

Muswell Hill Primary School

Newsletter No.5 – 16 October 2020

Academic Year 2020-21



Another really busy week and a week to go until half term; please remember we break up next **Friday 23 October** after lunch at the year groups' usual pick-up times. We will look forward to seeing the children back on **Monday 2 November** at their usual staggered start time.

Government Guidance

Please follow the link below for government guidance for parents and carers on what you need to know about schools during the current times. It offers advice on a multitude of areas including extra-curricular activities where parents are advised to minimise the number of settings they use. We will share any additional guidance which may arise from London's move to Tier 2 restrictions.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>



Muriel

Welcome to our New Staff Governor - Muriel

My name is Muriel Thompson. I currently have the pleasure of working at MHPS as the class teacher of Violet class and phase leader of years 5 and 6. I am passionate and dedicated to the inclusive, creative ethos of our school and wider community. I have experience in a number of diverse educational settings and roles in which I have undertaken a number of educational research projects. As well as this, I have worked in the international development field prior to teaching.

I love travelling, the arts, keeping fit and spending time with family and friends.

As a staff governor I offer a unique insight and voice to contribute to the strategic development of the school.

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Below are some great self portraits from the Reception children.



Black History Month News

Since 1987 in the UK we celebrate Black History Month. This month, to put a spotlight on the celebration, every class has chosen a visionary black person to learn about. They are in the process of turning their knowledge into a piece of performance poetry. To kick this celebration off, Violet class shared their learning from September and introduced the celebration within the school via an assembly - this will soon be posted on Seesaw for the community to watch.

When all the other classes have completed this learning, we will amalgamate everyone's work and share it with you.



BBC Children in Need will be holding their annual fundraising event on **Friday 13 November 2020**. To mark this occasion, we would like to take the opportunity to support this charity and raise some money for the various communities they support.

On **Friday 13 November** we would love the children to wear **something spotty** and bring in a donation. The focus this year is on Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing. We will be using some of the resources from the Children in Need Wellbeing Programme 'Five to Thrive' during this week too.

'It has never been more important that we keep funding life changing projects and charities, providing crucial services for vulnerable children and young people through this crisis.'

Together, with your help, we can support thousands of children and young people and help change lives.'

The Children in Need appeal links to our Rights Respecting Articles, in particular Articles 3 and 4:

Article 3 The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all things that affect children

Article 4 Governments must do all they can to make sure every child can enjoy their rights.

Online Safety Tip



Follow the link below for the website of an online safety programme from the National Crime Agency's Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) command.

You will find a wealth of appropriate videos and support on parental controls.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

Makaton Sign of the Week



This week's sign is 'To help'.

Follow this link for a video on how to use the sign.

<https://youtu.be/OTRA-4I6AwM>

Soup Kitchen Van

We mentioned before that the Baptist Church at the top of Dukes Avenue was raising funds to buy a van, they have received a great response so have raised the target a little so they can expand their provision. The link below is to an Evening Standard article which gives further information, together with details of their donation page if you feel able to help them reach their target.

<https://app.standard.co.uk/2020/10/12/soup-kitchen-in-50000-bid-for-van-to-deliver-meals-on-the-go/content.html>



We have already sent you the Metropolitan Police's great idea for an alternative Halloween – we are enclosing it again – it is particularly relevant now we are in Tier 2 of Covid restrictions and cannot mix with any other households inside.

Reminder of some dates for the next half of the Autumn term

We had really hoped that we might have been able to invite you into school for our winter festival/assemblies and for some 1:1 parent consultations and classroom visits, particularly as we have managed to be Covid-free (so far) this half term. Everyone has worked so hard to make sure we are all safe and we are so proud of parents, staff, children – our whole community. Sadly, we will now have to make videos of the festival/assemblies to show you and the parent consultations will all have to be remote meetings.

During the week beginning 2 November, teachers will meet together to discuss the children's assessments and identify where there are gaps, needs and strengths, all of which will inform the teaching and learning for the next half of term.

During the week beginning 9 November we will conduct My Plan meetings and structured parent conversations and extended meetings. You will be sent an appointment time from the school. We are sure you will appreciate that co-ordinating staff to be at these meetings whilst ensuring bubbles don't get burst and classes can be covered is very challenging so we regret we will not be able to offer alternative times; the timings of the meetings will essentially have to suit the needs of the school as much 'juggling' will be required.

As already agreed, all other parent consultations will take place on Tuesday, 17th and Thursday, 19th November. You will be able to sign up for a 10-minute remote appointment; the logistics are being finalised but we are planning to send booking information to you in the week commencing 2 November.

Friday 6 November	Individual and siblings school photographs taken
Wed 11 November	Armistice Day
Sat 14 November	Diwali
Tues 17 and Thurs 19 November	Parent Consultation Dates (appointments made online)

Week commencing: Mon 16 November	Anti-Bullying Week
Tues 1 December	Year 6 Winter Festival/Assembly
Wed 2 December	Year 5 Winter Festival/Assembly
Thurs 3 December	Year 4 Winter Festival/Assembly
Mon 7 December	Year 3 Winter Festival/Assembly
Tues 8 December	Year 2 Winter Festival/Assembly
Wed 9 December	Year 1 Winter Festival/Assembly
Thurs 10 December	Reception Winter Festival/Assembly
Thursday 10 December	Hannukah
Mon 14 December	Carol service – live streaming to parents, recorded carols and live readings
Friday 19 December	End of term

Healthy packed lunches and nut-free school

Our SMSA colleagues are continuing to see crisps, sweets and chocolate bars in some of the children's packed lunches.

As we have previously requested, please don't send these items into school with your children. With effect from Monday 2 November, the SMSA staff will be asked to keep such items and they will be returned to the child at the end of the school day. We are still retaining 'treat Friday' though; you can provide a treat for your child on a Friday - this shouldn't be sweets or crisps please - but could be something like a chocolate biscuit or a piece of cake. However, please check the contents of all of the food brought into school; very often some healthy bars contain nuts and as a nut-free school with some children who are severely allergic to all types of nut, we cannot allow these on the school premises. Thank you for your cooperation.

Risk Assessment and Fundraising Initiative

You have received under separate cover a copy of the school's risk assessment for opening in September; please bear in mind that this is a 'live' document that changes weekly as we both learn from experience, and as guidance from the government and Public Health England is issued.

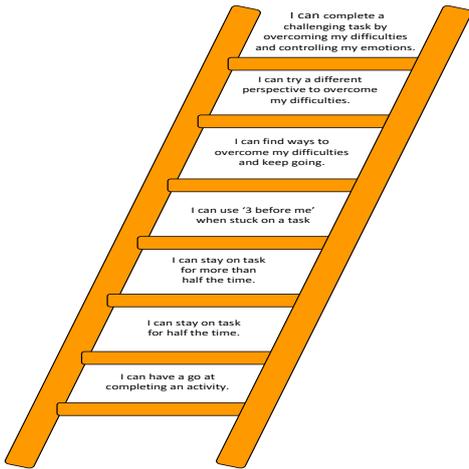
We have also sent you a letter about a new school fundraising initiative to limit the impact of COVID-19 on the school. This has been developed jointly by the school's Senior Leadership Team, the Governing Body and the PSA. We hope you will feel able to support the school.

Golden Learners of the Week

BUILDING LEARNING POWER

Resilience: Being ready, willing and able to lock onto learning.

4. Perseverance: Stickability: tolerating the feelings of learning.



This week's focus was on perseverance and absorption of learning.

AMBER CLASS – ROISIN AND TOBY'S SHOUT OUTS

Our Golden Learner this week is **Milo** who is able to become fully absorbed in drawing and creating wonderful mini books.

ORANGE CLASS – JENI'S SHOUT OUTS

This week's Golden Learner is Hugo as he is always focussed on the task at hand, whatever subject we are learning about. He engages with his work and can manage any distractions that might arise.

YELLOW CLASS – GEOFF'S SHOUT OUTS

Isla is Yellow Class Golden Learner this week, this is for managing her distractions in class and persevering when things get challenging.

GOLD CLASS – NATHAN'S SHOUT OUTS

The Gold Class Golden Learner this week is **Max**. He shows real perseverance because he is always happy to be challenged in his learning.

GREEN CLASS – KATH'S SHOUT OUTS

Golden Learners for this week are:

Alex - for perseverance. He is always determined to complete work to the very best of his ability. He is such a well-motivated and diligent pupil. Well done Alex!

Niamh - Niamh shows great perseverance and determination to complete tasks and activities to the very best of her ability. She is a very enthusiastic and highly motivated learner. Fabulous Niamh.

EMERALD CLASS – LARA'S SHOUT OUTS

Emerald Class Golden Learners this week are:

Hugo for settling in so well. You are managing your distractions, making friends and focussing on your learning.

Eli for your wonderful and thoughtful Black History poetry. You have inspired the whole class with your ideas.

BLUE CLASS – RITU'S SHOUT OUTS

Charlie who has been shining kindness throughout the week by helping others, sharing his knowledge and expertise and sprinkling his cheerfulness which brightens our days. Well done, Charlie.

Shir for her continuous effort in all she does. She always produces work to a high standard with real attention to detail and often clarifies her understanding by asking pertinent questions. Good job, Shir!

SAPPHIRE CLASS – SOPHIE'S SHOUT OUT

Golden Learners for this week are **Carter, Fergus** and **Farrah**. This is for their incredible absorption and dedication to their Reading and Maths this week. It has shone through in some fabulous work and results! Keep up the excellent work!

INDIGO CLASS – ELENA AND HADLEY'S SHOUT OUTS

Leila is this week's Golden Learner for showing great perseverance with her maths work.

COBALT CLASS – MEABH'S SHOUTS OUTS

This week's Golden Learner is **Aidan**. Aidan has shown great perseverance with his reading. Aidan is reading every day at school and is discussing the text and answering questions. He is demonstrating perseverance by attempting all tasks asked of him, staying on task and by keeping going even when he finds it tricky. Well done Aidan. Keep it up!

AMETHYST CLASS – JOSEPH'S SHOUT OUTS

This week's Golden Learner in Amethyst is Riccardo. Riccardo is new to Amethyst this year and has fit into the class so well. He is an incredibly hard-working child who is also very polite. I greatly admire Riccardo's ability to focus and persevere with his learning - during independent learning he is rarely distracted and therefore his work is always of a high standard. Congratulazioni, Riccardo.

VIOLET CLASS – MURIEL'S SHOUT OUTS

Tremendously positive

He never gives up

Enthusiasm for learning

Oh I can't wait to see the progress he makes this year!

Theo, is our Golden Learner!