



# MARYLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

## JUNE 2017 NEWSLETTER

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### Message from Mrs Jackson



Dear Parent and Carers,

We have enjoyed a visit recently from the Deputy Director of Children's Services in Newham, Jane Moon, who was most impressed with our school and has recommended a visit to our Director, James Thomas, who will be coming in to see us on 13 June.

Now that Ramadan has started, we are conscious that some of our older children will be fasting. We ask parents/carers to notify us in writing whether their child will be fasting and on which days. If you haven't already notified us, please do so. To ensure fasting children's wellbeing and ability to make it comfortably through the school day, we arrange for them to have quiet break and lunchtimes in our junior library area.

Year 1 will soon be having their compulsory phonics screening test and we wish them all well.

I look forward to seeing you at our summer events coming up. Please look at the Diary on page 2 for details.

The third phase of roof replacement is due to start early July, so that most of the disruption will happen during the holidays. Kitchen refurbishment will start during the holidays.

Do you need childcare during the holidays? Summer holidays clubs running: a) SchoolFriend b) Wright Education will run an academic play scheme also on our premises, part-lessons, part-other activities. Info. from our office.

Mrs. L. Jackson, Headteacher

### Supporting children to reach the 'expected' standard

Schools are judged by governors, the local authority and Ofsted by the standards their pupils achieve. That means the **progress** they make between the Reception and Year 2, and importantly between Year 2 and Year 6. The second measure is how they **attain in SATs** against children in England and Wales. In both measures Maryland does extremely well. How do we achieve this when many of our children start in our school well below the national averages? At the same time, how do we ensure our most able pupils achieve their potential?

From Reception age, we spot those children who are falling behind others and a process starts that **puts support in place** for them to catch up. The support could take the form of 1:1 daily support in acquiring phonics, support in class in a group with the teacher or teacher assistant, setting in similar ability groups in some subjects to make work more relevant and accessible, in social group activities if behaviour is a barrier to progress, external support if a child has special educational needs or a disability. In the juniors, the pupils may additionally be withdrawn from class for 1:1 or small group support to achieve the 'non-negotiables' (see our website for details of these), they may be asked to attend booster sessions during the holidays, be included in daily '5 a day' sessions to improve their mental arithmetic speed, 'masterclasses' for more able pupils, some after-school clubs are devised for support purposes (including for the **most able** pupils to achieve their potential). Our senior leaders also get involved in mentoring some Year 5 and 6 pupils during break times. At the same time, we will be communicating with parents about support, asking them to contribute at home, possibly with targeted homework and guidance in supporting reading, writing and maths. The cumulative build-up of a combination of support over years is how we move pupils on to expected **or better** progress over time.

### Please help us go PAPERLESS for our monthly newsletter

We are trialling going paperless this month. You will have received a text message from us asking you to access the June newsletter online on our website. You know we are trying to cut costs wherever possible, but this initiative isn't just about money, it is also about SUSTAINABILITY, which is embedded in so much of what we do in school and what we teach our children about too. We hope this arrangement will suit you, but if not, you will be able to ask your child's class teacher for a paper copy. If you have any comment or feedback on this initiative, please email Mrs Cooper via our [info@maryland.newham.sch.uk](mailto:info@maryland.newham.sch.uk) email address. Depending on your feedback, we shall continue to publish our newsletter online (or not!) in the future.

### Spelling Bee 2017 champions

Meet the winning team proudly displaying their trophy. They are from left to right: Aquiles, Tawheedul, Mathew, Lakisha and Farida. The audience gasped at the speed, skill and confidence with which our competitors 'made mincemeat' of words such as *psychology, sufficient, foreigner, possession*. At times it was hard to remember that no competitor was older than 11 years. The trophy won will be wrapped in the colours of the winning team (green) and be on display in the trophy cabinet in the office area. **WELL DONE THE GREEN TEAM!**



### Sports day & family picnic Tue 27 June

One of the highlights of the Maryland calendar every year. The sports will start around 9.15am. Parents may take their seats from when the bell goes at 8.55 a.m. Please remember that the school provides a sandwich lunch for all pupils who take up school meals. The pupils then eat their packed lunch with their families. Ice lollies and bottled water will be on sale during the break and at lunchtime. Children need to come to school already dressed in their correct kit and wearing their house colours which are: Charles—red, Cornwell—blue, Fry—orange, Gurney—green, Lister—yellow. Parents will be asked to leave by 12.55pm, but may take their children with them for the rest of the day if they wish to.

**If it rains or is forecast for rain when the weather report is checked on the morning, we shall cancel and let you know by text and on our website by 8a.m. or earlier.**

### Security

We wish to remind parents that, regrettably, 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.

✉ Gurney Road, Stratford, E15 1SL  
www.maryland.newham.sch.uk

☎ 020 8534 8135

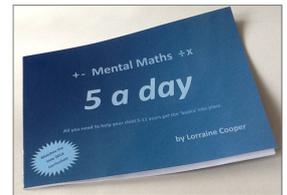
Fax: 020 8534 4426

E-mail: [info@maryland.newham.sch.uk](mailto:info@maryland.newham.sch.uk)

🐦 @MarylandPrimary

## Are you new to our school? Do you have this book?

If your child has recently been admitted to our school, please ensure you have had a meeting with Mrs. Cooper to receive your free copy of *Mental Maths 5 a day* and some guidance on how to use the book daily with your child. Your child will need it for the daily homework the teacher sets in the homework diary. Teachers estimate how much work will take 5 minutes to get through, but if your child is taking on average longer than 5 seconds for each answer, it means the work is too difficult for him/her and you will need to go back in the book to earlier work until your child picks up speed in mental calculation.



If you feel that the exercises aren't working for your child or you feel you aren't using the book effectively, please book a 10 minute appointment before or after school with Mrs. Cooper, who will do a session with your child to demonstrate.

## Come along and support our choir

On Wed 28th June at 1.10pm our choir will be performing at St. John's Church in Stratford. Our children love performing for an audience, so please do come along to enjoy their singing and cheer them on. Everyone welcome.

## Maryland United have a busy few weeks ahead. Can you help?

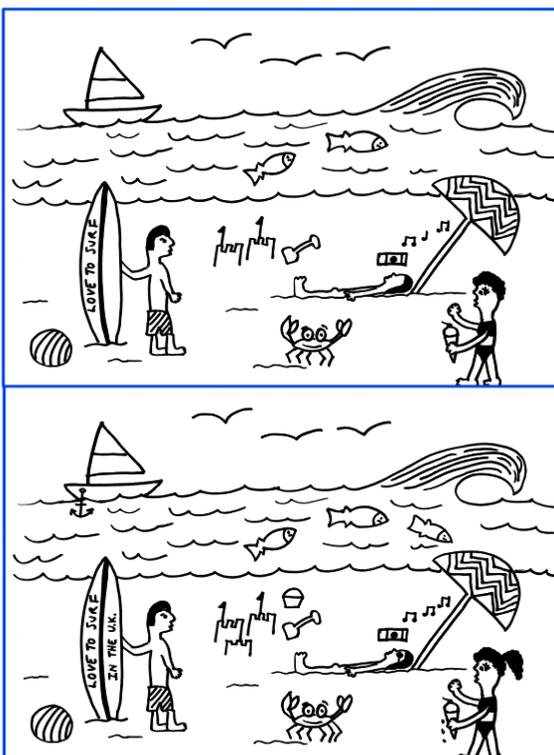
Our popular fun-filled events are only possible because of our parent volunteers and staff who give generously of their time. Maryland United have a lot going on to plan ahead for. Please attend our meetings (we have a crèche available) to help with the organization of those events. If you can't attend those, we'd appreciate any help on the day of our events coming up—contact one of our Chairs. Coming up is our wonderful sports day and family picnic—can you help with organizing and serving refreshments? In July we have our summer disco and Cultural Evening, which takes a huge amount of work and we can always do with extra hands. Contact the following people to offer your help: Staff Chairs- Terena Bennett, Sevgi Kor. Parent Chair- Michelle Edgecombe.

## Critical thinking at Maryland

For those of you who have older children in our school, you may recall when we first started our critical thinking initiative back in 2014. Critical thinking is now so well embedded in our everyday life at school, that we hardly remember our curriculum without those principles. Next time you're in the school, look at the displays and prompts in your child's class and around the public areas for evidence. Remember the success of our debating team, after school clubs provided such as problem-solving and chess. Do the questions written on the playground boards get you thinking? They are questions that don't have *right* or *wrong* answers. Our 4 issues of *Ready, Steady, THINK!*, specially commissioned by Maryland and written by the man who designed the critical thinking modules at Cambridge University, are still used in the junior classes and in other schools in the borough that were so impressed by their content. We produced a booklet called, *Ready, Steady, THINK! At home*, provided free to all our families. If you have lost your copy, look at the electronic version soon to be uploaded onto our website. You will find it in the 'Our initiatives' section. Do you still play at home with the free compendium of games we provided? Has that started a household habit of playing these great critical thinking games, that need players to think, "What if ...?"

## Puzzle corner

Here's a summer-themed **spot the difference** puzzle for you to find **10 differences**.



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

## Diary June/July 2017

First day of Term 6. School starts 8.55am	Mon 5 June
Educational visits week	w/c 5 June
SCHOOL CLOSED General election. Used as polling station.	Thu 8 June
Year1 phonics screening assessment week	w/c 12 June
Maryland United meeting. 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. 1.10pm	Wed 28 June
Sun awareness and ice lolly week	w/c ....
Nursery 'Big tiddle'. Both sessions	Fri 30 June
Maryland Movers performing for parents 4pm	Fri 30 June
Maryland United meeting. Staffroom 3.15pm. Creche available.	Tue 4 July
New Reception parents meeting (for class of 2017/18)	Wed 5 July
Open evening 3.30-6pm. You'll receive your child's report.	Thu 6 July
Homework research project deadline and exhibition after school	Fri 7 July
Cultural Evening 3-6pm and summer disco 6-8pm	Fri 14 July
Last day of Nursery	Tue 18 July
Last day of term for the rest of the school.	Thu 20 July

