

Our history

FASCINATING FACT!

When our school was built, Newham closed off a small road between Gurney and Buxton Roads. This was very unpopular, so we had to keep the Buxton Road gate open to allow people to walk through the school, even during school hours.

FASCINATING FACT!

Many years ago, education was not free and children had to pay "School pence" every week. Some families were too poor to do this, so absenteeism was very high.

The history of Maryland Primary School

We are very grateful to Chris Emms, headteacher between 1977-1990 for the following information.

The history of Maryland School goes back a long way, before 1869, but not always on the present site. At that time it was situated in Francis Street and was called Maryland Point School and educated up to 87 pupils until 1886 when it was closed. It was replaced by Maryland Primary School in Maryland Square. By 1894 there were places for 1354 pupils in a 3 storey Victorian building with 3 headteachers. Infants were on the ground floor, junior girls on the 1st floor and junior boys on the 2nd floor.

There was after school teaching for "pupil teachers" who were taught by teachers and who would take some of the large classes during the day themselves. Exceptional pupil teachers could sit for the Queen's Gold Medal and if successful, were able to go to college to qualify as certificated assistant teachers. Even then, Maryland was thought to be the best there was!

The school was reorganised for junior girls and infants in 1937. During World War 2, as an emergency measure, Maryland became an all age school for boys and girls up to 14 years old. In 1945, it became a primary school again with junior and infant departments, each with its own headteacher. When the old Victorian school was demolished, Maryland Primary School as we know it was opened in May 1968 as a junior and infant school on the same site, but with 2 headteachers.

FASCINATING FACT!

The Mistress or Master had to keep a log book. If they failed to keep it up to date, they had money docked from their Salary.

FASCINATING FACT!

The poet Matthew Arnold was a school inspector in this area.