



# Newsletter

Margaret McMillan

Primary School

Issue November 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week we held our first parent teacher meeting of the school year. You will have had the opportunity to discuss your child's progress and learning over the first half term in their new class and have been given a record of this. We asked you to complete our parents' questionnaire. This is currently being analysed and we will feed back shortly. It's important to us that we find out what you like about our school and what you would like us to do better. Children do the best when they are supported at home and at school and so, we must work together for the best outcomes.

Reading is a key focus for us because we know that children who learn to read confidently do better in all subjects at primary school, secondary school and later in life. Every child at MMPS has a reading book which they read in school every day and bring home with their reading record book in their book bag. The most valuable homework you can ever do with your child is to show them how important reading is. They should read their home reader every day at home (to an adult) and younger children love having books read to them as well. Older children can read longer books on their own but making some time to talk about what they have read is also really valuable. Please complete their reading record each time you listen to them read. Children who are good at reading have become good because they read a lot. The only way to get better at reading is to read – practice makes perfect!

Over the coming year we will be running many information workshops and events to promote reading and help you to help your children. Please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance if you need any advice or help with reading for your child.

Thank you

Lorraine Martin

Headteacher

# Phase updates

## Phase One

In Early Years the children have been exploring a theme about the Arctic. In Reception the children will be making an igloo as part of this. In Talk for Writing they have been doing 'Handa's Surprise' and linked this to healthy eating. Thank you to all those parents who attended the Reading session of Parent Play. I hope you are all enjoying the free book.

We have recently started our Parent Play sessions in Year one. Parent Play is a great opportunity for parents to get involved with their children's learning and discuss any issues they may have with school staff. We look forward to seeing lots more parents stopping by every Wednesday morning! We are having a big push on reading this half term and children are really enjoying all the varied reading activities that we have been doing over the past few weeks. The Year One team would like to say that we have noticed a lot of parents supporting their children's reading at home and appreciate your cooperation with this whole school target.

## Phase Two

In Year 2 we have been learning even more facts about the Great Fire of London. The children have worked hard to write some fantastic warning stories using amazing adjectives and interesting conjunctions. Lots of children brought in cereal boxes so that we could create a 1666 London Town and they will be able to take them home to show their families very soon. We have also painted some pebble pals which we are going to sell to raise money for school trips. In the next few weeks we are going to start practising our Christmas Show and hope that lots of parents will be able to come along to watch it.

Year 3 visited Bolton Abbey as part of our Plants topic and enjoyed exploring the woods during the activities. We have also been learning bonfire poems and writing our own Halloween poems following the Spooky Stories evening at school. The Police visited us to talk about cyber safety and we have been discussing The Rule of Law as part of our British Values work.

Year 4 have been busy learning all about spooky stories. We can't wait to have a go at writing our own. Our topic is Vikings and we are investigating what life was like in Viking times can't wait to find out more especially what the food was like! Our reading is improving daily through our shared reading lessons and we have really enjoyed helping each other expand our answers using evidence from the text. Look out for our fund raising events so that we can raise money to go to see Cinderella the pantomime at the Alhambra. As you can see, we are working really hard and deserve a nice treat.

## Phase Three

Year 5 have been continuing their theme of space. In literacy we have been writing non-chronological reports based around Star Wars which the children have thoroughly enjoyed. In numeracy we have begun a new focus of fractions. We have asked all the Y5 children to make sure they are practising their times tables every night up to the 12 x tables along with division facts to help support their learning in class. All 3 classes have taken part in a workshop with the Northern Ballet company who are based in Leeds. We will be visiting the Grand Theatre in Leeds on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December to see the Northern Ballet company in a performance based around what we have been learning in school.

Sixty children from Year 6 have just enjoyed an action packed adventure during a five day residential trip to Ullswater in the Lake District where they participated in a range of activities from raft building and canoeing to rock climbing and abseiling. The children who remained at school developed business enterprise and team building skills through a range of projects such as the apprentice day, where teams made, packaged, marketed and pitched their own product. Children from Year 6 are still running a stationary shop each break time in order to raise funds for school.

## Attendance

		Mars	93.9%	Saturn	91.1%
Jupiter	96.4%	Mercury	94.2%	Neptune	96.1%
Galileo	94.7%	Sharman	95.3%	Hawking	97.3%
Bronte	96.2%	Hockney	95.4%	Nightingale	93.7%
Adams	97.2%	Armstrong	93.6%	Newton	97.6%
Turing	97.7%	Pankhurst	97.3%	Ennis	94.8%
Mandela	97.4%	Malala	95.9%	Rowling	96.5%

Well done to all classes with more than 95% attendance!

# Diary Dates

Thursday 23rd November	Cyber Sessions with Year 5
Friday 24th November 9.00—10.00	Year 2 Reading Workshop
Thursday 7th December	Year 5 trip to the ballet
19th December and 20th December	KS1 Nativity (Separate letter to follow)
Thursday 21st December	Break up for Christmas

## TAC Team Update

### **TAC Team News**

We have several new parent volunteers reading with pupils in Year 4. If you have a spare hour between 2pm- 3pm on Thursdays and have a love of reading then please contact Mrs Lister.

### **Nurture Group**

The next family links Nurture group will begin on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018. If you would like to book a place please contact Mrs Begum . Places fill quickly so please book as soon as possible. Feedback from one parent about the group was, 'This has really helped my family work together as a team and the children are happier.'

### **Stay and Play**

Monday and Tuesday 1.30 – 3pm in the Parents' Hub, children from birth to 3 welcome. There is a free Lending Library for both parents and children. Build up your child's library with free reading books for all ages. Art and craft projects also on offer and much more. Everyone is welcome.

Please remember that in order to keep all our children safe Margaret McMillan is a NUT FREE ZONE. Please do not send your children with any nut products. Thank you

## Contact Us



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