



MARYLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER

Message from Mrs Jackson Headteacher



Hello everyone,
Thank you to the 305 parents/carers who attended our Parents' Evenings last week. Thank you also for ensuring your child maintains good attendance—we have one of the highest attendance rates in the borough. Autumn term—96% with classes 7 and 4 having the highest at 97%.
Staffing: We say goodbye to Mrs. Sonia Thomas, family support worker in the Children's Centre. We welcome Miss Shoucair and Ms Zarait, both support assistants in the Infants.
Our initiatives: Please check our new look website. We are fast becoming a leading school in how we use Google Education to enhance teaching, learning, admin and leadership matters. We are visited by schools both in and outside of Newham to showcase our achievements. If you wish to find out more about this we will be running workshops for parents in the future. Please ensure we have your up to date email address. Our aim is to eventually send mass produced information, such as this newsletter, home to you by email. This will save us paper and printing costs and assist in our sustainability mission.
Cluckingham Palace: Have you noticed our new chicken called Lottie? You may have to look up on the roof to spot her!
Have a great February.

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2017 Parent Survey

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.

In every survey, we focus on a new aspect and this year, we are asking parents how their children consume technology. As adults we grew up in a very different world, so it is important for us to get children's perspectives on technology use, but the parental perception is just as important and vital for us to understand.

For the first time, the survey can be completed online, which you may prefer to do. If you go to the homepage of our school website, you will find a link.

We shall publish the results of the survey in our March newsletter, so please be aware that surveys need to be returned by **Fri 10th February** to be included in the analysis.



Maryland's school uniform colours

Our uniform colours, as you know are royal blue, grey and white. This extends to all aspects of what a child wears to school (except their coats—we don't stipulate a colour for those). Any headscarves, hair bands, bobbles etc. should be in these colours or black. Likewise, socks and girls' tights should only be grey, black, white or grey. Shoes must be plain black and suitable for active play, such as those shown here. Ballet-type fashion pumps are not suitable for school wear. Shoes should not have flashing lights. No item of clothing or accessory should have sparkles, glitter, rhinestones. No hoodies should be worn indoors. Also, a reminder that nail varnish is not allowed.



Football trials for Reading FC

In the final part of the autumn term, twenty children were selected to take part in coaching sessions in which, if they were successful, they would be selected to train with a scout from Reading Football Club.

The coaching period ran over four weeks, where the children learnt about the fundamental rules and skills required to be an excellent footballer. Coach Nick from Reading FC talked to the children about the commitment needed to be a footballer. He told the children it takes approximately ten thousand hours of coaching to become a high level footballer. "Those who listen and follow instructions well, are the ideal footballers," was the spur from the coach that motivated the children. The boys and girl were eager to start developing their football skills.

As a result, all twenty children were successful in moving onto the next process. Everyone at Maryland Primary School is extremely proud of them for working so hard to reach the next stage.

Help us get more equipment for active playtimes

If you shop at **Sainsbury's**, please ask for the **Active Kids vouchers**. We shall be collecting these until 20 July 2017. Last year we were able to order some wonderful play equipment which children are really enjoying, such as space hoppers, balls of all kinds, skipping ropes, frisbees. Please help us and ask other members of your family and friends to collect for us as well. The collection box for vouchers is on the glass table in the inner Reception area near the office door. Thank you.



Are you working on the targets the teachers set?

We know how busy our parents' and carers' lives are. We also know that you understand that effort put in with your child at home speeds up their progress immensely. At your 1:1 progress meetings with your child's teacher in January, the teacher would have set some 'next steps' for you to work at home with your child to support them to improve. Those targets are on the written report you were given at the meeting. Please ensure those are followed up regularly.

10 minutes reading with your child and 5 minutes on *Mental Maths 5 a day* is work that should happen daily.

Poetry, please

In January, 6 of our Year 5 children enjoyed a poetry workshop at Stratford Library with poet, Neal Zetter. He performed some of his amusing poems and led the children's writing workshop. Our children worked in groups with children from 3 other Newham schools, writing and performing poems they'd written together. Individually children wrote their poems on the theme of a love of books.

Their work has been uploaded to our *WE-PUBLISH* website (Year 5's pages) for our community and the wider world to enjoy. The picture shows Neal with the Maryland group. (Pictured from left: Teodora, Lorenzo, Aaron, Neal Zetter, Nebil, Destinee and Dania.)



News from our after school enrichment clubs

Some of our after school clubs are run by facilitators whom we pay, but most of them are run by our staff out of goodwill and a wish to enrich our children's school experience. For most parents, they know about the clubs their children attend, but we thought we'd share some information and news from other clubs to give you an idea of how wide-ranging our offer is.

- * Coming up in the summer term is an extra 8-week block of **handball** for juniors. The game has taken off like a rocket at Maryland since we started teaching it in lessons in September and we're hoping to put a team together to compete with other schools later in the year.
- * The infant children have been enjoying their sports **multi-skills club** and Ms Harding reports that the children are *demanding* that they finish every session with a game of handball.
- * Mrs. Cooper is running a second 5-week **chess** club to teach another 20 children how to play chess. Once that is over, she will organize a lunchtime knock-out competition towards the end of the year to arrive at the *Maryland Chess Champion 2017*.
- * **Debate** club has started up again to teach our younger children the skills and sharpen the more experienced children's debating abilities. You may remember that Maryland won both debating trophies in Newham last year. They are proudly displayed in our lobby area. Mr. Lock and Ms Spicer are working hard to train up our outstanding speakers.
- * Ms Boreham's **nature** club will be starting after Feb half term ready for the growing season ahead. The club will now have some older children. It will be open to children Years 2-Year 4.
- * Ms Steele will be starting her **Spelling Bee** club towards the end of February and we'll have an internal competition later in the year.
- * Mrs. Garside will be running her popular **critical thinking** club again this year in the summer.
- * Ms Steele's *Maryland Movers* modern **dance club** are kept working hard every Friday. Dylan of the *Movers* recently told me, "I feel worn out by the end." Batul agreed, "I feel exhausted, but I feel like a child on *Dance Moms*."

We aim for every child to have the opportunity to join at least one club each year if they wish to.

Do we have your up to date contact details?

If you, or any of your child's **other emergency contacts**, have recently got a new phone number or changed address, please let the school know immediately. You can get a form from the office to fill in with your new details.

Mrs. Sevgi Kor, Maryland School's Family Support Worker

If you need any advice regarding family difficulties, please phone to make an appointment to see Mrs. Kor. She has a great deal of training and experience in helping our families through a range of domestic problems they experience, such as housing, parenting and finance. She has wide knowledge of services available to families and is very experienced at signposting parents to agencies that can help them through a challenging time.

Puzzle corner

Can you find these **12 words** in our **WEATHER** word search?

snow, sunshine, wind, clouds, mist, lightning, drizzle, hail, frost, storm, fog, thunder



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

Diary Feb/Mar 2017

Year 5 Citizenship Day. During school hours.	Wed 1 Feb
Maryland United meeting. 3.15pm in staffroom. All welcome.	Thu 9 Feb
Last day of Term 3. School finishes at 3.15pm.	Fri 10 Feb
First day of Term 4. 8.55am start.	Mon 20 Feb
Educational visits week.	w/c 20 Feb
Dance mats day. During school time.	Thu 2 Mar
Year 6 'Mock' SATs	w/c 20 Mar
Easter assembly. All welcome. 2pm start.	Wed 29 Mar
Year 6 Academic Review day. 1:1 appointments with parents.	Thu 30 Mar
Last day of Term 4	Fri 31 Mar

