Hoque who both work hard to promote PE in the school, show off our Sainsbury School Games bronze award that we received just before the holiday.

The School Games Mark is a Government led awards scheme launched in 2012 to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community.



We expect after November tests that your child's percentage will be **lower than at the end of the year**, for example, if your child's reading is 53% in November tests, they should be achieving between 58-63% by the end of the year in July.

## NEWHAM SCHOOLS ARE ENJOYING OUR PIONEERING WORK WITH THE OLYMPIC PARK

Maryland pupils have benefitted from unique field studies work in geography done by the school over the last 4 years. Most schools find this aspect of the curriculum difficult to provide for their children. Not so at Maryland.

Last year our whole school field study was even more special, as we pioneered a day of orienteering skills with the Olympic Park staff and our PE associates at Cumberland School. This took place in the summer term when all pupils from Year1-Year6 spent a day working on orienteering challenges. Orienteering is an important skill in this day of satnavs when many people can't use maps successfully. It is now part of the PE curriculum as well as a geography life skill.

In December Miss McMillan, Ms Griffiths and Mr Hoque attended a session run by the Park organisers to encourage schools to make more use of the park. At the meeting, it was revealed that following on from our own very successful orienteering day at the park, QEP have now developed an orienteering programme for schools to use.

During the meeting, our teachers had the opportunity to discuss and share our good practice with other local schools based on our experience from last year. Much interest was created, so more schools will now use this important local facility to enhance their curriculum.

## HEAD AND DEPUTY HEAD PUPILS MEET GOVERNORS.

by Zahraa Mahmoud (Head Girl) and Elspeth Cole (Deputy Head Girl and sub-editor)

On Sat 5th December, the Head Boy and Girl and their deputies were invited to a school governors' 'awayday'. We presented them with a questionnaire and had an opportunity to interview a few of them to learn about what they do for the school.

Q: *What do Maryland governors do?*

A: They are involved in making some of the difficult and important decisions for the pupils. Examples range from agreeing how much money is to be spent on resources, to holding the Headteacher accountable.

Q: *Who makes up the governing body?*

A: Mr Graham Plant is the Chair of Governors. There are staff governors and people from the school and wider communities. All members work together to come up with what they think is best for the school and pupils. All governors possess skills which make them suitable candidates for the job, such as being a resident of Newham and having experience in Health & Safety.

Q: *What did they learn about us?*

A: By attending the 'awayday', the governors learned about our roles and the importance of pupil voice at Maryland. Attending the 'awayday' also highlighted our focus on promoting British values, e.g. through exercising democracy, we were voted into our head pupil roles.

Q: *What's next?*

A: The governors have planned to meet up even more often to help develop their effectiveness. We now think that School Council should meet the governors to share all the children's ideas and see first hand the achievements that are taking place. Another good idea would be to ensure the governors, children and parents can meet more to continue improving the link between all involved in our school. We all think the governors should come into school and take assembly in the near future to explain to even more of our pupils what they do for us.

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



## MARYLAND UNITED NEWS

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



Our members had a very busy autumn term of fundraising, especially as the Christmas events kicked in. Thanks to them all for their considerable efforts. We would like to keep you informed of the amounts we raise and what we buy with those funds (at the moment we are fundraising to help equip the new junior playground). To that end, we have started a fundraising 'thermometer' that you can see in the outdoor display case outside the halls. The totals after expenses, such as prizes and food costs, were:  
Disco & Xmas Fayre £ 767.98  
Raffle £ 171.45

We always need more active members for our organisation and we cordially invite you to our friendly meetings where we plan future events. Our next meeting is Thursday 14th January at 3.15pm in the school staffroom. A crèche will be available.

*Maryland United Chairs*

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

Parent Chair: **Michelle Edgecombe**

### TOO MANY CHILDREN LATE FOR SCHOOL

We know if children are late for school, it starts the day out badly for them and of course, they miss the work at the start of the day. Work always starts immediately.

For example, the last week of school which only had 4 days, there were 67 instances of lateness, with one child late 3 days out of 4. To excuse lateness, we are told that traffic is heavy, buses late or the family 'got up late'. If you have to drive to school or get public transport, please ensure you leave a little earlier

### SPRING TERM SCHOOL STUDY THEME & HOMEWORK RESEARCH PROJECT

For Spring, we shall be returning on our 3 year cycle, to the theme of **Famous People, that we shall be studying in lessons.**

In assembly on 5th Jan, a child selected for our **homework research topic** for the term, **The Education Reform Act of 1870**, one of the five remaining **British Values** topics. We shall send home a note in your child's homework diary to give you more details.

### PARENTVIEW

On the upcoming Parents Evenings, we shall be setting up some laptops for parents to complete questionnaires for the *Parentview* space on the Ofsted website. The process takes roughly 10 minutes and we shall appreciate your participation.

## THE DIARY JANUARY /FEBRUARY 2016

Event	Date	Time/Comment
First day of term 3 (for children)	Tue 5 Jan	8:55 am
Maryland United meeting	Thu 14 Jan	3.15pm in staffroom. Crèche available. All welcome.
Homework project guidance meeting (for Spring term project)	Wed 13 Jan	9am Children's Centre
Bookfair starts	Tue 26 Jan	In junior hall after school and open for Parents' Evenings
Parents' Evening (1) Parents' Evening (2)	Wed 27 Jan Thu 28 Jan	1:1 appointments with class teacher
Last day of Term 3	Fri 12 Feb	
First day of Term 4	Mon 22 Feb	8.55am
Educational visits week	w/c 22 Feb	

