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Muswell Hill Primary School

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2013/14

Newsletter No. 4

25.2.14

Attendance and Punctuality

Our attendance has risen again this term and is now above with National Expectations. From September 2013 to February 2014 this stands at **96.24%**.

I would like to thank parents and carers for continuing to ensure that our pupils are in school from 8:55am to 3:30pm. Our children are generally very punctual. This supports all the children in the class as there are less disruptions from other pupils arriving late.

Parent Pay

We are well on the way to launching Parent Pay. Our office staff and ICT technician, Musawir, have worked very hard to ensure this will be up and running soon. Please keep a close eye on emails and correspondence that is linked to this as we look to launch this excellent service.

There is a short (1/2 hour) face-to-face session organised for **Wednesday 5th March 2014**. More information will follow. This will be a chance to gain more of an insight into the Parent Pay method when making online payments.

Media Friendly

As a media friendly school we were approached by Haringey Press Office to share our thoughts on the proposal to provide Year 6 pupils across Haringey with £20 to encourage saving and increase financial awareness. All our recent media coverage can be seen at:

<http://muswellhillprimary.co.uk/about-us/media/>

The Read-A-Fun 2014 has been very well publicised. Pupils are continuing to read as many books as possible in a month. The display in the school entrance hall shows a running total of the books read so far! I would like to thank David Howes, Polly Faber, Rachael Booth-Clibborn and Zoe Norfolk (among others) for their time and commitment in making the event a real success. I would also like to thank Michael Rosen for launching the event with a fantastic assembly!

The Haringey Independent have written the following article:

http://www.haringeyindependent.co.uk/news/11011291.Schoolchildren_create_comics/?ref=var_0

Visitors and Events

Councillor Waters visited Muswell Hill Primary School on 10.2.13. She was delighted to tour our school as her own children used to attend when the school was a separate Infant and Junior school. On our tour the children were beautifully behaved and Councillor Waters was able to see the quality learning that is on-going at our school by seeing lessons in action and some high quality displayed work.



As a school we have been approached to support the petition to have safer crossing facilities on Alexandra Park Road and Colney Hatch Lane. This was mentioned to Councillor Waters. If you wish to support this, please speak to the School Office who have a copy of the petition.

We invited Haringey Local Authority to conduct a monitoring visit based on 'Behaviour and Safety.' During the visit the children were impeccably behaved and represented our school very well. It was noted that our systems for safety are clear and followed. Our staff have recently completed a refresher course on Child Protection training. Our Designated Officer for Child Protection is James Wiltshire and he is supported in this role by the Deputy Designated Officers Helen Hattersley and Gillian Collin. Our lead Governor for Child Protection is Hinal Patel.

Assemblies

I would like to thank children and staff for assemblies that have been led from January 2014 onwards. They have been a huge success and a fantastic opportunity for parents and carers to see what our curriculum looks like. I would also like to thank parents and carers for supporting these by helping to learn lines, making costumes and attending these in large numbers. Please see the dates at the end of this newsletter for further assemblies later this term.

Gymnastics 2014

I would like to thank our Year 5 teacher Elena Yiapanis who worked many extra hours to train the children in Gymnastics. Below is a report from Elena:

Last term some children from Years 3, 5 and 6 were attending morning gymnastics sessions to train for the borough gymnastics competition at Hornsey School for Girls. These children showed fantastic dedication and motivation each morning and as a result the children had great success at the competition. Our gymnastics team came first out of 9 schools and will therefore be competing in the London Youth Games at Crystal Palace in July. As well as this great achievement, Max in Amethyst class, gained the highest points total and won first place boy. Izzy, also in Amethyst class, won a bronze medal. A huge well done to all the children who took part and represented Muswell Hill Primary in such a dedicated and talented way!

Mastermind 2014

I would like to thank our Year 6 teacher Jackie Myles who took a group of children to an additional competition. Below is a report from Jackie:

A team of six children from Year 5 were very excited to take part in an inter school Masterteam competition which took place at Trinity Primary Academy (the old Nightingale School) after school on the 22nd January. The rounds of questions included science, maths, spelling and general knowledge. Seven schools from Haringey were represented and the Muswell Hill team came a very respectable second, only 1 point separated us and the winning team! We all had a great time, and I would like to thank the parents for their support.

Sport Relief 2014

Our school councillors have been deciding on the activities that we will be doing to raise money for Sport Relief this year. Last year we raised £640 for Comic Relief from your generous support of this event. The councillors, in consultation with their classes, have decided on the following ideas to raise money.

1. Making and selling bracelets-available from the school office

2. Paying to watch the Football Friday final match. For more information on Football Fridays, please follow this link from the Ham and High: <http://muswellhillprimary.co.uk/about-us/media/>
3. Staff are to play a game of rounders and children may pay to watch the competition at lunchtime
4. Children will be given the opportunity to 'teach' a lesson (possibly a sports lesson) during the day and to pay for the privilege!
5. Children can dress up as their favourite sports person or in a sports outfit for the day and bring money to school to donate to Sports Relief charities

A letter written by our school councillors will follow shortly with dates for all these events mentioned above.

Cricket 2014

Jack Trigg in Year 5 has been selected as part of the Haringey Cricket Team. We are delighted for Jack and wish him and Haringey Borough well in forthcoming matches and competitions.

Future Announcements

If you have a similar announcement please let the School Office know so we can include it in the next newsletter!

Lost Property and Lunch Boxes

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 in cages, will also be disposed of due to hygiene reasons.

Premises Issues

I would like to thank all parents and carers for the patience afforded regarding the gate at the Duke's Avenue Entrance to the site. The fallen tree came from one of the houses of Dukes Avenue and the delay in replacing it has been due to communicating with Haringey Local Authority, the Insurers and the gate manufacturers. As the regulations have changed since the previous gate was installed, it has taken time to get the appropriate fit to match the fence panelling. There was a second delay in installation so that the colour would match the existing panels. Graham and I have impressed upon the manufacturers the urgency to have this entrance secured. We have been given another deadline date of 28.2.14 for final installation.

You will have noticed that the willow tree in the Key Stage 1 playground has been removed. The reason for this is that it had 'fallen' due to the soft soil by approximately 4 inches. There was a danger that if it was not removed it could have fallen in mild winds.

The Ark, which was decommissioned and has been out of action for some time has also been removed by Haringey Local Authority. This part of the school premises had been cordoned off as the site was deemed unsafe. Our school Governors and I are very much looking forward to launching a survey to determine what will be put in the place of The Ark.

School Improvement Planning 2014

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If you are reading a paper version of this Newsletter, I attach a business card that shows a brief description of our school improvement priorities for 2014. If you are reading an e-version, there are plenty of business cards available in the school office that show what the school is focusing on this year. We will also send one home via the children.

This year we will:

Add to our skill-set by engaging with other schools and settings. We have already started some exciting work with other schools

Believe that investment in staff training supports children's development. Our teachers have attended some excellent courses on effective delivery of the new curriculum.

Creatively look to adapt our homework policy. This will be our focus as a Senior Management and staff team this Spring.

Diligently support all children to make excellent progress. We are passionate about ensuring all pupils are making accelerated progress in learning.

Engage with parents to enhance our: playground, early years outdoor area and our communication. We have made a good start (with a little help!) on the school website and with the launch of Parent Pay. We are planning to launch a survey to gain a parental view on the best use of the old Ark space.

Dates for the diary

Please note that the school calendar contains key dates for Parents and Carers for the Spring Term:

Half-Term 17-21 February 2014

Parent Governor Votes to be in by Friday 28th February – 4pm

World Book Day	6.3.14
Orange Class Sharing Assembly	11.3.14
Year 5 Sharing Assembly	14.3.14
SPA Quiz night planned	15.3.14
Red Class Sharing Assembly	25.3.14
Yellow Class Sharing Assembly	1.4.14
Parent Consultations	1 & 3. 4.14

Easter Break 7-21 April 2014

School starts again on **Tuesday 22nd April 2014**

