



MARYLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

JANUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER

Message from Mrs Jackson Headteacher



Welcome everyone. Happy 2017! I hope you enjoyed the holiday. Do you like our new-look newsletter?

We had a wonderful end to the Autumn term with exciting winter 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. Diana Malcolm, Family support Worker in the Children's Centre. Farewell to Mrs. Green, TA.
Ofsted: We are due to be inspected by Ofsted so we would appreciate it if parents could complete Ofsted's online survey on **Parentview**, giving your views about your school. You can enter Parentview by accessing the Ofsted website www.ofsted.gov.uk or we can support you on how to do this when you attend Parents' Evening. During the inspection, the inspectors will speak to parents at the gates.

Attendance: 98% last year, above Newham and national expectations. Thank you parents, for not requesting leave during term time. It has boosted our figures and, importantly, your children's education.

www.maryland.newham.sch.uk

[@MarylandPrimary](https://twitter.com/MarylandPrimary)

020 8534 8135

Fax: 020 8534 4426

E-mail: info@maryland.newham.sch.uk

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- Weather warning
- What are good table manners?

Your 1:1 meetings with teachers

Wed 25 and Thu 26 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**.

-You will not view your child's books at this meeting, as this is a discussion meeting.

All results will be **reported in %**. 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%.

Bookfair will be open during both Parents' Evenings to give you the opportunity to stock up on books for your child's home library.



Your child's 'non-negotiables' have been revised

We have made some revisions and updates to the non-negotiables we use in class and to report to you at the end of the school year. These are now up on our website. Click on the *Learning at home* tab on the *Home* page.

Non-negotiables are those **minimum** targets your child must achieve if s/he is to be progressing as 'expected' for a child of that age by the end of the academic year. Some examples are show here.

One of the Year 3/4 writing non-negotiables is: *I can edit my work by reading and checking that each sentence makes grammatical sense. I check by adding missing words, punctuation or making sure that words are in the correct order.*

One of the Year 2 maths non-negotiables is: *Find simple fractions ($\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{2}{4}$) of shapes and amounts, for example $\frac{3}{4}$ of £16.00.*

Spring term study theme and homework projects

Your child in Years 1-6 will tell you about our exciting 'flood' day at school on our first day back. It launched our Spring study theme of **'The Elements.'**

Children's homework project for the Spring term will continue our theme about British values and what makes Britain great. Children will be asked to explore Britain's many contributions to music. Ms Steele will run a guidance session to help parents on Wed 18th January—see *Diary*, page 2.

Do you know if your child is using the internet safely?

A concern for all parents is how to keep children safe online. In order to help you with this, we will be producing a detailed e-safety brochure later in the term. In the meantime, we encourage you to regularly monitor what apps and websites your children are accessing on any devices they have at home. Additionally, check that you have appropriate filters set up to ensure that children cannot access websites with inappropriate content. Free apps, such as Qustodio, are a great way to help keep your children safe. If you need any support with this, or have any concerns regarding e-safety, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher.

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 complete with your new details.

Thank you, Morrisons

For some time, we have been wanting to start an orchard in Nature's Garden, so that children can watch fruit growing and we can enjoy the harvest in the autumn months.

Imagine how delighted we were when one of our parents who works at Morrisons offered us the gift of an apple tree. We have already planted it and can't wait to see the gorgeous blossoms in spring, which we shall protect as much as we can, because every blossom grows into an apple if it stays on the tree.



Good table manners

We are placing a big emphasis on table manners at lunchtime this year. **Please help us by working on**

These social skills at home to promote considerate, social **eating habits**. What **we want to see** is children:

- from year 2 onwards using a knife and fork properly to eat their food
- not speaking while they have food in their mouths
- chewing with their mouths closed
- keeping food on their plate and eating with their heads above their plates to catch spillage
- speaking quietly and only to those sitting at their table—not calling across the room.



Bad weather warning

We are being advised of a some extreme weather ahead for this winter. Please ensure your child is dressed in a warm, water-resistant coat, hat, scarf, gloves, boots (they can change into shoes in class). The Met Office is predicting a tough winter ahead, so we'd like to take this opportunity to remind parents about the circumstances that may lead to unavoidable school closure.

If **one or more** of the following happens as a result of bad weather, we have to close the school at short notice:

- not enough staff are able to get in for the school to open
- the school is not accessible
- heating fails and the internal temperature falls below

How will you get information?

- A text message will go out before 7.30 a.m.
- A Tweet will be posted and automatically be up on our website.
- **OpenCheck** is a service we subscribe to. You can check online at www.opencheck.atomwide.com or by phone (automated message). Alerts via the phone app.

If the weather becomes extreme during a school day when children are already in school, we will notify you of any change in collection arrangements.

We are proud of our children's out of school achievements



Nikita, our head boy, took part in the English Schools Diving Competition at the Olympic Aquatic Centre recently.

Pupils between the ages of 10 – 17 years old competed individually and in teams. He had to do 4 dives, including inward, front, back and reverse dives off a 1m springboard. Dives were marked out of 10. Nikita got 8½ for his inward dive, which was the highest mark awarded in his category. "I was proud to have contributed to the success of the team." Tom Daley watch out!

← Nikita at the Olympic pool

Brother and sister, **Omar** (9yrs) & **Wafa** (7yrs), competed in a Spelling Bee in December. They both won bronze after three exhausting rounds of words that would make an adult's mind boggle! The third round was the hardest, because they were tested on words that they hadn't seen before, like 'electrocute' for Omar and 'repugnant' for Wafa.



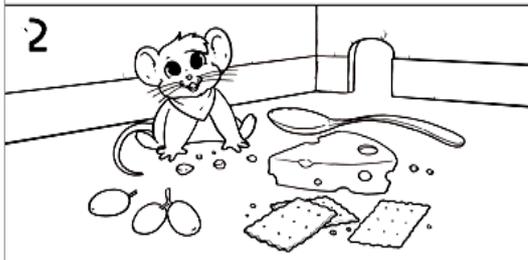
Puzzle corner

CAN YOU SPOT THE 10 DIFFERENCES?

#1



2



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

Diary Jan/Feb 2017

Parent meeting for guidance on homework research project 9am in Children's Centre with Ms Steele	Wed 18 Jan
Parents' evening 3.30pm-7pm. Appointment letters to follow	Wed 25 Jan
Parents' evening 3.30pm-5pm. Appointment letters to follow	Thu 26 Jan
Year 6 to theatre (during school) 'Romeo & Juliet'	Thu 26 Jan
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

