



MARYLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER

Message from Mrs Jackson Headteacher



Dear Parents and Carers,
Thank you for your wonderful support with ensuring your children attend school everyday in spite of issues around road-works, weather and illness. Attendance figures are above average.

Staffing: welcome to Ms Ellie Page who has taken over from Mrs. Manning in our SEND team (Special Ed Needs & Disability). Y4 teacher, Mrs. Garside, is still very unwell and is facing more surgery. Thanks to Mr. Mills who has taught her class for the past 3 months.



Ms Ellie Page

Some parents have expressed concern over the game app *Roblox*. Parents need to monitor how their child is using the app as there are areas that they may find inappropriate for young children.

We are waiting excitedly for Mr Lock's baby boy to be born. The baby's date of birth and name will be announced shortly.



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What Ofsted said

The school was inspected by OFSTED on 12th December 2017. We are proud to say that we were praised in many areas. OFSTED told us that:

- we inspire pupils with unique opportunities
- we lead and develop much innovation, both in the school and in the borough.
- our innovative curriculum meets the needs of all our pupils well
- children's writing is powerful and of a high standard
- in all sessions, pupils are fully engaged and motivated to learn
- pupils enjoy coming to school
- the school has a clear ethos that no-one is left behind
- mastery provides enrichment to the curriculum
- the teachers are doing a cracking good job

We hope you are as proud as we are and assured that Maryland School is doing the best for your child.

Parents' Evenings 1:1 meetings 24th & 25th January

Thank you for attending our Parents' Evenings last week and for completing our 2018 parent survey. 341 parents attended over the 2 evenings—our highest attendance ever recorded.

Your opinion matters to us and does make a difference. If you have not yet completed the survey please enter this link (goo.gl/5nzxzg) into your browser. This will give you access to the form. Alternatively you can scan the QR code or ask for a paper copy in the school office. The survey closes on **9th February**. The results will be published in our March newsletter.

Buxton Road is now one-way

The decision to make the road one-way was not due to the school's request. It was decided by the Local Authority to make Buxton Road part of a planned cycle route and nothing to do with making the road safer for our children. As we have seen this week, the LA, have in fact made the exit for children unsafe by removing our zig zag lines and the KEEP CLEAR markings from our double playground gates, narrowing the entrance also for service vehicles that have to access the school for maintenance on the west side. Two parking bays have replaced the markings. The school is waiting for a response from the council.

Half a century - Maryland School will be 50 years old on 6th May 2018!

Maryland Infant and Junior schools were two separate schools opened in 1968. We joined to become a Primary School in 1990. We are planning to hold our 50th anniversary celebration in June when the weather is warm and we can celebrate outdoors. We have a provisional date of 6th July so please put the date in your diary!

Star Pupils earn us a 5 Star Award

Maryland Primary school has been awarded Gold Star accreditation by Transport for London (TfL).

There are three levels of STARS accreditation: bronze, silver and gold. Maryland is among the **top 10%** of London schools, setting high standards to inspire others to transform travel habits and see a measurable reduction in the number of journeys made by car every day.



Road Safety and Travel Ambassadors

Nana, Dania, Teodora, Favour
Aaron, Kayla, Andreja, Resha

No fighting!

We are constantly reminding the children about following the school rules, one of which is NO FIGHTING which includes NO PLAY FIGHTING.

However, due to the popular interest in Superheroes, Star Wars and Power Rangers, the infants are imitating the story characters, which sometimes causes children to hurt each other. Please reinforce this rule with your child at home.

Assessing your child's progress—review of assessment procedures

In 2015, the government changed the assessment system so that children's progress was no longer measured using 'levels'. Schools had to find a way to report attainment and achievement. Most schools used the criteria **Below Expected, Expected, and Above Expected**. After consultation, we decided to report achievement measurement using **percentages**. We are reviewing this system after a number of enquiries at Parents' Evening. We will be working with our curriculum governors (which includes parents) to research alternative measures. If you have any further comments on this please complete the parent survey or contact the senior leadership team.

In this issue:

- Ofsted inspection
- Parent survey



QR code



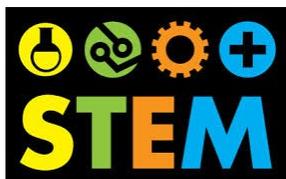
Older children can now get Tax Free Childcare

Parents whose youngest child is under nine can now apply online for Tax Free Childcare. From 14 February 2018, the support will become available for all families with children under 12 years old. Parents, including the self-employed, can apply online for Tax Free Childcare by visiting the Childcare Choices website. You can also find the government's childcare calculator here, which can help you work out which government childcare support option is best for you and your family.

<https://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/childcare-guides>



STEM with UCL.



What is STEM? STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and maths. It is a way of learning where all subjects are combined into projects. In December, we have become a link school to University College London. Engineering students are volunteering their time, weekly, to work with pupils at Maryland with the aim of supporting reading and maths through the STEM subjects. They will be supporting children in lessons and also be reading STEM based books to the children with the aim of growing children's interest in science, technology, engineering and maths.

European survey of ICT in schools

Did you know there are nearly 25,000 schools in England? 100 of those schools have been chosen to take part in a survey to find out about how they use Information Technology. Maryland school was chosen as one of the 100—we remain one of the leaders in the borough for ICT innovation.

We need your help to fundraise for a new bouncy castle

After many years of providing us with lots of fun our old bouncy castle has worn out. It was paid for by the Parent Teacher Association (Maryland United) who raised over £1000 to buy it for the school. We now need to raise £1500 to buy a new one (not the one on the picture). Please support our upcoming fundraising activities & feel free to make any voluntary contributions. Thank you for your support.



Lost Property—we have a mountain of unclaimed items

You may have noticed the pile of lost property items at Parents' Evening. Hats, scarves, gloves, jumpers, coats, bags...all with no name label so we are unable to find the owner of the items.

Health and Safety ALERT!

Although we love to promote sport, we are having to stop some of the boys playing football as they are wearing studded football boots on the pitch (the blue astroturf MUGA). Studs damage the pitch and can cause injuries to other children. Some children are keeping the studded boots on indoors, with nothing to change into. It is mainly Y4 boys breaking this rule. Black trainers are acceptable.

Good news!

Our school kitchen has also been awarded 5 stars by Newham council for hygiene. Top marks again!

FANCY COMING TO OUR COFFEE MORNINGS?

Venue: Children's Centre
Time: 9:15am to 11:15am
Monday 26th February 2018

Puzzle corner



WEATHER



R F Y D R I Z Z L E R D C V S
E M W Y B R C E X W Z D F U U
D O I L A W C X F V B H O K N
N R N Y D G Y L B G F T G E S
U C D S X E R U O P A S E D H
H A W R T M N J U U K M N B I
T J I K O R P M N B D C E W N
X Q A Z B O M J Y H G S F R E
A L I G H T N I N G T Y H U L
F M T X W S L P D X Z E R T L
Q D M X T H I T W T R D W V P
Z V N J R D Q S G K J O B G F
C M I S T P U O F C N E S X Z
B G T R F C D R W S X Z A Q W
M L P I U G F F W S A H A I L

SUNSHINE SNOW WIND
CLOUDS MIST LIGHTNING
DRIZZLE HAIL FROST
FOG THUNDER STORM

Clues may run forwards, backwards, diagonally,

Diary Feb/March 2018

Last day of Term 3. School finishes at 3.15pm.	Fri 9 Feb
First day of Term 4. 8.55am start.	Mon 19 Feb
Educational visits week. Neuroscience assembly. All welcome. Time: TBA	w/c 19 Feb
Visit from Director for Strategic Commissioning (Education) 2.30pm-4pm.	Mon 26 Feb
Mother's Day sale. After school	Fri 9 Mar
Discovery afternoon: British Science Week. All welcome.	Mon 12th Mar
Year 6 'Mock' SATs	w/c 19 Mar
Easter assembly. All welcome. 2pm start.	Wed 28 Mar
Year 6 Academic Review day. 1:1 appointments with parents.	Tues 27 Mar
Last day of Term 4—BREAK UP FOR EASTER	Thu 29 Mar

Please contact Ms Boreham, Deputy Headteacher, if you wish to advertise in our monthly newsletter.

