



MARYLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

JULY 2017 NEWSLETTER



Have a great summer holiday!

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Message from Mrs Jackson Headteacher



Dear Parent and Carers,
We are almost at the end of another busy and successful school year.

The new year will be a time of change for us and for several of our staff, who are moving out of London and two of them going abroad on their travels. We say goodbye to Mr Jarvis, who has relocated to Essex, Ms Harding and Ms Moosa both have teaching posts in Abu Dhabi, Ms Steele will return to her native Cornwall and Ms Richards to Hertfordshire. Mrs Turbutt is retiring. We shall be saying farewell to them at our Leavers Assembly on Tuesday, 18th July at 9.15am. We shall say goodbye to our Year 6s at the same time.

Our leadership team is undergoing change too. We shall have 4 members instead of 6, as Mrs Cooper is retiring in December and will work 3 days a week in the autumn term to ensure a smooth handover to our 2 new Deputy Heads. On the team along with Mrs Simisaiye (Assistant Headteacher) and me, will be our newly promoted Deputies, Ms Boreham and Mr Lock. We congratulate them on their promotion.

Premises. Roof work and kitchen refurbishment during the holidays.

Welcome to our new parent governors, Ms Houghton and Mrs Ismail.

Our Children's Centre summer closure for 2 weeks 14-26 August. Reopens 29 August.

The last day for children will be **20 July**. Parents/carers may collect their child/ren after lunch at 1pm. Have a splendid, safe summer holiday!

Mrs. L. Jackson, Headteacher

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Well done Year 1! 93% pass rate for phonics screening

You will be aware that all Year 1 pupils in England are tested every June to see if they know their sounds and therefore are on their way to becoming good readers. Maryland's phonic teaching has always been outstanding and immensely successful in getting our children reading quickly, which is why we are a model school for *Read Write Inc.* Again our children have done wonderfully well and this very high pass rate is **likely to be well above the national figure** which was 81% in 2016. We shall know the national result in September. Well done to our children, their teachers and tutors and parents who help with reading at home.

Collect your child's end of year report at Open Evening

On Thu 6th July during our **Open Evening**, 3.30pm-6pm, you are invited to come into your child's class to collect the end of year report and look through work that has been done over the year. No appointments necessary. Please attend with your child/ren, sit with them to look through their books and discuss their achievements with them. If your child is in Years 2 or 6, you will receive her/his SATs results and if your child is in Year 1, you will receive the phonics screening result. The teacher will be available for informal discussion about your child's progress. If you prefer a confidential 1:1 meeting, please book a time to see your child's teacher. We will be holding a community marketplace on the night, including our summer Bookfair. You will also have an opportunity to look through all the lost property if your child has lost an item this year.

Be aware that the newsletter is going PAPERLESS

We trialled going paperless for our June newsletter and have been asked by a couple of parents to provide more time for everyone to become informed. For this reason, this July newsletter has been printed, **but from September we shall be paperless, unless a hard copy is requested.** How will you know when the newsletter is available? The newsletter is ready at the beginning of every month. We shall **text** you (so PLEASE ensure we have your up to date numbers) and put reminder notices up on the **playground pods** and on our **Twitter** feed. It is easy to find on our website, as there is a **link** straight to it on the home page. The newsletter is essential reading for parents, not least because of the diary of upcoming events, not all of which are notified by letter.

Recent competition winners

Our **football team** played Chobham Academy's team after school on 9th June. By half time, we were down 2-0, but our star coach, Mr Hoque did what all great football managers do. The children told us in assembly that he gave the team back the confidence and determination he sees during weekly practice. They went out renewed and stormed in with a 5-2 victory! Brilliant stuff. Well done.

To round up the activity of our **chess club** this year, we had a knock-out tournament. The play was tough, with children using great strategic moves they have learned, such as castling, promotion and *en passant*. Very well done to Omar Kamran, our new Maryland chess champion!



Round 1 of the chess tournament

...and then there was **sports day!** Congratulations to our winning house, **FRY!** (See pictures on page 2)

Don't miss our fabulous summer events

Cultural Evening on Fri 14th July, **3-6pm** is a fabulous free event after school that celebrates our diverse community. Food from all corners of our Earth, national costume, bouncy castle and more.

On the same evening, from **6-8pm** is our ever-popular **summer disco**. Advance tickets will be on sale soon for the disco, at £1 per person. Children under 3 enter for free. Parent volunteers on the day and their children get free entry to the disco too. Parking will be available for both events in our junior playground.



Security

We wish to remind parents that, regretfully, we are unable to allow use of the playground and Nature's Garden after school hours. To increase security and protect children taking part in clubs after school, the playgrounds must be vacated by 3.30pm at the latest. Thank you for your co-operation. Also, a reminder that for everyone's safety outdoors, scooting, cycling or roller skating are not permitted in our playgrounds at any time.

Please do not short-cut through the hall doors to walk through the school, as this compromises school security. If you do, please do not be offended if a member of staff stops you and asks you to walk round the outside of the building to the office entrance.

Holiday clubs

Two clubs will be operating from the school during the school holidays, SchoolFriend and Wright Education. Details will be available on Open Evening, 6th July at the community marketplace in the hall where they will both have tables.

20 minutes a day of reading and mental arithmetic during the holidays WILL make a difference



Please keep up with daily reading and *5 a day* with your child/ren in the summer holidays, particularly towards the end, so that when we start school again in September, your child's reading and mental arithmetic speed is good enough to cope with the demands of the curriculum. Shortly you will see in your child's homework book a copy of the end of year 'green' test—15 arithmetic questions strictly timed to test mental arithmetic **speed**. The 5 second rule is a useful guide, i.e. if your child is taking longer than 5 seconds to answer most of the questions, it is an indication that the work is too difficult and you need to go back in the book to build up speed and understanding. We suggest you randomly cover the blue, red and green questions from this year (or previous years if your child's speed is under the 5 second average) over the holiday weeks.



Critical thinking at Maryland

Continuing from last month's article on how we embed critical thinking into the curriculum, we worked for a second time with a maths educational researcher to plan another maths problem-solving week, *Maths in the garden* where children across the school had some real-life problems to tackle. Some examples are:

- Year 4 looked at the growth of plants in the vegetable beds and then the predicted growth of the vegetables over an 11 week period. They plotted a line graph with their predictions. The results will help us with next year's planting, so we can achieve maximum cropping.
- Year 5 wanted to find out how many fish our pond could hold to ensure that we provide enough space and ensure the balance of our pond ecosystem. They measured the depth and volume of the pond to calculate the capacity of water and ratio of fish.

The Crystal—free to Newham residents

All KS2 children will be visiting The Crystal to find out more about sustainability. The Crystal is the world's most sustainable events venue and the largest exhibition on the future of cities. There is so much to see and do there, that The Crystal has invited Maryland Primary pupils to bring their families **free of charge**, perhaps a family day out in the holidays? (Standard entry is normally £8.) You just need to bring proof of residency in Newham, such as a utility bill. Please don't forget to take this, otherwise you will be charged the standard entry fee. The exhibits are best suited to children of junior age and older.



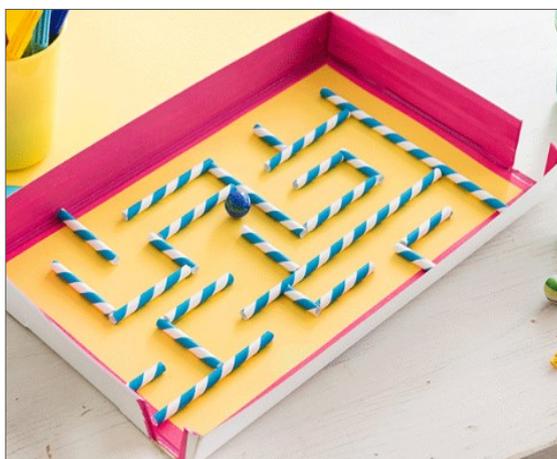
Great Sports Day—never mind a bit of rain!



Puzzle corner

Instead of a puzzle this month, we've suggested a **making and doing activity** for the holidays. To make this **marble maze game** you only need a box, straws, glue, a marble and ...some critical thinking skills! This and other holiday activities can be found on <https://www.tescolive.com/articles/half-term-activities-for-kids>

Enjoy!



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

Diary July-Sept 2017

Maryland United meeting. Staffroom 3.15pm. Creche available.	Tue 4 July
Summer Bookfair starts. Great for buying holiday reading.	Tue 4 July
Open evening 3.30-7pm. You'll receive your child's report.	Thu 6 July
Homework research project deadline	Fri 7 July
Homework research project exhibition in halls after school	Tue 11 July
Summer disco and cultural evening	Fri 14 July
House point winners' trip to Stratford Picture House	Mon 17 July
Leavers' assembly 9.15am. All welcome	Tue 18 July
Last day of Nursery	Tue 18 July
Last day of term for the rest of the school . Finish at 1.30pm.	Thu 20 July
Staff INSET day	Fri 21 July
First day of term for children, EXCEPT Reception and Nursery	Tue 5 Sept
First day of staggered Reception and Nursery intake	Wed 6 Sept
'Meet the Teacher' evening	Thu 21 Sept
Year 6 residential trip to Fairplay House	27,28,29 Sept

