



# MARYLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

## MARCH 2018 NEWSLETTER

### Message from Mrs Jackson Headteacher



Dear Parents and Carers,  
**I hope your children have enjoyed the trips, visitors and events of term 3.**

**School budget.** As you may know, school budgets are under pressure and we want to keep on providing your children with memorable experiences. Within the next few months we will continue to consult with our Parent-Teacher Association (Maryland United) and the school governors, to find ways to continue to fund many of our activities that are currently free of charge to parents, if they are to continue. If you would like to join the discussion, you can either attend the next M.U. meeting on 26/4/18 or contact the school by email.

We would like to **welcome** two new Maryland-ers into the world. Congratulations to Mr Lock, whose baby son (10lbs 6 oz) was born on Wed 7th Feb AND to teacher Mrs Islam, whose baby daughter was born on 9<sup>th</sup> February weighing 6lbs 9oz) We also warmly welcome Miss Liu who will be teaching in Class 9, covering for Mrs Garside who is still unwell. We welcome back Mrs Manku, she will be returning to Mr Halai's class. **March will be a busy but exciting month.**

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

☎ 020 8534 8135

☎ Fax: 020 8534 4426

✉ E-mail:

info@maryland.newham.sch.uk

@MarylandPrimary

**Dressing up for World Book Day postponed to Tuesday 6th March.**

#### **Snow Alert!**

Bad weather is forecast over the next few days. Check the school website and your mobile phone for updates.

#### **Parents' Survey 2018.**

Thank you to all those parents who completed our parent survey. For the first time we used Google forms, and also provided paper copies.

We reviewed many of the questions with the aim of understanding more about your opinions to make positive changes to Maryland. Several of the questions we ask are the same each year, because we like to make sure we are *consistently providing a high standard*. You will note that I have quoted last year's figure in **blue** for this reason.

Here are the highlights:

**Progress** –90% of you said that that the progress your child makes at Maryland is good or excellent.

-74% **found** the reporting of achievement in percentages easy to understand.

- Many of you requested that we should report your child's progress more regularly.

-You asked for more difficult tasks, extra classes, more challenge and more 1:1 time with the teacher.

-*As a result, we will be reporting your child's progress three times a year. You will be receiving an **academic progress report on Thursday 29th March**. Our teacher training will focus on challenge for all pupils in all lessons and our marking policy includes the importance of 1:1 time with pupils to assess and feedback on work. If you have any questions about this, please speak to your class teacher.*

**Homework** –58% of parents said that there were no problems with homework. 42% of parents said 'sometimes'.

-92% of you are happy with the yellow homework book and how it communicates the tasks to complete.

-*As a result we have provided the homework clinic every Tuesday, to support all parents and students*

-94% of you are happy with the presentation and delivery of the monthly newsletter. 50% of you said that you would still like to trial the newsletter online.

-All of you have read our most recent Ofsted report, with some very positive comments such as 'job well done' and 'I'm happy the school is doing well'.

**Reading** –There was a decrease of parents reading with their child every day from **60%** last year, to 42% this year There has been an increase in the number of parents working daily from *Mental Maths 5 a day to 82% (60%) daily or 2-3 times a week. It is so important to keep up with reading and mental maths with your child **every day**, to ensure they can cope with the demands of the national curriculum. Little and often is the only 'painless' way to build up speed. We thank you to all those who offered to support us by reading with our pupils. We will be in touch with you soon.*

**Physical Exercise** 72% of you said that your child exercises daily or 2-3 times a week. The government recommendation is that all primary children should exercise for 1 hour a day. *As a result we are reviewing our playground activities to ensure that children are moving more energetically. We have employed a play leader for the Junior lunchtimes and employed three more Lunchtime Managers to help engage all children play during breaktimes. We will review our after school clubs provision to ensure that as many opportunities for exercise are provided to your children. Support us by taking them for a run around the park.* By the end of this year we will have provided at least 20 clubs, some of which run all year, comparing very favourably with 3 outstanding schools in Newham that provide 20, 18 and 10 clubs respectively.

**Technology** We understand that technology is transforming all our lives. We thank you for requesting training on particular aspects of technology in our school life such as E-safety, Google Classroom and Mathletics. Timings and dates for these workshops to follow. Thank you so much for the many complimentary comments we had about what you like best about our school and equally those comments that suggest how we might improve. We will with you to make Maryland even better.

#### **Important changes to Junior 'Eat for Free' scheme.**

The local authority have informed us of some changes to the way the school gets funding to pay for Junior school meals under the 'eat for free' scheme. From the 2nd April 2018, the school will **now receive a grant** each term to cover the costs for providing junior school meals under the 'Eat for Free' scheme. **We are very pleased** this grant has been made available to all ensure all Junior pupils have a healthy and satisfying lunch.



#### **School Closure for Local and Mayoral Elections Thursday 3rd May 2018**

The school is being used by the council as a polling station on 3rd May so will be closed. There will be no afterschool or Children's Centre services that day. You may have been told that we are closing on 25th May—well, we will in fact be **OPEN** on the 25th May but **CLOSED** on Thursday 3rd May instead.

#### In this issue:

- Eat for Free continues
- Parents' survey
- VIP visitors
- Growth Mindset
- Science & research projects



## Director of Education, Grainne Siggins 26th February

Miss Siggins met with staff and the Chair of Governors to discuss our achievements and successes in the borough. Her role is pivotal in Newham, providing support and allocating finance to schools. We are the first school in Newham that she has visited since taking up her role. She commented on the wonderful unique opportunities we provide and was complimentary to our young musicians whose lessons she observed.

## VIPs—coming soon! Professor Shimado from Osaka University 12th March and 16th March

The professor will visit Maryland to conduct research into our innovative processes and leadership techniques. She will visit on the Monday and the Thursday, we are looking forward to her taking part in our Science afternoon. She has been recommended to visit the school by Professor Kihara, who has previously visited and researched Maryland. Their research supports their work in teacher training and development in Osaka, Japan.

**Science Afternoon. All welcome. Monday March 12th 2018.** Have you wondered how we teach science at Maryland? Please come along to our science open afternoon on **Monday March 12th 3:30pm- 4:30pm**. All teachers will be carrying out mini experiments with you and your children. We want to show you how important science experiments are, and how easy they can be to carry out at home. Teachers will then be discussing the science and scientist behind each experiment. The event is part of our British Science Week celebrations, children will be investigating and conducting some awe inspiring experiments in class. Due to its success, we would like to invite parents to experience all things scientific with us.



**Growth Mindset** How are your tulips growing? Now Spring is nearly upon us, please let us know how your tulips are growing. Photos can be emailed to [info@maryland.newham.sch.uk](mailto:info@maryland.newham.sch.uk). Our recent assemblies have discussed with children **the importance of mistakes**. Please help us to continue this message to your children by discussing your own mistakes that you've made and the lessons that you have learnt. When we discuss our mistakes and struggles in a **positive way**, it will show children that **taking risks and making mistakes** are a **natural part of the learning** process. Trying something hard helps us to grow, like the tulip, and we can't be perfect if we're trying something hard!



## Neuroscientist study starts April 2018

**Birkbeck university** will be working with Maryland students on a new scientific study to investigate how children's brains handle problems. The study will **support maths and science lessons**, particularly some of the problems that children have to tackle as part of the curriculum. The aim of the study is to **investigate how children tackle tricky problems** through studying the way children respond to **online brain games**. The children will be using the 'stop and think' strategy, where a problem is introduced and children are given deliberate time to stop and think before tackling. The results will be measured in the summer term and published later as part of national research for the **Education Endowment Foundation** and the **NERF**. Children and parents have been invited to have a photograph of their brain through an MRI scan. If you would like to find out more, please contact the Year 3 and Year 5 teachers.



## Maryland welcomes the Museum of Archeology

Did you see the giant truck in the Junior playground? All our Junior pupils took part in a number of artefact handling workshops provided by the Museum of Archeology. The workshops are a unique opportunity for pupils to handle artefacts with specialists on hand to enrich the experience. All the workshops focus around the history and heritage of London such as the underground rivers and sewage system, as well as skeletons found in Shakespeare's Globe Theatre.

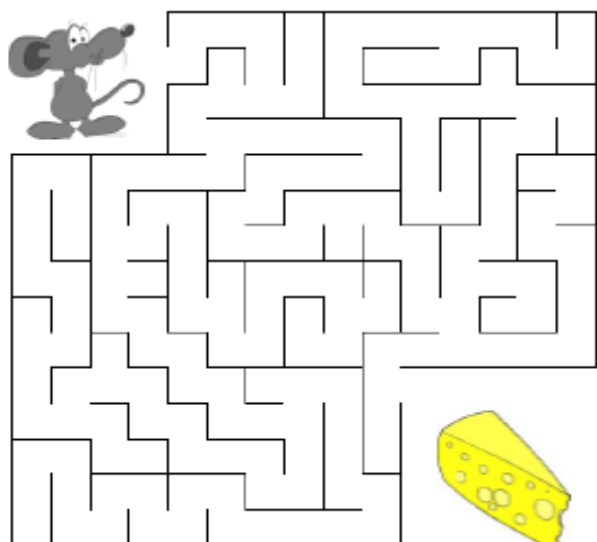
**Save money on SAT's revision books** Children in Years 2 and 6 are getting close to writing their SAT's tests. Regular revision is important. We are selling revision books at up to 22% less than the shops. Teachers have a stock of these for sale. **The books vary in price from £6.00 (OUR PRICE £5.00) to £2.99 (OUR PRICE £2.50).** Please ask at Reception for further details.

## PARENTS' CORNER

We enjoy getting positive feedback from parents. Here is what one parent has to say about ...*Do you have positive feedback for us to share with our community*

### Puzzle corner

Help the mouse find his way through the maze to the cheese.



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

## Diary Mar/Apr 2018

"E-safety" parents' workshop 3.15pm-4.15pm	Tue 6 Mar
Mother's Day and Bake and Take sale. After school	Fri 9 Mar
Discovery afternoon: British Science Week. All welcome.	Mon 12th Mar
"Using Google classroom" parents' workshop 3.15pm-4.15pm	Tues 13 Mar
Year 6 'Mock' SATs-test week	w/c 19 Mar
Year 6 Academic Review day. 1:1 appointments with parents.	Tues 27 Mar
Easter assembly. All welcome. 2pm start.	Wed 28 Mar
Last day of Term 4—BREAK UP FOR EASTER	Thu 29 Mar
Start of Term 5, 8.55a.m.	Mon 16 Apr
Children's class photos	Thu 19 Apr
Maryland United meeting. All welcome. Creche available 3.15pm	Thu 26 Apr

