

# NEWSLETTER NUMBER 1

## Muswell Hill Primary School

# Thanks for your patience!

We have had a **very** busy start to the academic year. I would like to thank all parents/carers, children and governors for your incredible patience as we have had a very different start to the academic year. The school was entirely packed into crates over the summer. When we returned after the summer break the staff had a lot of work to do in order that the school be ready for the children to come back.

I would like to thank the staff team for their immense effort to turn this situation around and remain so fantastically positive! If you have had any construction work carried out at your home you may know how disruptive this has been for us. If you have moved house recently, I'm sure you will also be able to empathise.

It was a real team effort but we did it! We really wanted to achieve the necessary change and improvement at nil cost to the school and without closing the school to children. By working together we have managed to not only remain open [apart from an early close on the last day of the summer term while we packed the school up into the crates] but have enjoyed a really good start to the year. The classrooms and office spaces have been put back together and we are looking forward to a really great year teaching your children.

On the surface there doesn't yet appear to be too much change but I must thank Haringey Council for their hard work in financing this vast piece of school improvement for us.

By way of an example here are a few of many improvements that have made a real difference to us:

- 1) **Lighting:** This has provided the biggest difference so far! The lights illuminate with motion sensors so we will save a lot of money on our future bills as well as having a fantastically lit school to learn and work in.
- 2) **Heating:** The heating system is now up and running. Fortunately September was mild this year but now that the weather is a little chillier we have a system that is both efficient and working well!
- 3) **Electrics:** The new plug sockets and re-wiring are aesthetically pleasing and more sockets means more organised classrooms to plug in our printers, computers and other electrical equipment to help teaching and learning.
- 4) **Water and Fountains:** We have water in classrooms that is drinkable and in the staffroom too! We also have brand new water fountains in the playgrounds for the children.
- 5) **Doors:** We have a lot of new doors already installed and many yet to go in.
- 6) **Taps:** We have new taps that work perfectly and teachers now have a ready supply of water in the class rooms—a real bonus if you have to wash up paint trays!

We are very pleased to have nearly completed this infrastructure work. The next step is to redecorate the school. We hope to do this class by class and to use the weekends and holidays to complete the final part of the internal premises improvements project.

I must offer my thanks to Graham, our Site Manager, who has been opening the school nearly every weekend since May 2017 to allow the contractors to work in the school so that we don't need to close. Graham has worked incredibly hard to project manage this improvement programme with Haringey Council and I am very grateful for his hard work.

I must also thank the staff and children, some of whom were displaced from their classes for over 10 school days. This has been conducted with positivity, care, thought and organisation. Thank you for being so understanding and accommodating during this really difficult time. My thanks also to the parents and carers of children in those affected classes for reading our communications and being so understanding. The school really needed this investment! We are nearly there now!

I also appreciate that this newsletter is a week later than usual—the building work has meant a vast number of site visits, surveys, meetings and increased communications, but whilst we are a little behind we are rapidly catching up now.

Thanks to the SPA for a fantastic fireworks display last week!

Other imminent SPA events that are not to be missed are:

- \* Wine tasting on Friday 17 November at 7.30pm
- \* Winter Fair on Saturday 2 December from 12.00 to 3.00pm.



# What's been happening?

## Isle of Wight 2017

Year 6 had a fantastic time in the Isle of Wight with a team of Muswell Hill Primary staff—everyone arrived back exhausted but full of news about the challenges they had faced. My thanks to the children for, as usual, being so fantastic and representing the school so well. My thanks also to the staff who took the children and were away from their own children and families. Year 6 had a wonderful time learning even more about teamwork and resilience, as well as other things such as how to make your own bed!



## Curriculum Meetings 2017

We have held curriculum meetings for all year groups where class teacher and members of the Senior Leadership Team have explained what your children will be learning this year.

Click on the appropriate year group below if you missed the presentations:

- [Reception](#)
- [Year 1](#)
- [Year 2](#)
- [Year 3](#)
- [Year 4](#)
- [Year 5](#)
- [Year 6](#)



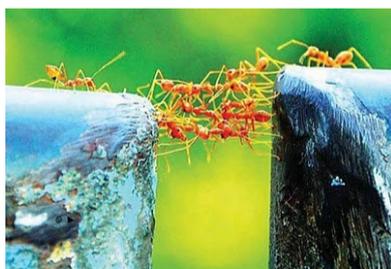
## Inspiring Assemblies

Every Friday we have been visited by ex-pupils or other guests who have spoken to the children.

The main reasons for this series of assemblies:

- 1) Hear what life is like beyond our school - perhaps hear about life at secondary school or in the world of work.
- 2) Listen carefully and think of great questions.
- 3) Understand what great opportunities there are out there and think about what the children may aspire to achieve in education and beyond.
- 4) Understand what the key skills needed at school and beyond are.

We were lucky to have some excellent speakers who talked of the importance of resilience, communication, honesty, team-work, organisation. One ex-pupil when asked what the key skill she needed at her secondary school was replied:



*"Kindness. If you're kind to people at my school they'll be kind to you."*

## Black History Month 2017

We would like to thank one of our teachers, Joanna Brown, for leading Black History Month workshops for all of our classes. Joanna and her colleague, Nicole Rachele-Moore, led some really inspiring teaching and learning—thank you!

To view the contents of the work please click [here](#).



# Anything else? Yes!

## SPA AGM 2017

Please click [here](#) to view part of the SPA AGM contents. The Head-teacher's talk focused on where we have been, where we are now and where we are going in a few specific areas.



Please click [here](#) to view the presentation.

## MUSWELL HILL PRIMARY SONGS 2017

Hannah, now in Year 7, left us with a school song to be very proud of during Music and Dance Week 2017. If you haven't heard it already please click [here](#) to have a listen.

Elena's Year 3 Class also wrote the lyrics to change a popular song into a Muswell Hill classic. What a hit! Please click [here](#) to listen to Green Class, now Sapphire Class, singing their song.



## MUSWELL HILL PRIMARY RESULTS 2017

We are thrilled to announce that our children's Key Stage 2 SATS results place us second in Haringey for Reading, Writing and Mathematics combined!

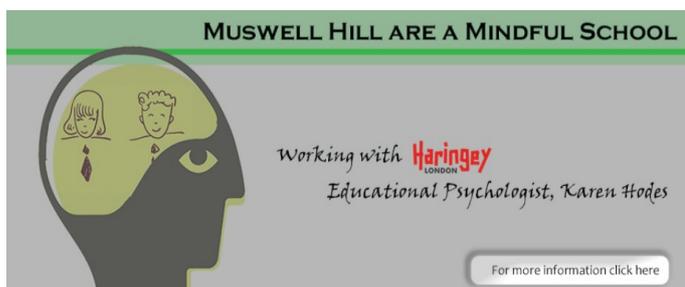
To read the entire set of results please click [here](#).



## MUSWELL HILL PRIMARY IS A MINDFUL SCHOOL

Our staff have begun training on being a Mindful School. We will be continuing this on our next training day on Wednesday 3rd January 2018. Please remember the children do not return to school until Thursday 4th January 2018!

Click [here](#) to read what is happening in the pilot project that Cobalt Class, Year 5 have been doing.



## Clubs are go, go, go!

Near completion of the building works has also meant that Start Sporty and both in-school and after-school activities have started again, please contact the providers directly if they are not run by the school, details are on the school website. Please click [here](#).

### Save the dates



#### Thursday 16 November:

Year 6 Sharing Assembly KS2 Hall 9.15am (please note the changes to Sharing Assemblies that appeared in the last newsletter, repeated below as an aide memoire)

#### Monday 20 November

Early Years Maths Workshop for Reception and Year 1 parents

#### Wednesday 6 December

Years 5 and 6 to see Snow White on Ice at Alexandra Palace and Reception to Year 4 classes to see a production of Aladdin in school

#### Wednesday 13 December

Children's Christmas Lunch

#### Friday 15 December

Jewel Classes Christmas Show—two performances: am and pm—further details to follow

#### Monday 18 December

Colour Classes Christmas Show—two performances: am and pm—further details to follow

#### Wednesday 20 December

Last day of term. Christmas Carol Concert for Year 1 and above at 11.00am. Children may be picked up at 12.00. Again, further details to follow.

### Reminder: Changes to Sharing Assembly Arrangements

In the past siblings of children taking part in a class assembly have been allowed to watch the 'show' with their parents. This frequently causes issues with space, which as you all know, is rather at a premium here! We therefore decided that, with effect from September 2017, we will only be allowing parents to view their child's class sharing assembly on the official sharing assembly date, and not their siblings. Please don't worry though—siblings will have a chance to see the assembly when they attend the dress rehearsal. Thank you for your understanding.