

14 February 2022

Newsletter

This half term has certainly been a challenging one! We have had the most cases of Covid-19 in both children and staff since the start of the Pandemic. Thank you for helping us stop the transmission by following the guidance and testing children who have been close contacts or have displayed symptoms. Thankfully the case numbers are beginning to drop now.

Hopefully, things will slowly begin to return to a more normal situation. Swimming lessons will begin again for Y4 after half term and we hope to proceed with our Y4 residential to Nell Bank.

On Monday the children in years 1, 2, 5 and 6 enjoyed the Oliver Twist Performance by a Theatre Group in school.

Children's Mental Health Week.

This week is National Children's Mental Health week. The theme is "growing together" and children will be talking in class about learning to overcoming barriers and dealing with challenges and set backs. They will be taking part in fun activities around this theme. Please look out for more information on Weduc. On Thursday we are asking children to attend school in non-uniform, dressed in a colour that makes them happy.

Temporary Wednesday Afternoon closure

This Wednesday (16th February) is the last afternoon closure. After the half term break, Wednesday afternoons will return to normal and school will finish at 3:10pm. I'm sure that you will be as relieved as our staff to have the children back in school until 3:10 every day. Thank you to all of you for your patience and understanding during this half term.

Attendance

School attendance has been severely affected by the pandemic over the past 2 years and the government is concerned about the detrimental effect on children's learning and progress. Ordinarily, pupil attendance should be over 96%. This means that your child should be in school at least 181 days out of 190 possible days in the school year. Please make sure that your child attends school every day where possible (covid related absences permitting). Our attendance team will continue to contact parents to offer support where children's attendance falls below expected.

Staff Goodbyes

We say goodbye to Mrs Thornton and Mrs Begum this term. Both of them are long serving staff members and have each worked at Margaret McMillan for over 21 years. I'm sure that you will join me in thanking them for their many years of service and dedication to the children and families of Margaret McMillan. I wish them all the best for the future.



World Book Day – 3rd March

The first Thursday after half term (Thursday 3rd March) is World Book Day. This year our school has been working with the Open University on an exciting project to develop 'Reading for Pleasure' within our school. As part of this we have been working alongside teachers and pupils to choose a book spine which represents books and authors from a wide range of genres. Your child has access to these books in their classroom libraries. Reading for Pleasure books are sent home alongside your child's 'Reading to Read' book. For World Book Day this year we would love for your child to come dressed as one of the characters from their favourite book from their class library. More details to follow.

School Visits and Visitors

School visits and visitors are very important to us at MMPS. We know that they enrich and enhance the children's learning and are highly valued. As we return to "normal" we are hoping to return to our programme of visits and visitors. However, the costs of visits are rising, particularly transport costs. We will endeavour to do our best to keep the costs down, find ways to be creative and provide experiences and visits that are still affordable.

Half-term activities at Manningham Mills

Manningham Mills sports association are running their holiday activity club again. There are details on Weduc and your children will have a paper copy in their books bags. You can return the forms directly to Manningham Mills or alternatively you can leave them at the school office and they will collect them from us. Please be aware that the spaces fill up very fast and as a school we have no influence over the allocation of places.

A reminder that we break up for half term on Thursday 17th February and return to school on Monday 28th February.

Have a great half-term and thank you for your continued support,

Lorraine Martin
Headteacher