



MARYLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

MAY 2017 NEWSLETTER

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Message from Mrs Jackson Headteacher



Dear Parent and Carers,

Thank you for your support with our new initiative of parental contribution towards clubs. This has meant that we are able to sustain our extra-curricula provision. The pressure on funding is hitting all schools with some authorities asking parents to pay for books and pencils. I hope we don't get to this. We have had to postpone plans to put up the canopies over YR as the cost is too high and the only building work that you will see this summer will be paid for by Newham, not by us (completion of roof, new school kitchen) as any spare money needs to go towards maintaining our 49 year old building which requires constant repair.

Staffing: We say goodbye to Miss Mollie Trew in the Nursery who will be leaving us to train for a new profession.

Security: I have previously allowed parents to meet and enjoy the outdoor facilities until 4.30pm. Unfortunately there have been some site security issues recently and it is our duty to safeguard our children and staff. Therefore we are now forced to close the playground at 3.30pm to protect children taking part in activities after school hours.

Vacancies: We have two vacancies for Lunchtime Managers and two vacancies for parent governors.

Mrs. L. Jackson, Headteacher

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This term's study theme

This summer term, our children will be returning, in our 3-year topic cycle, to studying *Living Things*. Each yeargroup is studying animals unique to countries around the world. We kicked off to a great start on the first day, when children shared their excellent artwork from the day's work in assembly at the end of the day.

Children's summer term homework research project continues to look at aspects of British values. This term we are asking children to find out about our rich design heritage with particular focus on London buildings and their architects or London design and designers, including fashion. More details will be in the note to parents in children's homework diaries and Ms Steele has met with parents recently to share some ideas about how you might support your children with their projects.

School closure date—8 June 2017

Just a reminder to note that the school will be closed on the above date, as the premises will be used as a polling station for the general election that will be taking place that day. SchoolFriend will not be operating on the premises either, as the school has to be vacated by all staff, except the site supervisor.

Calling all girl footballers!

Here's a great opportunity for professional coaching for girls interested in developing their football skills. A 16 week programme run by fully qualified coaches supported by the FA and West Ham United Foundation. The sessions will take place on Saturday afternoon from 13:30-14:30 starting on the 29th April at the WHU Foundation pitch, Albatross way, Beckton E6. Although the project has been funded for 16 weeks by the FA, Royal Falcons FC are hoping to continue this girls mini soccer centre long term with the intention of putting teams together for the 2018/19 season. For more details contact nicholas.crickmar@clevs.boleyntrust.org

Recent fundraising—thank you to all who contributed

Last month we had such fun on Red Nose Day, raising funds for Comic Relief and other causes. We have received a letter of thanks for the money we donated and the many items of clothing and household items we collected for the Watoto Choir and thought you'd like us to share it. It reads:

Dear Mrs Jackson,

We would like to confirm that we have received your cheque for £436 following the Watoto Choir's visit to your school on 23rd February.

Thank you so much for your generous support. We hope you enjoyed your time with the choir. As I'm sure you are aware these donations are vital in supporting our ministry towards vulnerable women and children in Uganda.

To find out more about the work that Watoto does, please visit the website, www.watoto.com

In total we collected £964 from our Red Nose fundraising and our Mother's Day sale. Thank you to everyone in our community who took part so generously.

Parent governor vacancy

If you are interested in becoming a parent governor, please check the website under the Recruitment tab to find out about the role, the skills needed and how to secure nomination. The application form can be downloaded. Closing date for forms to be submitted to the school office is 10a.m., 8th May.

Foyles' donation of books

Michelle Edgecombe, our parent Chair of Maryland United, has secured a donation of books from Foyles for the school. Thank you, Michelle, for continuing to work so hard for the benefit of all the children in our school.

If any parents have got contacts that might benefit our children, please contact us or any of the three Chairs of our parent/teacher organisation, Maryland United: Terena Bennett, Sevgi Kor or Michelle Edgecombe.

A selection of the books we received from Foyles →

Do we have your up to date address and phone number?

Please ask at the office for a change of details form, so that we can keep our records up to date.

We also ask you to keep your phones on to receive calls and messages from us. Recently during the epidemic of chicken pox, there were several parents we were unable to contact to collect their children, because we didn't have the correct numbers or their phones were turned off. We need to be able to contact at least one parent/carer at all times in case of an emergency. Unfortunately emergencies do happen and we know you'd want to be told immediately.



Collecting your child after clubs

We are asking parents/carers who collect children after school clubs (except SchoolFriend) to collect **from the main school Gurney Road reception entrance**. This also applies to children who have ECAM tuition in the Children's Centre, which will no longer be a collection point. **ALL** children must be collected from the main school entrance for **every** after school activity. While we appreciate this can sometimes cause a bottleneck when more than one club finishes at the same time, we have to improve school security. No-one will be permitted to collect or leave from the Buxton Road gate. We apologise in advance if this arrangement causes you any inconvenience.

Answers to your comments and suggestions in our 2017 Parent Survey

Last month we responded to some of the comments we received through our parent survey. This month we have responded to the remaining comments that we didn't have space for April's newsletter.

"I will be very happy if the teacher will be more specific with the homework so I can help more." Reply: We try to assist parents with homework wherever we can, e.g. our recent maths parents' workshops and our project introductions to parents every term, also the *Mental Maths 5 a day* book provided free to all our families and the yellow homework diary. Please see Mrs Cooper if you have suggestions about how we might assist parents further, as we'll do our best to do so.

"After school to use the playground to learn to skate, scooter and bike." Reply: We have put signs up in the playground that forbid scooter and bike riding and skating at any time. The reason is that we would have to have members of staff on duty to supervise. This we cannot do, as staff time after school is spent on marking, lesson planning, in meetings, running clubs and non-teaching staff on admin and maintenance. Parental supervision cannot substitute. We cannot take responsibility for any accidents before or after school when staff are not on duty. Also, in order to tighten up on school security, we have to ask all parents/carers to leave the premises by 3.30pm.

"Maryland is good already, but a bus to take children to after school clubs would help." Reply: We regret that having a school bus is unaffordable. We have approximately 5 children a year or fewer who attend after school clubs away from the school.

"A question on the (playground) screens every day- the answer to be displayed the next day." Reply: This is a really nice idea. We'll find a way of incorporating some questions into our *Maryland Life* programme.

"Increase security" Reply: For most of the day, the school premises are very secure and our CCTV cameras capture all active areas. However, before and after school our gates need to remain open so parents and carers have access to drop off/collect their children. Also at this time, certain doors to the school have to be kept open, as they are fire exits. It is at these times that we ask our adult community to help us keep the school secure by not walking through the school and keeping an eye out and reporting any security issues they notice. We also appeal to our community not to allow other people to 'tailgate' through the Buxton Road entrance when the gate is opened electronically to allow them in. If there are any precautions you have noticed that could be improved on, please see Mrs Jackson or Mrs Cooper, as we are always keen for our premises to be as secure as possible for everyone's protection. Please also look at Mrs Jackson's article on page 1.

Here's a tip for when you do your 5 a day with your child?

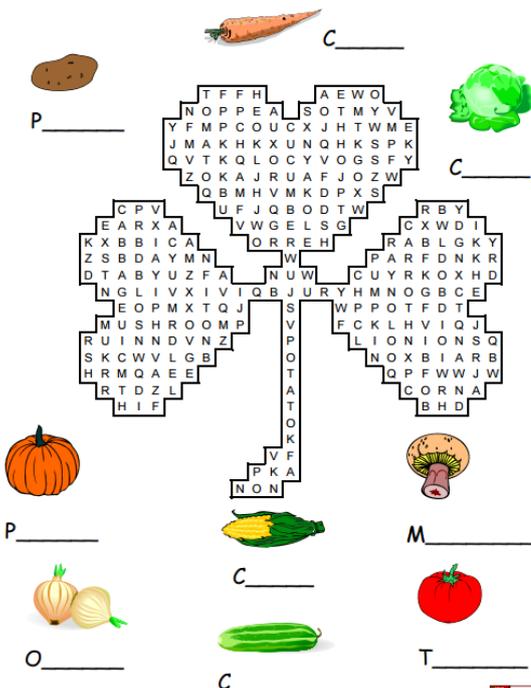
When doing your 5 minute daily mental maths 'workout' from the *5 a day* book, remember that if your child is taking more than, on average, 5 seconds to answer each question, it is likely that the work is too difficult, so go back in the book to ensure the earlier work is secure.

We love a wordsearch

Our children are asking for more word searches for our puzzle corner, so here's one for May that ties in with our *Living Things* study theme. Hopefully we'll see some of these delicious vegetables growing in Nature's Garden this summer.

Puzzle corner

Vegetable Word Search



Diary May/June 2017

BANK HOLIDAY—SCHOOL CLOSED	Mon 1 May
Year 2 SATs tests throughout May	
Year 6 SATs and Years 1-5 assessment week. Tests daily.	w/c 8 May
Maryland's Spelling Bee—during school hours	Thu 11 May
Last day of term 5 for children. School ends 3.15pm	Thu 25 May
INSET DAY—school closed to children	Fri 26 May
First day of Term 6. School start 8.55am	Mon 5 June
Educational visits week	w/c 5 June
SCHOOL CLOSED General election. Used as polling station.	Thu 8 June
Year 1 phonics screening assessment week	w/c 12 June
Maryland United meeting. All welcome. Staffroom 3.15pm. Creche available.	Wed 14 June
Sports Day and family picnic	Tue 27 June
Choir at St John's Church. Come along to support us.	Wed 28 June
Maryland Movers performing for parents 4pm	Fri 30 June

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

