



# Newsletter

Margaret McMillan

Primary School

Issue January 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope your new year has started well. Things in school are as busy as ever and the children are getting on with their learning. I have had the rare privilege of teaching some classes over the past few weeks and I would like to commend the children on their learning behaviour and attitudes. Our school values are very important to us at Margaret McMillan and it is heartening to see them embodied in our pupils;

- ◇ We learn from each other.
- ◇ We listen to each other.
- ◇ We achieve more if we enjoy ourselves.
- ◇ We welcome the diversity in our school.
- ◇ We always try our hardest.
- ◇ We join in and help each other
- ◇ We ask questions to help us understand.
- ◇ We take care of our environment.
- ◇ We are positive role models to others.

The weather has been very wet recently and consequently a large number of puddles have emerged on the paths where the ground is saturated. Our site managers do sweep the paths clear of water, but occasionally the weather is too bad for this to be effective. Like most schools, we now have a very limited budget for grounds improvements and so any permanent solution would be too costly. Staff on the doors and gates will encourage children to access safely (and dryly), but I ask that parents also encourage children to walk around the puddles and act considerately to others when coming to school. Wellies are also really useful in wet conditions (children can bring shoes to change into).

Best wishes,

Lorraine Martin

Headteacher

# Phase updates

## Phase One

The Nursery team would like to thank all parents that have been attending rhyme time on a Friday. We are not getting many parents attending from Stars. If you have the time please come along and join in with your child's learning. Rhyme time takes place on 11:05 for Moon and 3:00 for Stars. The team would also like to remind parents that parent play takes place every Wednesday at 8:30 for Moon and 12:25 for Stars.

All parents in Nursery and Reception should have their login to view the online learning journey. If you haven't received this please speak to the class teacher. During parent play adults will be available to support you with any contributions you may have.

The Early Years team would like to remind all parents that children should come in a warm coat everyday. Children have access to outdoor learning everyday in all weathers.

The year one team are still continuing to model activities that support the phonics screening test during parent play. Please continue to come when you drop your children off on a Wednesday morning. The children have been looking at materials and their properties over the half term. They will continue with this after the holidays. A builder will be coming into school to support this topic. Please talk to your child about different materials and their properties.

## Phase Two

In Year 2 we have started our topic comparing the UK to Africa, so far we have learnt about Kenya, made posters about African animals and tasted some African fruit. Some children were really brave and tasted passion fruit even though it looked a bit slimy! Lots of children have brought in photos of when they were babies - we love seeing everyone's baby photos so keep them coming! We have seen big improvements in spelling test scores, thank you for helping your children learn their spellings. The children now need to focus on learning their 2, 5 and 10 times tables and division facts - Math Magician is a good website you can use to practise. We look forward to speaking to all the parents at parents evening this week.

Year 3 went to see the pantomime Cinderella at the Alhambra in Bradford and have been enjoying learning about it during their Literacy work.

We have also been learning how to play cricket with a Sports UK coach and some children will have the opportunity to go to a cricket festival later on in the half term.

On Friday 19th January the choir of Years 3 and 4 children went to Sheffield Arena , with a total of 5500 children from other schools to sing all the songs we have been learning in our singing lessons and choir club.

Year 4 have been busy learning all about why Bradford is such a cool place to live. We've already had the pleasure of visiting the famous Alhambra theatre this half term and felt very proud to be in such a wonderful building and a famous landmark of Bradford. The children were wonderfully behaved and enjoyed every moment of Cinderella which was thrilling from start to finish.

We have also been imagining life without electricity and discussing what the consequences of a sudden power cut would be. The children all agreed that it would be a disaster as they would be no iPhones or PlayStation 4s. The children have particularly enjoyed role playing parts of customers of representatives of the electric board. The teachers can already see who has got a glistening career in customer service ahead of them.

## Attendance

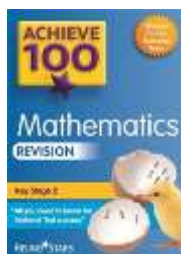
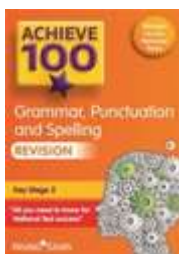
		Mars	94.5%	Saturn	88.6%
Jupiter	93.6%	Mercury	94.1%	Neptune	95.9%
Galileo	94.1%	Sharman	95.3%	Hawking	96.6%
Bronte	94.6%	Hockney	94.0%	Nightingale	95.4%
Adams	93.8%	Armstrong	96.3%	Newton	95.4%
Turing	97.8%	Pankhurst	95.1%	Ennis	97.4%
Mandela	97.5%	Malala	96.8%	Rowling	92.4%

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

## Phase Three

Y5 have started their new topic on 'Rainforests'. The children have been finding out about the habitat and food chains and looking at the diverse range animals which live there. A small group of Y5 children have been attending classes with the Northern Ballet at Lilycroft School as part of the ballet project we are involved in this year. Later this term we will be attending another performance at the Grand Theatre by the Northern Ballet and taking part in further workshops.

Y6 are still working extremely hard towards their SATs tests in May. They will be sitting Mock tests the week beginning 26th February 2018 and breakfast club will also take place for Y6 children that week. Breakfast club will start at 8am and the children will be provided (free of charge) with breakfast. We encourage all Y6 children to attend.



Just to remind any parents/carers who have not yet purchased the revision guides for their child - they are still on sale and are a fantastic resource for helping your child prepare for the tests.

## Diary Dates

Wednesday 31st January	Parents' Evening
Thursday 1st February	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 7th February	Year 5 visit from Zoolab
Friday 9th February	School closes for half term
Monday 19th February	School re-opens

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