



NEWSLETTER

September 2016

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Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome to academic year 2016-2017. I hope that you all had a wonderful holiday and enjoyed the lovely sunshine and summer activities around the borough. A warm welcome to new pupils in Year R (Reception classes 1 & 2) and other new arrivals across the school.

Staffing: Welcome to Miss Richards, who will be teaching class 2. Welcome also to our 2 new Academic Assistants, Mr. K. Agyeman and Miss C. Cates who will work across the school to support pupils' learning. We also welcome our new Nursery teacher assistant, Miss S. Fenty. Congratulations to Miss Boreham on her recent marriage – She wishes to continue being called Miss Boreham at school.

Premises Update: The second of 3 phases of roof refurbishment is taking place on the infant side of the school, addressing the severe leaking that we experienced earlier this year. The third phase will be completed next summer. The school kitchen has also been upgraded with new state of the art ovens from Germany.

Curriculum – Computing: Each of our 14 classes has received a new touch-screen *smart* board, replacing the old interactive whiteboards (IWB) – some were over 15 years old. Also, as part of the school's ICT vision, we have received 80 new *Chromebook* laptops for use with our older pupils. You will hear more about our ICT innovations when you attend our curriculum presentation at *Meet the Teacher* evening on 22nd September 2017. For parents/carers who attend the presentation, there will be a gift for you to take home with you.

Ofsted: Just a reminder that we are due for an imminent inspection with only half a day's notice. In addition to the inspecting all aspects of the school, inspectors will interview parents at the gate.

Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to seeing you all on *Meet the Teacher* evening.

Mrs.L.P.Jackson, Headteacher

'MEET THE TEACHER' EVENING

THURSDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2016

Please ensure you have booked this date into your diary to attend our first parents' meeting of the new year. As usual, we have a full schedule and so much to tell you about our plans for your child's learning in the year ahead.

You will start out in a classroom meeting the staff who will be teaching your child this year. If you have more than one child in the school, we recommend that more than one adult comes along to attend the other meeting/s. Remember that if your child is in Years 2 or 6, they are in a year where they will have SATs external testing, so their teachers will be talking about that.

If your child is in **Reception or Year 6, the meetings start earlier, at 5.45pm**, not 6pm as for the rest of the school. Please arrive promptly.

The junior playground opens at **5.30pm** for parking. NO PLAYING anywhere in the playgrounds or nature garden will be permitted. It is not an ideal evening for your child/ren to accompany you, but if you bring your child with you, they must be supervised by you at all times. There will not be a crèche.

Between 5.30 pm and the start of your meeting, you are invited into the junior hall to **meet our governors** who will be present to become acquainted with parents/carers.

At **6.35pm** you will be asked to take a seat in the hall for a presentation about an important curriculum initiative for the year ahead. This has become an unmissable and popular feature of the evening. It usually finishes between 7-7.15pm.



AUTUMN STUDY THEME

We hope parents/carers will join us in the junior playground on **Tues 6th September at 8.45am**, to be part of our **human timeline**, which will depict the passage of time and put into time context some of the monarchs (kings and queens) who reigned in Britain over the centuries. The activity kicks off our autumn study theme of 'KINGS & QUEENS'. A printed version of the timeline will be in classrooms and at the heart of our teaching of this history theme.

HOMEWORK RESEARCH PROJECT

Being British - what makes us great? All this year, we will be exploring this question and this term, we will be looking at **British Sport**. Some ideas you could explore are:
Olympics 2012 and 2016 success, a particular sportsperson, local sporting heroes, the origin of a specific sport.

Useful websites: <http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/famous-sports-people>
<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/customs/questions/sport.html>

There is no set way for this theme to be tackled; projects could be built, hand written, word processed or recorded. The deadline is the week commencing Monday 12th December 2016 and there will be an exhibition from 3-3.30 on Thursday 15th Dec 2016. Any questions, please ask Miss Steele in class 6.

HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR PHONE NUMBER OR ADDRESS?

Please ensure we have your contact details up to date. This applies to your emergency contacts as well, so please check those too.

LEAVING A MESSAGE ABOUT SICKNESS ABSENCE

When you call us to report your child's absence, please help us by leaving the following details:

- Your child's full name
- Class number
- Explain exactly what is wrong with your child (not just, '...sick', as we have to report the illness to the local authority).

OUR GEOGRAPHY FIELD STUDY DAY

Geography field study is an area of the curriculum many schools find difficult to deliver, but with our specialists at Maryland, we have developed this over the years, so that every child gets at least one opportunity a year to participate in this important work. It's so much fun, that it hardly seems like work at all.

Over the last few years our children have learned about conservation areas, planning for public places, how towns like Stratford serve the local population. This year, developing their map skills, our children went in search of local landmarks, ticking them off their maps as they found them. When they got back to school, they were given maps up to 100 years old to compare what used to be in the places they had mapped.



One of the interesting facts they discovered was that Maryland school stands in the place where there used to be a row of Victorian terraced houses until the area was bombed during World War II. This explains the peculiar road layout on Gurney Rd!

SCHOOL TERM DATES

The full version can be found on our website, but these are the children's main holiday dates for the year:

Autumn:

Half-term Mon 24 Oct—Fri 28 Oct

Christmas holiday Wed 21 Dec—Tues 3 Jan

Spring:

Half term Mon 13 Feb— Fri 17 Feb

Easter holiday Mon 3 Apr—Mon 17 Apr (includes Good Friday & Easter Monday)

Summer:

Half term Mon 29 May— Fri 2 Jun (includes bank holiday Mon)

Summer holiday starts Fri 21 July

1	2	3	
4	5		
6	7		
8			9
		10	

PUZZLE CORNER
NEW!

Have a go at this crossword puzzle.
(Answers in assembly mid-)

Across

- 63-13=
- What you do with a book
- A six-legged mini-beast
- Month before June
- Opposite of near

Down

- Four times ten
- 365 days is one
- A male sheep
- A short sleep
- Instead of

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



ANOTHER BUSY YEAR AHEAD

.....for our parents and teachers association, **MARYLAND UNITED**. Please join us to help make the events we plan successful and enjoyable for **YOUR** child.



Much of the work is done by a few dedicated parents/carers, yet the funds raised benefit **all** the children in the school. Come along to a meeting to add your voice to our volunteers. If you don't like meetings, just contact one of our chairs to see how else you might contribute any time you can spare. Our next meeting is **Thurs 29 September at 3.15pm** in the staffroom. We provide a crèche for parents attending the meeting. Come along for a cup of tea and to meet our team.

Maryland United Chairs

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

Parent Chair: **Michelle Edgecombe**

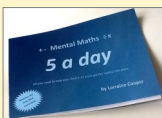
CHILDREN WHOSE PARENTS SUPPORT THEIR LEARNING AT HOME MAKE BETTER PROGRESS.

FACT!

We know our parents and carers understand this and we try to make this support as easy as possible for them. Just 15-20 minutes engaging with your child's home learning makes all the difference.

How?

-Homework is written in your child's homework diary.



-**5 minutes on the book** we provide free for every family in our school, *Mental Maths 5 a day*. If you don't have a copy, see Mrs Cooper, our Deputy Headteacher. Suggested daily activity is set by teachers in the homework diary

-Every child should bring a book home from school every day to read for enjoyment. **Read with your child** for at least 10 minutes, taking turns to read and asking questions about the text, discussing the pictures with younger children. Try asking questions that don't begin with 'What ...?' Instead ask 'Why do you think...?' or 'How does the character...?' Also ask, 'How do you know?' which requires your child to refer back to the text to explain their answer.



-**Talk together** to encourage a high standard of oracy. Ask for your child's opinion on what is happening around them. You may be surprised at how well their opinions are forming.

-Involve your child in **cooking and shopping**, weighing ingredients, writing shopping lists, telling the time and working out the time—how long to go until....?

THE DIARY September/October 2016

Event	Date	Time/Comment
Term starts for children	Mon 5 Sept	8.55am promptly
Homework project guidance session for parents	Fri 16 Sept	9am in Children's Centre
Meet the teacher evening (See article on page 1)	Thu 22 Sept	-Parking from 5.30pm and meet governors in hall -Teacher meetings 6pm (except Year 6 & Reception—5.45pm) -Curriculum presentation 6.35pm.
Year 6 residential trip	28-30 Sept	To Fairplay House
Harvest assembly	Wed 12 Oct	Everyone invited.
End of term 1	Fri 21 Oct	School finishes normal time, 3.15pm

