



# MARYLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL OCTOBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

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## Message from Mrs Jackson Headteacher



Dear Parents and Carers,

### STAFFING

Mr. Arthur is retiring on 31st December. There is a vacancy for his position advertised on the school's website and on *Jobs Go Public*. Closing date 9th October.

### PREMISES

The school kitchen has been completely refurbished by the local authority. The equipment is state of the art and the cooks have new modern uniforms provided by the catering company—Juniper Ventures.

Architects and LA officers have visited the school and produced feasibility plans as to where a new 2/3 storey building can be situated to house another 210 pupils. Governors will work with the LA to ensure that whatever decision is made fits in with the environmental ethos of this school.

### PAPER NEWSLETTER

Due to parental requests, the newsletter is returning to the printed version. Many parents wanted a paper copy but are happy to receive other types of notifications and letters electronically. We are working on using each child's individual school email (gmail) address to eventually send home trip letters and forms etc., rather than printing.

### SECURITY

A new photo ID entry system has been installed in the front reception area to add to our security measures. Enjoy October!

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## Growth mindset

We had a wonderful turnout for 'Meet the Teacher' evening in September. The feedback we've had from parents on our curriculum presentation on **Growth Mindset** has been overwhelmingly positive. We'll be publishing tips on developing Growth Mindset at home in our newsletter from time to time. Here are a couple to start with:

**Getting better at a skill:** Help your child to remember a time when learning something new was a challenge, perhaps riding a bike? Remind them that 'getting good' at something is all about making mistakes, practicing, then getting better.

**Avoiding 'labels':** Remember to include the word '**yet**'. For example, 'I can't ride a bike...yet.' Try to avoid labelling yourself in ways that are negative, e.g. 'I'm a terrible cook', 'I was never any good at maths'. Remember our children learn from us. By using the word '**yet**' we are encouraging them to try hard and enjoy a challenge in the belief they will master the skill/knowledge they are aiming for. We want to encourage children to understand that **mistakes are 'mini-lessons'**. If things don't go well, ask them, 'What can you learn from this?' 'What can you do differently next time?'

## Road safety & non-uniform day fundraiser

You will be aware that a child was involved in a car accident after school recently which required treatment in hospital. We have previously put pressure on the Borough in the past to get a pedestrian crossing installed on Buxton Rd, but this was turned down. The speed bumps do slow traffic down, but we have to rely on the following to keep our children safe when crossing roads:

- adults to obey the zig-zag lines to ensure that oncoming traffic is visible (we have bought additional signage to ensure this happens—see below)
- adults not allowing children to get out of vehicles in the middle of the street
- to be taught at home, and while walking with parents, how to cross a road safely (we do this at school, but the message is much stronger when reinforced outside school as well).

The Road Safety officer visited the school on Tuesday 26th September for assembly, but we have also bought some excellent and eye-catching bollards to prevent parking by those parents who still ignore the zig-zag lines. **These have cost us over £700, which puts pressure on our already stretched budgets. To raise money to help us afford to pay for these signs, we are having a non-uniform day on FRI 6th OCT. We shall be asking for a £1 contribution if your child comes to school not wearing uniform that day.**



## School rules

At the beginning of the year, we always remind children about the school rules. They are based on consideration, safety and respect. It is useful for parents to share our expectations:

- We walk in school, not run.
- We talk quietly, not shout.
- We respect each other and their property (including care for school property).
- We look after our things (don't lose or break them).
- We are kind to each other and take care of each other.
- We are polite and always use kind language.
- We tell the truth (even though sometimes that is difficult or gets us into trouble).
- We are proud of ourselves and our school (wearing our uniforms smartly and with pride).
- We never try to hurt or upset anyone, treating others as we wish to be treated.
- We stop talking and moving at the hand signal.
- Keep CALM to make the right choice. (When we are feeling angry, **C**—choose to breathe, **A**—ask for a moment to consider before acting, **L**—listen and think, **M**—make the right choice.)

## Harvest assembly Wed 11th October 2pm

Please join us to watch our children's performances to celebrate our annual harvest festival.

Free entry. Enter through the middle hall doors only. Parking will be available in the junior playground from 1.45pm.

In this year's presentations, we shall be exploring some of the references to harvest in the teachings of the world's main religions.

As we do every year, we have an appeal for donations of food that we distribute to needy, elderly people living locally. Ideal foods to send in are dry packaged foods or tinned goods, such as pasta, rice, tinned beans, tomatoes, tuna, sardines, dried fruit, cook-in sauces. Treats such as biscuits and crackers are always appreciated. We ask you to check the sell-by dates before you send items in. The foods must have a sell-by date no earlier than January 2018, as the food parcels are sent out pre-Christmas. You may send in donations of food from now on—just hand them to your child's teacher or teacher assistant.

## Homework reminders

- Your child's homework diary comes home on a Friday with the week's homework recorded in it.
  - The homework MUST be returned by the following Wednesday.
  - The homework diary MUST be returned on Thursday of the following week.
- TOP TIP - is your trouble struggling to remember their times tables?**



**5-a-day TOP TIP!** If your child is struggling to answer some of the times tables questions, show them how to use a known fact to help them. For example if your child does not know what  $5 \times 7 =$  is demonstrate how knowing  $5 \times 6 = 30$  helps:

$$5 \times 6 = 30 \quad \rightarrow +5$$

$$5 \times 7 = 35 \quad \leftarrow$$

## House points, rewards and praise

At Maryland, children are placed in one of our five 'houses' when they first arrive in the school. There are several reasons for this. As children start to identify with their houses, they learn about collective responsibility and can earn points every day towards a great treat at the end of the year—usually a trip to the cinema or something similar. Points can be earned for excellent work or effort, for exceeding at following the school rules (see page 1), e.g. an particular act of kindness, generosity or honesty.

Houses help us to group children, e.g. for PE, sports day. Again the sense of collective responsibility is important, but also collective effort and friendly rivalry that develops a sense of good sportsmanship.

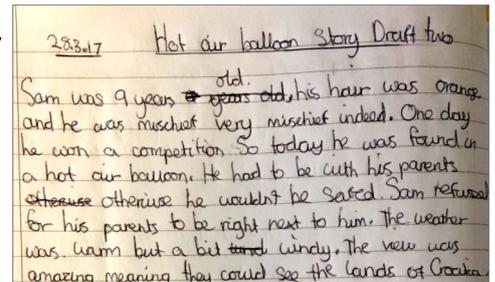
## Do we have your up to date address and phone number?

If you, or any of your child's **other emergency contacts**, have recently got a new phone number or changed address, please let the school know immediately. You can get a form from the office to fill in with your new details.

## Do you know about our 'Pen passport'?

From as early as possible, ideally in Year 1, we start to teach children who are forming their letters well to **join** their writing. The purpose of joined up writing is not for presentation, but to develop writing **speed**. Speed writing is vital if we are to write fluently, i.e. keep up with our thought processes. Handwriting is not on its way out, as many believe. We don't always have computers with us when we need to write and you have to be a very fast typist to type as fast as you can write.

To encourage our children to join their writing and write at speed, we award 'pen passports' as soon as they achieve this skill. The writing does not have to be 'beautiful', but it **does** have to be joined and legible. You would be surprised how early this can happen. Last year by the end of the Year 2 at least 15 pupils had already earned their pen passports. Here is the handwriting of one of those Year 2 children back in March at the age of 7 years. Ask your child if s/he has a pen passport.... **YET!** If not, please help us with the encouragement some children need to persevere and earn it. As soon as they do, they need no longer work in pencil. They are able to write in pen—something they all see as a great reward.



## We are so proud!

Our previous pupil, **Gavin Choy**, popped in to see us to share his GCSE results. He got 12A\* and one A. Stunning! He sees his future as a theoretical physicist and given his A\* in maths and science subjects, we are sure he will achieve his goal. He tells us he is going to apply to Oxford or Cambridge for his university education. We are so proud that Gavin started his education journey at Maryland and developed his great love of learning when he was here. We wish him every success. Keep us posted, Gavin.

## Puzzle corner

## Diary Oct & Nov 2017

**Autumn Word Search**

autumn  
fall  
leaves  
pumpkin  
scarecrow  
rake  
harvest

Non-uniform day—£1.00 contribution per child (see page 1)	Fri 6 Oct
Harvest Festival. 2pm prompt start . See page 1 for details.	Wed 11 Oct
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. See the autumn class newsletter for venues children will be visiting.	w/c 30 Oct
Individual and family photographs. Family photographs before and after school.	Tue 31 Oct
Maryland United meeting. 3pm in staffroom. Crèche available. All welcome.	Wed 8 Nov
Assessment Week Y1-Y6	w/c 20 Nov
Bikeability course for Y5 and Y6. Three full days.	From 30 Nov

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

