



# Newsletter

## Margaret McMillan

### Primary School

Issue September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to wish you all a warm welcome back to school after the summer break. I hope you had a good summer and are ready to learn. I would like to welcome new families and children, particularly the new children to reception and nursery and hope that you will settle in and enjoy being part of our vibrant school community.

I would like to welcome Miss Holbeck who joins us in year 1 and Mrs Sharma Patel who has returned to MMPS following a year teaching in Leeds. Mrs Hodge and Mrs Williams have returned after their maternity leaves and Mrs Mullholland has now joined us permanently from Lilycroft Primary. We say a temporary farewell to Mrs Johnson who is leaving shortly to begin her maternity leave and wish her all the best. Mrs Hodge will be the Assistant Head for Phase 2, Mrs Mullholland for Phase 3 and Mr Bagherian remains the Assistant Head for Phase 1.

Many of you celebrated Eid al Adha just before we returned to school. We held our regular design an Eid card competition. The winner was Haleema in Turing Class (Y5). You can see it and the other class winners on our school website.

You will have noticed some changes to the school building since July. We have replaced the large sandpit in the Reception playground with a soft play surface. This is in response to the feedback we have received from parents and teachers. We have built a new playground for the Year 1 children at the back of school. As we are now a large 3-form entry school, we need more space for the children at break times. It will also provide outdoor learning space for the year 1 children in lessons. We are currently waiting for the final pieces of fencing and play bark before we can use it.

We also have had a barrier installed to the staff car park. This is to keep the school site secure and safe. Governors have a duty to safeguard the staff, children and premises. We need to protect children from unauthorised cars driving into the car park and to discourage pedestrians cutting through. This brings us in line with most schools who have similar barriers. We would ask that you try to understand that as a large school with over 670 children, we cannot accommodate large numbers of

cars entering our already crowded car park. Last year we also had a number of thefts and break-ins to staff cars. Scotchman Road is very busy before and after school, and urge you to take the healthy option if you can and walk to school. This would leave more space outside for families who have to drive. **Of course where access to school remains a concern, please contact school directly to discuss individual circumstances and what reasonable adjustments the school can make to enable the children and their parents/carers to access the school safely. I will be sending a further letter to clarify this separately.**

Can I remind you that school starts at 8:45am. We will open the gates by 8:30am every morning. Children should be outside cloakrooms ready to enter school when the doors open at 8:45am. The children who arrive after this time are late for school. The first 15 minutes every morning is valuable reading time for your child. Children who arrive late miss 1 hour 15 minutes reading time every week. This adds up to 49 hours a year – 10 school days of reading every year! If your child is not in school – we cannot teach them. Please help us to help your child.

Lorraine Martin

Head teacher

## Tac Team News

### Nurture group

Twelve parents are taking part in Nurture group sessions every Wednesday morning in The Hub. The next course will begin after in January. If you would like to book a place please see Mrs Begum.

### Stay and Play

Stay and Play sessions are every Monday and Tuesday from 1.30 – 3pm from Birth to 3 year olds Everyone is welcome and free reading books and a Lending Library are available.

### Health and Wellbeing sessions

We currently have Health and Wellbeing sessions every Thursday morning for the next four weeks .

### Library sessions

Library sessions for parents run every Monday ,Tuesday afternoon and every Wednesday, Thursday Friday morning. As always everybody is welcome. A Lending Library available In the Hub.

### Coffee Morning

We hold a coffee morning is every Friday morning from 9 -11am in The Hub. Please come along as everybody is welcome .

### Parent Readers

Can you spare 1 hour per week ? Do you enjoy reading ? We would like parent volunteers to come into school to listen to children read .A reading workshop for interested parents will be held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 9am

## Phase updates

### Phase One

The children in Early Years have made a really successful start to their school experiences and have settled down really well. Year 1 are working well and have taken the changes of the transition in their stride. We are pleased by the start they have made in their books. They have been looking at seasonal changes in the school grounds. The children have also enjoyed the work they have done on Monet and have used a range of media to imitate this. Thank you to the parents who have attended the Reception phonics workshops. We look forward to working closely with you all in the future.

### Phase Two

The children in Year 2 have been learning about The Great Fire of London. They have been using different mediums to learn about and explore the subject. The children have been involved in making a 3D model of a house and creating a painting of the fire. They have then linked this into literacy with work on describing scenes linked to the Great Fire of London. They have used their imagination muscle to write diary entries and recounts explaining how they could have escaped the Great Fire of London!

Year 3 had a Greek day on Tuesday 12th September. The children and the staff dressed up in the type of clothes that the Ancient Greek wore. They had a debate which they really enjoyed and learned about the believes of the Ancient Greeks. Year 4 have had a very exciting half term learning about chocolate. They participated in a workshop delivered by the Ministry of Chocolate and learnt many interesting facts about how chocolate is made and where it comes from. The workshop also included tasting and creating chocolate appetisers. This has linked nicely to their literacy work based around Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

## Phase Three

Year 5 have been learning about space and the moon landings. Through their Literacy unit on Doctor Who they have designed a time machine, written a Doctor Who episode and been taught by Time Lords! The Year 5 children have begun their project with Northern Ballet. The START project is designed to introduce children to the performing arts.

In Year 6 the children have been focusing on Maze Runner and the Hunger Games. They have been improving their debating skills and designing their own perfect world. In science they have been learning about habitats and the classification of animals.

## Attendance

The whole school attendance for September is 95.6%. The national expectation is for the attendance to be above 96%. Please support us in our quest to achieve this.

## Diary Dates

Tuesday 3rd October	9.00—10.00 Parents workshop for Reading Partners
Friday 20th October	Break up for half term
Monday 30th October	Back to school
Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th November	Parents' Evenings
Monday 20th to Friday 24th November	Year 6 Residential

## Contact Us



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