



# MARYLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

## FEBRUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER

### Message from Mrs Jackson Headteacher



Dear Parents and Carers,

#### Staffing:

Welcome to Mr Brock who has joined us this term as our new music and choir teacher. Also to Miss Waltrush who is joining the Nursery team. We say farewell to Miss Atkinson who is moving on to train as a Dental Nurse.

#### Vacancy:

Interviews will take place on 7th February to appoint our assistant caretaker. I will keep you posted.

**Congratulations !!!!!**  
**More Maryland staff babies are on the way! Miss Boreham is expecting a baby girl on July 23rd and Mr.Lock is also having a new addition to his family when his baby girl is born on 7th July. What great news.**

#### HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR PHONE NUMBER OR ADDRESS?

Please parents, this is vital to the health and safety of your children. We need to be able to contact you by phone in case of emergency. Again we have had emergencies where no one can be contacted. It will mean sending your child to hospital with a member of staff if the situation arises. Also please do not send teenagers to collect Nursery or infant children unless you have organised this with the school in writing. We will refuse their collection without this arrangement.

#### Maryland in the news:

Please see article in the Guardian newspaper written about how we enhance pupils learning through using volunteers.

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2019/jan/22/should-schools-fill-key-roles-with-volunteers>

#### Celebrating success in Newham!

We are very proud to share Newham's 2018 SATS results with you, which were amongst the best in the country! 76% of pupils in Newham achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics, meaning that the borough is ranked **2nd** out of all 152 local authorities. Newham's progress measure in reading, writing and maths was ranked 2nd, 2nd and 1st respectively in England too! For more information about how Maryland and the local authority are performing please see <https://www.gov.uk/school-performance-tables>

#### New clubs

We are very pleased to let you know about two new clubs, which will be beginning in the Spring term:

**Fizz Pop Science:** This exciting, hands on science club for Years 1-6 will take place on Mondays for 5 weeks beginning on Monday 25th February. The club will be introduced in a special science assembly with the club organiser, Anthony Withstandley, on 7th February. Look out for letters coming home soon!

**French Club:** Language Angels French Club will begin too. 'Explorers' club for Years 1-3 will run on Tuesdays for and 'Pathfinders' club for Years 4-6 will run on Wednesdays. For more information please see: <http://speaklikeanative.com/maryland/>

#### STEM events

We are always looking for exciting ways to engage pupils with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) learning and have been successful in applying for grant funding through the Royal Institution to provide some exciting workshops and events for pupils.

On **Monday 25th February** the children will be treated to an 'Energy Live!' show provided for free by the Royal Institution. There will be lively fire based demonstrations to teach pupils all about different types of energy.

After the success of last year's **Science Fair** we will be hosting this event again this year to celebrate National Science Week on **Tuesday 12th March**. Keep the date free in your diaries and join us to take part in lots of exciting science experiments!

Pupils will also all take part in a 'Race To Space' maths day courtesy of AS Creatives on **Wednesday 13th March**. After meeting the Major at an opening assembly, and being introduced to the would-be astronauts, each class will be issued with a Mission: to use their maths skills to rank the candidates on one of a number of qualities. On this date we will also be inviting parents to attend a **Family Maths** workshop hosted by the company after school. Please attend if you can **at 3.30pm** to take part in some practical maths activities with your children.

#### Our survey

Have you completed our annual parents and carers survey yet? Your opinions are extremely valuable because they help us to understand what we are doing well at and what areas we can improve in. If you haven't already completed a survey via the text that was sent or at Parent's Evening, please scan the QR code to complete this. Alternatively enter this link (<https://goo.gl/X4yG3W>) on the internet to access the survey. The survey will close on **Monday 4th February**. We will update you on the results of the survey in next month's newsletter.

#### Parent's Evening and Book Fair

334 children were represented at Parents' Evening out of our total roll of 410. Well done, and thank you Maryland parents for always making the effort to attend our Parents' Evenings, and therefore supporting us with your child's learning. We sold £601 worth of books at our Book Fair during the January Parents' Evening. This meant that we were able to **raise the sum of £300 for new books** for our school library. Thank you very much for promoting reading with your children!

#### PE kits—reminder of kit

PE is a national curriculum subject that all pupils must participate in. For health and hygiene reasons, children must change out of their school uniform for P.E. We have observed that a lot of pupils are not bringing their PE kits to school and therefore missing out on their lessons. Please ensure that kits are brought in on Monday mornings and taken home on Friday to be washed. Developing sporting skills and having regular exercise are important for your child's wellbeing. We trust that you will support us with this.

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## Bright Futures Orphanage

A letter from one of our parents was published in the January Newsletter regarding the above project and we are pleased to say that through your support and generosity, we were able to raise the sum of £400 to support the orphanage in Nigeria! The family in conjunction with school staff, held an assembly on 19th January where the pupils learnt about the journey of the orphanage so far. The money raised will be used to provide resources such as books, toys, electronic devices etc. for the orphans. A very big thank you from the family and Maryland staff!



## French at Maryland

All Key Stage 2 classes are being taught French every week by their class teachers and children are really enjoying learning the language. We are very lucky to have a French speaking volunteer, Amelle from the company Vinci at the London Stadium, who comes in weekly to support with lessons. Having a native speaker is helping pupils develop their conversational French.



## Every child a theatre goer

Year 6 visited the Stratford Circus to watch a performance of William Shakespeare's 'A Winter's Tale' as part of Newham's 'Every Child a Theatre Goer' initiative. It was an extremely memorable experience for the pupils and their behaviour was exemplary!

## Ex pupil visit

Maryland welcomed back parents of Linda Huang who attended Maryland from 1992-1996. She is now a very successful graphic designer in New York and she designs book front covers, with work appearing in the New York Times. Her parents said her success was down to the brilliant start the school had given her. 'It is a school that truly cares about the child and we always wanted to come back to see it.' Linda's parents lived very close to the school, then moved to Hong Kong, where they are now based. What a success story!



## Wright Education Holiday Club

All year round – Half term (Oct, Feb, May), Easter and Summer

Open from Monday 18th February-Friday 22nd February from 7:30- 6:00pm. Full days £25, half days £18.

Contact details: Tel: 07852137462, Sandra Wright. Email: [info@wrighteducationuk.com](mailto:info@wrighteducationuk.com)

## King Coaching Holiday Project

Danielle King, our sports coach, will be offering a holiday club during half term from Monday 18th February-Friday 22nd February. Breakfast and a tea time meal will be provided. A packed lunch should be provided by the parent. The cost of the club is £18.50 per day. A 5% discount is offered if you book for the whole week and for siblings booking the whole week. For more information or to book a place for your child please call Danielle King on 07960890304.

## Meet our Governors!

Hi! I'm Beth Visser and I'm one of the newest Co-opted Governors at Maryland. I live round the corner from the school, but grew up just over the river in Eltham and have always lived in London. I have three fantastic boys; one in Reception and twins who regularly attend the Children's Centre.



Since leaving university I've worked in several corporate and charity roles, developing a varied skillset in communications and marketing through work in responsible business, website design and even several years in feature film production!

I have a passion for all things digital. Technology is changing the way we live at an exponential rate, and I think it's incredibly important to not only prepare our children for this, but also to understand it ourselves as parents. Helping kids understand online safety, and the fact that everything we do online creates a 'digital self', is something I think is really important. The recent online safety training at Maryland was fantastic - if you missed it check out [www.net-aware.org.uk](http://www.net-aware.org.uk) to find out more about the apps your kids use. Also, LSE has recently launched some [research](#) on how children themselves [understand privacy](#) online, which I am following keenly.

Maryland has done brilliantly in becoming a Google School and using apps to enhance children's learning, and I'm excited about the plans to expand the school's technological capabilities through the new media room and provide tablets for all classes.

Every one of the governors has a unique skillset that they bring to the board. We use our knowledge, skills and experience to both support the school but also challenge it when necessary. I like to think of the role as that of a 'critical friend' – one who has the best interests of the children as the basis of their decisions but is also empowered to suggest positive change when it's needed.

I look forward to supporting our brilliant school and helping in any way I can to ensure the huge success of every single pupil.

Beth

## Diary Feb/March 2019

Last day of Term 3. School finishes for half term holiday at 3.15pm	Fri 15th Feb
First day of Term 4. 8.55am start.	Mon 25th Feb
Educational visits week.	w/c 25thFeb
Assessment week and Year 6 mock SATS week	w/c 11th March
Science fair 3.30pm	Tue 12th March
Family maths workshop 3.30pm	Wed 13th March
Year 6 Academic Review Day	Thur 21st March
Mother's Day sale. After school	Fri 29th Mar

