



MARYLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

MARCH 2017 NEWSLETTER

Message from Mrs Jackson Headteacher



I hope your children have enjoyed the trips, visitors and events of term 3.

School budget. As you may know, school budgets are under pressure and we want to keep on providing your children with memorable experiences. Within the next few months we will be consulting with our Parent-Teacher Association (Maryland United) and the school governors, to find ways to continue to fund many of our activities that are currently free of charge to parents, if they are to continue. If you would like to join the discussion, you can either attend the next M.U. meeting on 27th April or contact the school by email.

Part of our money saving venture is to reduce printing and paper costs. We will begin by sending the newsletter by email to as many parents as possible. I hope you can support us in what may prove to be a difficult financial year ahead.

World Book Day is on Thu 2nd March. Parents and carers are invited to their child's Reception or Nursery class from 2.30pm to enjoy a story-telling session. Other children are invited to donate a book (in good condition) from home to their class. Donations will be discussed with the class and recommendations made.

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🐦 @MarylandPrimary

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Results of our 2017 parent survey

Firstly thanks to all families who returned their questionnaires. We got a great response. 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 we have quoted *last year's figure in blue* for this reason. Here are the highlights.

88 forms in total were completed. The full results and your feedback comments will be on our website shortly:

- Your children are generally happy at school 99% (98%).
 - 81% (85%) of parents say their child is making excellent or good progress.
 - Parents who consider the amount of homework to be just right 74% (74%) 7% said too little.
 - Parents say they know who to speak to if they have a problem, 85% (91%). 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 90% (96%); you can get an appointment with a senior manager on the same or next day 98% (97%)
 - There was a decrease of parents reading with their child every day from 64% last year, to 60% this year
- There has been an increase in the number of parents working daily from *Mental Maths 5 a day* to 60% (56%) daily or 2-3 times a week. It is so important to keep up with reading and mental maths with your child every day, every year to make sure you're s/he can cope with the demands of this more demanding national curriculum. Little and often is the only 'painless' way to build up speed.

We are pleased that 50% (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.

From your response, it would appear that only 54% 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 20 clubs, some of which run all year, comparing very favourably with 3 outstanding schools in Newham that provide 20, 18 and 10 clubs respectively. We were also pleased that 74% of parents are willing to make a financial contribution towards clubs of £1.00 per session. With school budgets very stretched at present, these funds will help us maintain services that otherwise we would need to make cuts in. From April 2017, we shall be asking parents to contribute to clubs provision.

This year our survey had additional questions on use of technology. In this fast-changing world it is important we know how our children consume technology. The results are very interesting:

- 93% of our children **access the internet**. 78% of our children access the internet **weekly or more often**
- 53% of our children have their **own tablet**
- 26% of our children have their **own TV**
- 32% of our children may use the **internet unsupervised**
- 53% of our children have a **games console**

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. **In the April issue, we shall respond to your comments and suggestions. These will appear on our website as well.**

Watoto choir

We had an incredible performance from this extraordinary group of children from Uganda, who are currently on tour in the UK.

You could have heard a pin drop in our hall when the children's stories were being told by one of their supervising adults.

All the children are orphans and have been raised by adoptive mothers funded by the Watoto project. Many of them having lost their parents in the war that has blighted the north of that country. What was so inspiring for us was how these exceptional children have overcome their terrible start in life to become talented, articulate, fulfilled individuals. We were privileged to host them. Thank you to those families who sent in a donation for us to pass onto the project.



Watoto children's choir performing for us. The little boy at the front right is just 7 years old!

Read Write Inc model school

As you may be aware, we have been a model school for *Read Write Inc* (our phonics programme) every year since 2006. We have been awarded the status again for this year, which is a wonderful accolade for our excellent staff and celebrates their great practice in teaching children to read. Wendy Lewis, the Oxford University Press consultant said in her letter to us, "It has been fantastic to see the school develop and flourish, it's great that other schools in the area can visit and see their brilliant *Read Write Inc* lessons in action."

Parents' maths workshop

"My teacher doesn't do it that way." Has your child ever said that to you when you try to help them with maths? Well, many of you told us they do and asked us to help you out with this problem. We hope those parents who attended enjoyed and got much information from the recent maths workshops, where we showed you how we teach your child addition, subtraction, multiplication and division methods. We are aware that many of our parents work and were unable to attend and also some parents have children in other classes and could only attend one session. For those parents and for the future, we shall publish some videos on our website of teachers demonstrating these methods for every yeargroup. These will be available soon—we'll keep you informed.

Educational visits week

It is fulfilling to see our children enjoy the educational trips that we organize for them. After the holidays, all yeargroups had a visit or possibly a workshop come into school to enhance the learning they do in class. This term, trips varied from an art day in Hyde Park, museum visits, places of worship visit, to a tour of the Palace of Westminster, where children stood among the imposing benches of the House of Commons and the House of Lords. Andreea in Year 4 even sat in Theresa May's seat by accident!

An enormous amount of learning happens during these trips, as the children's work reflects, when they do follow-up work in school afterwards. If you were a parent escort on any of our trips, thank you for your help and we hope you also found the trip enjoyable and informative.



A Year 4 group photographed in the historic House of Commons

Red Nose Day

We shall be raising money for Red Nose Day by selling red noses (once the order has arrived). On **Friday 24th March we will be holding a non-uniform day; chn can pay £1 to wear something red**. The money we raise from this, along with the money raised from selling the noses will be given to the charity. Ms Steele has promised to hold her popular *Dancethon* in the playgrounds as well.

On the same day, **Friday 24th March, we shall have our Mother's Day sale after school**. The money we raise from this will go into school fund.

Children aren't allowed to speak through the fence

Please don't talk through the fence to your own or other children during the school day. If you happen to be passing the school during playtime, we respectfully ask you not to speak to your own or any other child through the fence or hand over any item to a child. Even if the child/ren initiate the conversation, you are asked to ignore them. Wave if you wish to, but move on. Thank you for your co-operation.



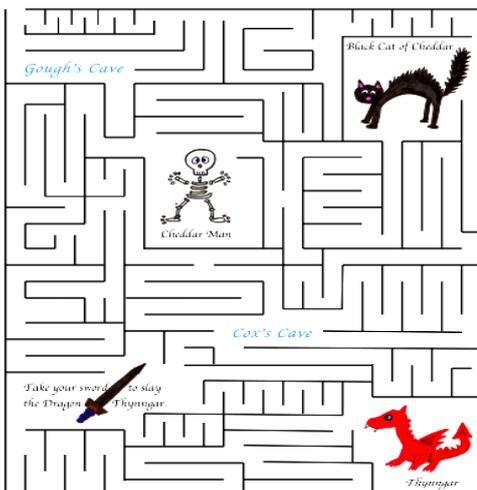
Maryland United's upcoming events

Thanks to our parent/staff association for organizing the excellent events coming up this month. See below dates and times for the Mother's Day sale and the ever-popular, and very delicious, Bake 'n Take. Why not join us at our next meeting on Thursday 27th April where we shall be discussing school budgeting among other matters?

Puzzle corner

Try this MAZE game to slay the Fire-eating Dragon! On the way, you must collect the cat, the skeleton and the sword.

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

Diary Jan/Feb 2017

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| World Book Day. 2.30pm story telling 2.30pm in Rec & Nur. | Thu 2 Mar |
| Year 6 'Mock' SATs | w/c 20 Mar |
| Year 2 parents SATs meeting in Class 6, 3.30-4pm | Wed 22 Mar |
| Infants 'Dancethon' in aid of Red Nose Day | Thu 23 Mar |
| Mothers' Day sale and Bake 'n Take after school (a Maryland United event). Also Red Nose Day and Junior 'Dancethon' | Fri 24 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 |
| Start of Term 5, 8.55a.m. | Mon 17 Apr |
| Children's class photos | Thu 20 Apr |
| Maryland United meeting. All welcome. Creche avail. 3.15pm | Thu 27 Apr |

