



# Newsletter

Margaret McMillan

Primary School

February 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a number of new staff join us this term. Mrs Sharma Patel has returned from her maternity leave, Mrs Holdsworth joins us to lead Nursery and Reception as Phase 1 lead; Mrs Flintoft is covering Mrs William's maternity leave in Year 3 ; Miss Yasmin has joined Year 5 and Miss Solari and Miss Fitzgerald have joined our Reception team. We welcome them all.

We recently held our first Winter Fair. It was a great success and we raised £600 for the children. Thank you to all of you who attended and supported our school. We learnt a lot about what was successful and what we could repeat. We now know that we all really like cakes and Mrs Ahmed is a very talented cake maker! We are hoping to hold a summer fair in July and want to make it bigger and better. If you have any money raising ideas for future fairs or would like to volunteer or offer help and support please contact Mrs Stowell in Nursery either in person or via school email.

Recently we welcomed 60 trainee teachers from Bradford College who came to learn how we teach mastery in maths. They were very impressed by the skill and knowledge of our teachers and the behaviour and enthusiasm of our wonderful children. I was extremely proud.

After half term we will be running regular parents information workshops. Some parents asked for more regular meetings and more information on ways to support your children at home and we have listened to this.

It is vital that your child attends school every day. All schools are expected to achieve an attendance figure of 96%. Our attendance currently stands at 94%. We must get better and ask you to help us achieve this by sending your child to school **on time, every day**. A few parents say they are late because they cannot find a parking place. Unfortunately we have no control over the parking or layout of Scotchman Road. I suggest parking at the bottom of Scotchman Road and walking up or be healthy and walk all the way to school. Your child will earn a walk to school badge!

Conversely, some of our parents have complained to us about the inconsiderate parking outside school. Can I remind you that only blue badge holders should park in the disabled places; no one should park on the zig-zag lines and no-one should park on pavements or corners. We all have responsibility to keep our children safe.

We are now on twitter. Please take a look . You can access it from our school website or through twitter; @MMPS\_Bradford. It is another way to keep up to date with all that is going on in school.

Lorraine Martin  
Head teacher

## Phase updates

### Phase One: Mrs Leanne Holdsworth

In January, we welcomed new children into our Nursery, and new staff into both Nursery and Reception. Mrs Holdsworth joined MMPS as Phase 1 leader, Mrs Patel is teaching in Nursery, Miss Fitzgerald is the new teacher of Saturn class and Miss Solari is the new teacher of Mars class.

Our Nursery children have been learning about different animals and how to look after them. They celebrated Chinese New Year; sampling noodles and taking part in the Chinese dragon workshop. Next term, our topic is Minibeasts, and during the last week of this half term, the RSPB came to see the children and they went on a minibeast hunt around the school.

Our Reception children have been learning about Winter and they have been exploring ice and snow. A lot of the activities they have been doing have been based on the story Stick Man by Julia Donaldson; a popular author. In January, the children had the opportunity to develop their bike riding skills when they took part in balance bike workshops. They also celebrated Chinese New Year; learning a peacock dance using a fan which they enjoyed performing to parents.

‘Stay and Play’ sessions are every Tuesday morning. These sessions will continue after the holidays and we look forward to seeing you all there.

### Phase Two: Mrs Sarah Hodge

Since January the children in Y2 have started their new cycling sessions. The progress the children have made using the peddle bikes has been fantastic and the instructors have been impressed with the children’s level of understanding around keeping safe on the roads. Further to this Y2 have been learning all about Africa for their current theme and have been looking at the focus book ‘The Ugly Five’ by Julia Donaldson. After the half term holidays all the children in Y2 will be attending an Africa theme day at Boiling Hall which will have a specific focus on developing children’s oracy skills and vocabulary.

Y1 have been working on their theme all to do with materials and relating this to the story of ‘The 3 Little Pigs’. The children have been having some fantastic practical sessions exploring the different materials they can use and building houses from them. Children in Y1 have also completed an initial phonics screen and a meeting for parents to discuss this was held on Tuesday 12th February. An information pack to support phonics at home was given out in this meeting. Thank you to all those parents who attended. If you were unable to attend our require any further information please contact your child’s class teacher.

### **Phase Three: Mrs Sarah Johnson**

We started 2019 with a whole school launch of Wow living streets which promotes walking to school every day. The children across school have been completing the travel tracker every day in class and they are awarded badges for walking to school at the end of each month. In Year 3 and 4 they have been doing exceptionally well and over 100 children received a badge at the end of January. We currently have a school active rate of 75%.

We have been celebrating Chinese New Year across school with an external visitor who has taught all classes a Chinese dance. These were performed at the end of each day and thank you to those parents who attended.

Year 3 went to Bradford University to compete in a Cricket Festival well done to the team of 8 children who won the tournament and showed excellent sportsmanship skills.

Year 4 will be heading off for their residential to Nell Bank on Thursday 14th March. Places are running out so please pay the full amount if you wish your child to be part of this experience.

### **Phase Four: Mrs Clare Mulholland**

Year 5 and 6 children had a further visit from the local PSCO this time to talk about E Safety and online bullying. She reminded children of the appropriate ages of games and social media sites on the internet. Please continue to be vigilant when imposing these age restrictions at home.

Both year groups also took part in road safety sessions during the last week of half term. This reminded children of the dangers on the road and to be careful when out and about.

Kevin Holland, CEO of the Priestly Academy Trust, came into school to deliver a presentation to the Year 5 children about the 'Tall Ships Experience' which will be taking place in June this year. He then delivered a parents meeting to those who were interested in this once in a lifetime adventure.

Year 5 and 6 also enjoyed workshops with the Chinese Dragon and performed in front of parents during the assembly.

## Attendance

The whole school attendance for this half term is 95%. The national expectation is for the attendance to be above **96%**. Please support us in our quest to achieve this.

## Diary Dates

7th January 2019	School opens
7th January 2019	E Safety/Online bullying workshops
7th February 2019	Winter fund raiser
14th February 2019	Road Safety Talks
18th February 2019	Half Term
26th February 2019	Y3 Magna Trip
Weds 27th Feb/Thursday 28th Feb 2019	Parents Evening
Thursday 7th March 2019	World Book Day
Monday 11th March 2019	Y2 Mandir visit
Thursday 14th March/15th March 2019	Y4 Nell Bank Residential
Friday 29th March 2019	Take Over Day
Friday 5th April 2019	Showcase of Take Over Day at Lister Mill
Weds 10th/ Thurs 11th April 2019	Parents Evening
Thursday 11th April 2019	Y4 Sikh Visitor in school
Friday 12th April 2019	Easter Holidays

## Contact Us



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