



MARYLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

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Message from Mrs Jackson Headteacher



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our new pupils, parents, staff and governors. Please check our website for more information on our staff teams and role of the governors.

Premises: During the holiday we were fortunate to have a brand new state of the art school kitchen installed. Whilst the equipment is being commissioned and tested, hot meals will not be available so children will be provided with a sandwich lunch for the first few weeks of term.

Unfortunately roof replacement work has been delayed and will take place during term time.

Communication with families: We have tried to collect as many email addresses as possible so that we can communicate easily with homes. This has proven to be difficult so we intend to develop a system where we use your child's school **gmail** address to communicate with you. Watch this space!

Two summer clubs provided excellent care for children of our working parents, SchoolFriend and Wright Education Summer School.

The local authority has approved plans for our school to expand to 3 form entry. So far, architects have visited the site and are producing a feasibility plan for the best place to erect the new building.

Mrs. L. Jackson, Headteacher

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Meet the Teacher evening 21 September

Please ensure you have booked this date into your diary to attend our first parents' meeting of the new year. As usual, we have a full schedule and so much to tell you about our plans for your child's learning in the year ahead.

You will start out in a classroom meeting the staff who will be teaching your child this year. If you have more than one child in the school, we recommend that more than one adult comes along to attend the other meeting/s. Remember that if your child is in Years 2 or 6, they are in a year where they will have SATs external testing, so their teachers will be talking about that.

If your child is in **Reception or Year 6, the meetings start earlier, at 5.45pm**, not 6pm as for the rest of the school. Please arrive promptly.

The junior playground opens at **5.30pm** for parking. NO PLAYING anywhere in the playgrounds or nature garden will be permitted. It is not an ideal evening for your child/ren to accompany you, but if you bring your child with you, they must be supervised by you at all times. There will not be a crèche.

Between 5.30 pm and the start of your meeting, you are invited into the junior hall to **meet our governors** who will be present to become acquainted with parents/carers.

At **6.35pm** you will be asked to take a seat in the hall for a presentation about an important curriculum initiative for the year ahead. This has become an unmissable and popular feature of the evening. It usually finishes between 7-7.15pm. You will leave with a free gift.

We look forward to seeing you on Thursday 21st September.

Our Autumn study theme

We hope you will enjoy joining in to launch our term's theme introduction! **Be in our playgrounds by 8.40am on Tues 5th September.** You'll love it—GUARANTEED.

Our Autumn homework research project

For our homework research project we are asking children to bring in photos (or printouts) of their relatives, going back as far as your family photos go. The title is 'My place in history' and we want them to build a personal family tree. On the **first day back**, children will be drawing a portrait of one of those relatives, so they need to bring that photo in. Ms Boreham will hold a meeting at 9am in the Children's Centre to guide parents on our expectations for their projects. Please come along.

Be aware that the newsletter is now PAPERLESS

From this month our monthly newsletter will be paperless. If you'd prefer a hard copy, please ask your child's class teacher. 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.

Free school meals for juniors resolved

The Mayor of Newham has agreed to absorb the full cost of free school meals for all junior pupils in Newham schools, as he realises that schools cannot sustain the cost of these from our already reduced school budgets. (You may recall he originally agreed to pay for 40%, then 60%, but schools were unable to fund the rest going into the future of budget reductions.)

We are pleased to announce that we shall continue to take part in the *Eat for Free* scheme for junior children until further notice. Free school meals for all infants is funded by central government.

Monitoring your child's internet use

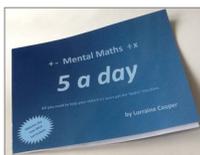
How aware are you of your child's use of the internet? Whether it is accidental or deliberate, it is easy for your child to access undesirable and inappropriate material. At Maryland Primary School we educate our children in internet safety because we are committed to promoting the safe and responsible use of the internet and as such it is our responsibility to raise this particular issue as a growing concern, due to the increase in inappropriate and underage use of social media apps and sites such as **OoVoo, Skype, Instagram, WhatsApp, Facebook, Snapchat, YouTube, Live.ly, Google+ and Musical.ly**

It is our duty to inform parents that police advice is that **no primary school child should have their own social media account until they are 13 years old.** We solidly endorse this advice, as we have seen how destructively these can be used, e.g. for cyber-bullying.

We understand that it is increasingly difficult to keep up with the ways that our children are using new and ever-changing technologies, however it is vital to monitor and supervise your child's internet usage. There is some excellent advice for parents on the CEOP website at <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>



Children whose parents support their learning at home make better progress—FACT!



We know our parents and carers understand this and we try to make this support as easy as possible for them. Just 15-20 minutes engaging with your child's home learning makes all the difference.

How?

-Homework is written in your child's homework diary.

-**5 minutes on the book** we provide free for every family in our school, *Mental Maths 5 a day*. If you don't have a copy, see Mrs Cooper, our Deputy Headteacher. Suggested daily activity is set by teachers in the homework diary

-Every child should bring a book home from school every day to read for enjoyment. **Read with your child** for at least 10 minutes, taking turns to read and asking questions about the text, discussing the pictures with younger children. Try asking questions that don't begin with 'What ...?' Instead ask 'Why do you think...?' or 'How does the character...?' Also ask, 'How do you know?' which requires your child to refer back the text to explain their answer.

-**Talk together** to encourage a high standard of oracy. Ask for your child's opinion on what is happening around them. You may be surprised at how well their opinions are forming.

-Involve your child in **cooking and shopping**, weighing ingredients, writing shopping lists, telling the time and working out the time—how long to go until....?



Term dates for children 2017/18

The full version of our term dates table can be found on our website, but these are the children's main holiday dates for this year. Travel plans should be within these dates, as no absence will be authorised to extend holiday times.

Autumn:	Spring:	Summer:
Half-term Mon 23 Oct—Fri 27 Oct	Half term Mon 12 Feb— Fri 16 Feb	Half term Mon 28 May— Fri 1 Jun (includes bank holiday Mon)
Christmas holiday Wed 20 Dec—Tue 2 Jan 2018	Easter holiday Fri 30 Mar—Fri 13 Apr (includes Good Friday & Easter Monday)	Last day of term Thu 19 Jul

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.

Puzzle corner

Try our critical thinking puzzle!

WHO CHOSE WHICH PIE?

Five children are in a café and hungry for a delicious pie. Each one orders a pie in a different flavour.

Who had what? (Hint: Start with Sam!)

1. Mala and Robert are allergic to dairy.
2. Sam and Dani don't like fruit.
3. Dani did not have the banana cream pie.
4. The person who ate the berry pie was NOT Robert.
5. Sam ate the pecan pie.



	Choc. cream	Banana cream	Apple	Berry	Pecan
Robert					
Dani					
Sam					
Bola					
Mala					

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

Diary Sept & Oct 2017

Staff INSET days	Fri 1 Sept Mon 4 Sept
First day of term for children, EXCEPT Reception and Nursery	Tue 5 Sept
First day of staggered Reception and Nursery intake	Wed 6 Sept
Homework project guidance meeting for parents in Children's Centre, starting 9am	Fri 8 Sept
ECAM music lessons start after school for Years 5 & 6 pupils	Mon 18 Sept
'Meet the Teacher' evening. See page 1 for details	Thu 21 Sept
Year 6 residential trip to Fairplay House	27,28,29 Sept
Maryland United meeting in the staffroom 315pm. Join us to plan for forthcoming school events. All welcome. Creche available.	Wed 27 Sept
Diwali. School will be open.	Thu 19 Oct
Last day of Term 1. School finishes at 3.15pm	Fri 20 Oct
First day of Term 2. School starts at 8.55am.	Mon 30 Oct
Educational visits week.	w/c 30 Oct
Individual and family photographs	Tue 31 Oct

