



MARYLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

OCTOBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

Message from Mrs Jackson



Headteacher

Dear Parents,

We are one month into the Autumn Term and all is going well so far. Attendance is good and sickness rates are low. The children are so happy to be back in school so let us keep going.

Winter colds and flu

At this time of year the children normally suffer from colds. Winter vomiting flu normally hits around January and February. If your child is unwell, please keep them at home.

Flu immunisation (by nasal spray) will be offered to all children by the NHS this year as protection against the flu virus. Forms have been sent home. Please return forms by **13th October**. The NHS will carry out the immunisation on **4th November** in school.

Parent Governor elections

The closing date for applications is 6th October. Collect your form from the office.

Colourful Friday 2nd October 2020

Please help to brighten up the term and support our fundraising efforts by joining in Colourful Friday.

Winter is nearly here...children will be doing activities that may be outdoors so must be dressed warmly. Please ensure they have an outdoor kit for PE sessions.

We bid farewell to Mrs. Pat Wicks after 35 years of service to Maryland

She is the friendly face you see at the Reception desk.

Mrs. Wicks started here as a parent of Maryland, then became a 'dinner lady', followed by being the Junior school Welfare lady (doing playground duty and delivering milk around the school) until finally she became the school's receptionist when Maryland Infants and Juniors amalgamated. How amazing. She would now like to enjoy her retirement as well as being needed by her family to help with the grandchildren.

She says 'I will miss the wonderful staff and children of Maryland but also the friendly parents who walk in through the front door every day.'

If you wish to make a contribution towards her retirement gift then please put your donation into an envelope marked for the attention of Mrs. Reynolds with your family name on it.



The votes are in....

On Monday 21st September hustings took place where Year 6 pupils delivered their manifesto speeches to pupils and staff. For the rest of the week children in each class then voted for their choice of Head Boy and Head Girl. On Friday 25th September the votes were counted and results announced:

- Head Boy - Muhammed
- Head Girl - Lilianna
- Deputy Head Boy - King
- Deputy Head Girl - Lakshmi

Well done to all of the candidates who applied including Nathan and Dua who were only a few votes away from being elected, keep persevering.

Introducing our COVID Champions - Mr. Lock (DHT) and Mrs. Qureshi (Senior Welfare Officer). They will update you each month on health and safety matters relating to Covid.

Please see below:

Please be reminded that there is a list of safety measures that are in place in light of Covid displayed on the **school website**. Reminders to parents, please:

- Do not gather in groups outside classroom doors
- Keep a 1-2 meter distance from the class staff whilst dropping or collecting your child
- Do not have lengthy conversations with staff at the door (please communicate your message or arrange for a meeting by calling the school office)
- Keep any paper copies of completed homework at home.

In case the school or phase bubble has to close...

If the phase bubble has to be sent home for blended learning and isolation children will be asked to log on to complete work offsite. Completing this work is not optional and is legally required. It is vital therefore to inform us by **Friday 2nd October** if you have no access to digital devices, such as a laptop/tablet or the internet.

Sports Day

Year groups have organised their own events in their phase group bubbles, unfortunately without our lovely parents this year. There will be fewer events this year due to the rules on mass gatherings, so the Harvest Assembly for parents is also cancelled.

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Lunchtime contingency...in case the school kitchen has to close

If the school kitchen becomes short of staff for any reason, schools are required to have a contingency plan in place. Should the kitchen need to be closed temporarily for any reason, the following actions will be put in place:

- Juniper (school catering service) will deliver cold packed lunches
- Sandwich options will be ordered in class
- Allergies/dietary requirements will be taken into account when ordering
- All children will eat their lunches in the classroom
- Parents will be informed
- Children will be able to bring their own packed lunch if parents opt for this

Changes to the curriculum this term - Educational Visits

We are unable to take children out of school on educational visits this term but we are still booking visitors to come to school to provide exciting workshops and theatrical performances. For example, Year 3 will be visited by an expert from the Museum of London on **11th November** to learn about the Bronze Age. All visitors will maintain distancing and hygiene protocols for safety. We are also unable to host any of our big events this year so there will be no Harvest Assembly for families. We will still celebrate Harvest Festival in school and organise a collection to support those in need.



Homework

Pupils are being set weekly Mathletics activities to complete for homework. Key Stage 2 children have been given a 'Ready Steady Think' booklet to study this term. There are lots of critical thinking questions in this booklet to discuss as a family. You should have received your child's logins for Mathletics and Google Classroom, as we will be setting homework for any pupils who need to self isolate. Please keep these somewhere safe and ask the teacher if you are unsure of these.

Parents' Evenings 21st and 22nd October

Parents' Evenings are coming up on the dates above. These will be an opportunity for you to discuss your child's progress and how they have settled back in to school life with their teacher. We will be putting a number of safety measures in place. Meetings will take place in classrooms with measures for social distancing in place. Rather than entering the school through the hall we will be asking parents to wait outside the external classroom door. We therefore ask that parents are punctual, but not early to appointments. Please wear a face covering to keep yourself and our staff safe. We are unable to host a Book Fair at this year's Parents' Evenings. You must book your appointment by the Parentmail booking system which will go live on **5th October** so please look out for a notification.

REMINDER - DOWNLOAD THE PARENTMAIL APP TO BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT.

Diary 2020

Sports Days (Children Only)	Week beginning 28th September
Colourful Day	Friday 2nd October
Parent Governor Election Closes	6th October
Parents Evening (progress meeting): Appointments only: Wed: 3.30pm - 7pm Thurs: 3.30 - 5pm	Wednesday 21st - Thursday 22nd October
Half Term Holiday - School closed	Monday 26th - Friday 30th October

What do our pupils think of being back at Maryland?

We asked our pupils which words best describe how it feels to be back at Maryland Primary School and have collated the responses in these word clouds. We are delighted that pupils have such a positive feedback!



Please contact **Mrs Ansary, Technical Manager**, if you wish to advertise in our monthly newsletter.

