

Headteacher: James Wiltshire
Top of Muswell Hill
London N10 3ST
020 8444 8488



office@muswell-hill.haringey.sch.uk
www.muswellhillprimary.co.uk
Entrance: 26-28 Dukes Ave, N10

Muswell Hill Primary School

2014/15

www.muswellhillprimary.co.uk

Newsletter No. 1

October 2014

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have enjoyed a fantastic first half term of the academic year. The children in all year groups have settled into their new classes and I have been particularly impressed with the way our new Reception children have started life at Muswell Hill Primary School. At the other end of the school, Year 6 enjoyed a brilliant School Journey 2014. They were an absolute credit to the school, their families and themselves. I would like to thank the staff team who attended the trip (David Howes, Gillian Collin, Simon Slight, Cate Jago, Joseph Nouch, Annette Atkinson and Geoff Summers) and all those who remained at school and filled in for us; covering our break duties and other responsibilities. In particular, I would like to thank David Howes, who was our trip leader. To read a little about the children's experiences or to listen to the podcasts, please click here:

<http://muswellhillprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Year-6-School-Trip-4.pdf>

Having restructured the Senior Leadership and Teaching staff last team, I have been delighted with the impacts that David Howes, Liz McMullen and Rosie O'Donnell have had in their first Autumn as Assistant Headteachers. They have taught and led across their phases and have had a huge impact on children's learning. If you would like to see a little more about our structure and how it works in terms of line management and accountability, please visit the homepage of the website or:

<http://muswellhillprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Our-School-Structure-2014.pdf>

I would like to thank Lisa Aulsebrook for leading the SPA (Staff Parent Association) for two years. Lisa has been an excellent Chair; she has worked tirelessly with the team to fundraise and ensure that the SPA is a real focal point of our incredible community. Lisa and the SPA are an astonishing team and I offer my thanks to each and every member for their hard work. Their time, expertise and experience are invaluable. I would also like to welcome Lorraine Pond as the newly elected Chair. I am very much looking forward to working with Lorraine this coming year and thank her for taking on this role.

Many thanks to all the parents and carers who attended the 'Meet the Headteacher' meetings in September, over the course of the four meetings, hundreds of parents came to these face-to-face sessions. If you were not able to make the meetings, please follow this link to find out a bit more about our school improvement progress and see what was discussed:

<http://muswellhillprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Meeting-Parents-September-2014.pdf>

On the following pages you will find further information about the school. Many thanks for all your support this half term. I wish you all a safe and happy holiday over the half term period.

Very best wishes,

James Wiltshire, Headteacher



Standards at Our School

I am delighted to announce the high standards of attainment reached across the school in 2013/14. Our data is on the verge of final validation but the standards in the Early Years, Phonics Screening Test, KS1 and KS2 SATS are all of an extremely high standard.

We are pleased to announce the following results: <http://muswellhillprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/school-poster.pdf>

I am grateful for the work of all our stakeholders for their dedication to ensuring that pupils achieve such high standards and make such significant progress across our school. Thank you.

Notice Boards

There are notice boards opposite the school office and outside the Reception Classrooms. The board opposite the school office belongs to the SPA. Please take a look at this board for details on future events and copies of SPA communications that have been sent out by email.

Music and Violin at Muswell Hill Primary School

There are still a few places if there are any children who would like to take violin lessons. If you are interested in finding out a little more, please contact the school office. We use peripatetic teachers from Haringey Music Service. Alternatively, please contact the service direct at: hms@haringey.gov.uk

If your child plays or is interested in playing an instrument there are a few spaces in the school orchestra. Please follow the link to find out more about this from Deborah Young:

<http://muswellhillprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Orchestra-info.pdf>

School Video

At the recent 'Meet the Headteacher' meetings we premiered the new school video. It is an incredible 3 minutes of footage that sums up our vision for the school and shows a day in the life of our pupils. I am delighted with the result and would like to thank all those who contributed to making this for us. In particular, I offer sincere thanks to David Betteridge, Shirley Lixenberg and Simon Wantman who all gave of their time and expertise to support us. If you have not had a chance to see the video, please follow this link and search for the fifth banner: <http://muswellhillprimary.co.uk/>

Children's ITV

Following our work with Newsnight last academic year, we were contacted recently to see if we would like to take part in the filming of 'Text Santa 2014'. This is a programme on children's television that will be shown nationally on 19th December 2014. We have agreed as it supports six really worthwhile charities:

- 1) Alzheimer's Society
- 2) Guide Dogs
- 3) Marie Curie Cancer Care



- 4) Teenage Cancer Trust
- 5) Together For Short Lives
- 6) Well Child

The children in Year 6, who have parental permission, were filmed for this on Wednesday 22nd October. They were joined by presenter, singer and musician, Mylene Klass. We cannot upload clips of the filming until after the programme has aired but will update the website as soon as possible after that date. The Year 6 children were given the task of designing wrapping paper – as usual, they produced a brilliant performance – well done, Year 6!

Black History Month

At Muswell Hill Primary we have been celebrating Black History month with a wide range of activities for children. There have been workshops, musicians, story tellers and much, much more. We have uploaded a few photos of the events, as a taster, on the school website:

<http://muswellhillprimary.co.uk/gallery/black-history-month/>

I have seen some excellent project and homework responses from the children. We still have a number of other workshops booked. I would like to thank Helen Hattersley, our Deputy Headteacher, for not only organising this but for successfully applying for a bid to fund the workshops.

Sports At Muswell Hill

We have started where we left off at the end of the last academic year in terms of sporting success. David Howes, our PE subject leader, is thrilled to announce that we will again be sending a team to the London Youth Games in 2015 – the Girls' Football Team. They have recently won two Haringey Girls' Football tournaments.

We now have a band of reporters from Year 5 and 6 who attend the games and write their reviews for the website. For an update on all our recent successes, please follow the link:

<http://muswellhillprimary.co.uk/sports/>

Many thanks to all the adults who work so hard to take the children to all these tournaments and complete all the additional paperwork required.

Attendance - currently and for 2013/14

The whole school attendance for this academic year is now a massive **97.64%**.

In July 2013 we were notified by the Local Authority that our attendance would be monitored weekly by the Education Welfare Service as we were below 95%. At that time we were at 94.95%. In July 2014 we reached **96.24%**. As our Governor newsletter announced, this meant that our 420 pupils increased their average number of school days across the year by over 1000. I am really pleased that we have continued to improve even further! Many thanks to all parents and carers for your ongoing support. If you would like to read the Attendance Policy, it is available at:



<http://muswellhillprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Attendance-and-Punctuality-Policy-2013.pdf>

The school calendar is available online and contains all holiday dates for Muswell Hill Primary School: <http://muswellhillprimary.co.uk/calendar/>

Philosophy For Children – Something New For Our Pupils

I was delighted to be invited to speak about P4C (Philosophy for Children) at the recent SPA Annual General Meeting. If you were unable to attend, I have put a brief overview of what was discussed on the school website, this link contains a lot of initial information about the subject:

<http://muswellhillprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Something-New-For-Our-Pupils-AGM-2014.pdf>

I am pleased to announce that Elena Yiapanis, one of our Year 5 teachers, will be leading P4C across our school this year.

Safety at Muswell Hill Primary

Safety is of paramount importance for our children. Our Designated Child Protection Officers have all been trained in safeguarding to Level 3. At MHPS, the Designated Officers are:

- 1) James Wiltshire – Headteacher
- 2) Helen Hattersley – Deputy Headteacher
- 3) Gillian Collin – SENDCO

To ensure we fulfil our duty of care, all our staff are trained to Level 1 in safeguarding – this was completed in January 2014. There will be a renewal of this training in January 2015.

If you are visiting the school please remember to sign in at the school office before entering the building. We will be enhancing our on-site security over the half term break. The Local Authority has recommended that we install an electronic system which will have key-fob access on some doors. They have also agreed to financially support us with this project.

Pick-up and Drop-off

Thank you for being punctual to school in the mornings. School starts at **8:55am** and finishes at **3:30pm**.

For the benefit of all parents, carers, children and staff we ask that children do not ride scooters or bikes in the school premises. With so many very young children around, we want to make sure that the site is as safe as possible.

In the KS2 playground at collection time, please could all parents and carers leave space for the class teachers to bring the children out in a line and then collect your children from the teacher. We have told the children, during a whole school assembly, not to simply disperse as they walk into the KS2 playground as the teacher needs to be sure that a parent/carer has collected the children or that those



in Y5 or Y6 that are allowed to walk home alone, have started to make their way home. Thank you in advance for supporting us with this.

Proposed Base Station Update

We have received notification that there are proposals for an update to an existing telephone base station at Manhattan Heights on Muswell Hill, London N102QR. As yet an application for planning permission has not been made. If there is any further news on this development I will let you know so that you can assess any proposals for yourselves.

Lost Property

The lost property collection box is situated in each of the playgrounds. These are yellow containers. At the end of each half term, these are emptied and the contents are given to charity by depositing them into the TRAIID bin which is located opposite the school office.

All lunchboxes, which are stored in the KS2 playground cages will also be disposed of, for hygiene reasons, during half term week.

Diary Dates

Autumn Term 2014

| | Starts | Ends |
|----------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Autumn 1 | Wednesday 3 September 2014 (incl. TAD) | Friday 24 October 2014 |
| <i>Holiday</i> | <i>Monday 27 October 2014</i> | <i>Friday 31 October 2014</i> |
| Autumn 2 | Monday 3 November 2014 | Friday 19 December 2014 |
| <i>Holiday</i> | <i>Monday 22 December 2014</i> | <i>Friday 2 January 2015</i> |

Fireworks Evening
 Winter Fair
 Christmas Jumper Day
 Christmas Show – Colour Classes
 Christmas Show – Jewel Classes
 Carol Service at Baptist Church
 TAD – No School

Thursday 6th November 2014
 Saturday 6th December 2014
 Friday 12th December 2014
 Tuesday 16th December 2014
 Wednesday 17th December 2014
 Friday 19th December 2014
 Monday 5th January 2015