



# NEWSLETTER

## March 2016

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Dear Parents & Carers,

We had a very exciting time last week dedicated to educational visits. Now we are busy preparing for our assessment period in school. What else is happening?

**Staffing:** We will be saying farewell to 3 staff members from the Children's Centre at the end of term. Due to budget cuts by the Local Authority we have to reduce full time posts in the Centre. Adam Mohamed, Julie Sussex and Lear Shek will be leaving us. We wish them well with their new positions.

We will also be saying a temporary goodbye to Mrs. Rowe, TA in Year R, and shortly after that, Mrs. Blake, Class 6, who will both be going on maternity leave.

**Parental Contact :** I regularly ask for parents to update their contact information with us but I must insist that parents do this as a matter of course. We had to close the Nursery last week and sent out an emergency text. Some parents did not receive the messages because they had changed their phone number without notifying the school. A child had an accident last term that needed an ambulance and again, we could not contact the parent due to out of date details on our computer. Last week, a child was left here until very late into the evening, again because we could not contact anyone to collect her. Normally, I would have to take the child to a 'place of safety' such as a police station or Social Services office.

**Dates: Early warning of 2 school closure dates coming up.** The school will be used as a polling station for the London Mayoral Elections on **Thursday 5th May** and then again for the EU referendum day on **Thursday 23rd June**.

The **Atherton Leisure Centre** will re-open on 4th April. Why not sign up for your child's swimming lessons in their new state-of-the-art teaching pool?

Watch this space.....every couple of years we hold our own **Dragon's Den** to showcase the children's innovative creations. We have heard that this year Levi Roots (*see right*) will attend our school to judge the competition for us. The date will be announced soon.



Mrs. L Jackson, Headteacher.



## PARENT SURVEY 2016 The results!

Firstly thanks to all families who returned their questionnaires. We got a great response, as usual. Several of the questions we ask are the same each year, because we like to make sure we are consistently providing a high standard. You will note that I have quoted last year's figure in **blue** for this reason.

Here is a summary of the results of the survey. The full results and all your feedback comments can be seen on our website:

- Your children are generally happy at school 98% (95%).
- 85% of parents say their child is making excellent or good progress.
- Parents who consider the amount of homework to be just right 74% (73%) 6% said too little.
- Parents say they know who to speak to if they have a problem, 91% (82%). This was much higher than last year. For those parents who are still unsure, we'd like to remind you that in the first instance, please speak to the class teacher, then if you need to, you should make an appointment to see a senior leader (Headteacher, Mrs Jackson, Deputy Head, Mrs Cooper, Assistant Heads, Mrs Simisaiye, Mr Jarvis, Ms Boreham or Mr Lock)
- There is a high level of satisfaction with the ways we communicate with you. You consider the monthly newsletter good or excellent 96% (96%); you can get an appointment with a senior manager on the same or next day 97% (99%)
- There was a pleasing increase of parents reading with their child every day from 51% last year, to 64% this year. However, there seems to have been a drop in the number of people working daily from *Mental Maths 5 a day* to 22% daily and 34% 2-3 times a week. If our survey sample is correct, it implies that almost half our parents are working very irregularly with their child or not at all from the book. It is so important to keep up with this every day, every year to make sure your child's mental arithmetic is fast, so they can cope with the demands of this more challenging national curriculum. Little and often is the only 'painless' way to build up speed.

We are pleased that 42% of our parents have been onto our website to look at the non-negotiables, to understand the standards expected of your child by the end of this year in each subject.

This year our survey had additional questions on after school clubs and some of your feedback also focussed on this aspect. From your response, it would appear that only 53% of our children attend clubs, but our records indicate that 70% (or 340 children) have attended or are attending an after school club so far this year. By the end of this year we will have provided at least 17 clubs, some of which run all year, comparing very favourably with 3 outstanding schools in Newham that provide 20, 18 and 10 clubs respectively.

Thank you so much for the many complimentary comments we had about what you like best about our school and equally those comments that suggest how we might improve. There are certainly some aspects we can work on to improve, e.g. annual shows of talent, and some where we have work to do to make parents aware of the extent of the work of the school, e.g. trips, clubs, parents' evenings, academic booster lessons for children struggling with the curriculum.

### WELL DONE TO OUR DEBATING TEAM

Our team competed in the first round of the *Debatemate* competition in Newham on Thursday 25th Feb. Mr. Lock, who runs the club, reports that our children were brilliant and won **both** their rounds to take them further into the competition. Well done to them all.

Active Kids 2015



Sainsbury's

**WE ARE COLLECTING THESE SAINSBURY'S VOUCHERS, SO PLEASE SEND THEM IN. THERE IS A COLLECTION BOX FOR THEM OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL OFFICE.**

**YEAR 6 THEATRE TRIP**  
by Elspeth Cole, Sub-editor

On 18th January, Year 6 went to Stratford Circus and saw a dance performance about the life of the extraordinary choreographer, Akram Khan. I am speaking on behalf of almost all of the Year 6 pupils when I say that it was a breath-taking display. Akram is one of today's most respected dance artists and has won numerous awards for his creativity and choreography.

When we saw the performance, there was a dancer – playing Akram Khan– who showed how his father didn't want him to grow up to be a dancer, but take over the restaurant that he owned. The animation and movements in the dance got me lost in the story, almost the whole year group were disappointed when it ended—despite the behaviour of the school behind us! We were able to talk to the dancer (and producer) and we asked questions about what we had just seen. We found out a lot of interesting things about the dance and were even able to be taught some of the hand movements by the performer! We all thoroughly enjoyed the show and learned so much about the hugely celebrated and loved artist!

I asked one of the Maryland Movers, who watched the show, what effect the dancing had on her. Henrienne (Cl. 14) told me, "The show inspired me to put some of the movements and emotion into future choreography."

**PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL COACHING**

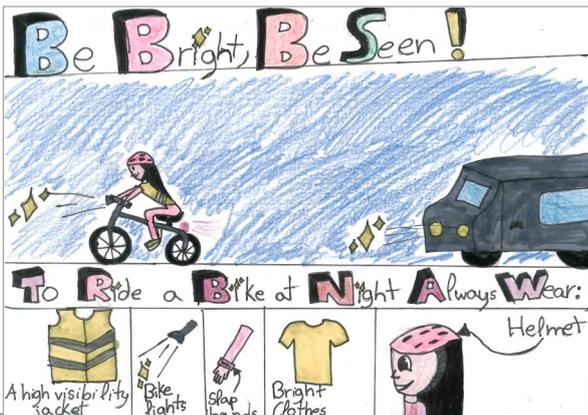
We are only able to provide limited football coaching at school, and then usually for the older children. We sent a leaflet home advertising professional football coaching for children 2-11 years every Sunday in the Olympic Park. The first session is free and £5.00 per session after that.



**WELL DONE, YUNEIA!**

Yuneia from Class 13 poses on her brand new bike that she won in the 'Bike it!' competition.

Her winning bike safety poster can be seen below. The pictures and messages are clear and bold—all the features you want of a successful poster.



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 ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY SALE FRI 4th MARCH**

We'll have our fabulous home bakes for sale as well as perfect, thoughtful gifts for mums. Please come and support our event after school in the hall.

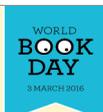
We'll be having two **preparation sessions** for the sale on **2nd & 3rd March from 9.15 - 2.45** in our Children's Centre, to include baking and packaging gifts. These are great sessions where we work hard, have a laugh and enjoy each other's company while getting things ready for a great cause—your children's school!

**ALL HELP GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED**

*Maryland United Chairs*

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

Parent Chair: **Michelle Edgcombe**



**WORLD BOOK DAY 3 MARCH WE'RE INVITING PARENTS TO JOIN US IN CLASS FOR STORYTIME**

What a great day we have planned to celebrate World Book Day, which, incidentally, also celebrates the centenary of Roald Dahl.

Our staff will be **dressing up** as a favourite character from a book and children are invited to do the same. Every child will receive a money-off book voucher to spend in any book store.

In the afternoon, we would like you to join us in your child's classroom to listen to the teacher read a story to the children. You will then have the opportunity to relax and enjoy your child's favourite book with them. All we ask is for you to bring along the book and a comfortable cushion to sit on. This session will start at 2.30pm promptly.

**Car parking will be available in the junior playground from 2:15pm. Please enter through the middle hall doors.**

*Do you have any children's books that you no longer read? Why not hand them in to your class teacher and we will find them a new, loving home for them. Please ensure that they are in good condition.*

**THE DIARY MARCH/APRIL 2016**

Event	Date	Time/Comment
World Book Day—dress up as a favourite book character!	Thu 3 Mar	Join us from 2.30pm for story time in classes.
Maryland United meeting	Thu 3 Mar	3.15pm in staffroom. Creche available. All welcome.
Mother's Day Sale	Fri 4 Mar	After school in junior hall.
'Mock' SATs week for Year 6	w/c 14 Mar	
Science afternoon	Tue 15 Mar	
Nursery open day	Fri 18 Mar	
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.
First day of Term 4	Mon 11 Apr	8.55 a.m.
Maryland United meeting	Thu 21 Apr	3.15pm in staffroom. Creche available. All welcome.

