



Muswell Hill Primary School

Newsletter No.19

12 February 2021

Academic Year
2020-21



Wishing you all a happy and healthy Chinese New Year



Many thanks to all the children who posted these wonderful Chinese lanterns on Seesaw. 2021 is the Year of the Ox, which is always symbolised as hard-working, persistence in Chinese culture. The Confucius Institute for TCM, who we work with to deliver the Mandarin curriculum and who normally come into school to showcase a wonderful New Year performance for the children, have sent us a video link for their celebration of Chinese New Year. It features performances from some of the talented members of the Institute.

<https://vimeo.com/510572309/d1a128171a>

Karen who teaches Mandarin at school writes:

Time stamps to the different performances are given below.

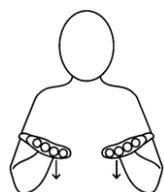
00:10 Brief introduction to the Year of the Ox
01:22 Guzheng: 'Butterfly Lovers'
04:27 Chinese dance: 'The Trip to Beauty'
06:25 Chinese martial arts
08:53 Guzheng: 'Fisherman's Song for Harvest'
13:06 New Year greetings

It's a big shame that we couldn't get together and watch the Chinese New Year show in the school hall as we did for the last few years. I remember each year after it, our children were more passionate about learning Mandarin than ever and wish that I could do a back-flip in the class... also hope the children can remember all the stories and activities that we did about Chinese New Year before. I wish you all a Happy New Year.

Makaton Sign of the Week

Here is the YouTube link for the MAKATON Sign of the Week video. The signs are "now" and "next".

https://youtu.be/mzmvdpYU_gg



"now" sign



"now" symbol



"next" sign



"next" symbol

Other contents:

- Track and trace if any child tests positive over half-term
- Useful links to support parents/carers
- Safer internet day
- Online after-school activity
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For all parents/carers of children who have been attending school

We will be continuing to carry out our track and trace duties over the half term so PLEASE let us know immediately if any child(ren) receives a positive covid test result. We will need to investigate their contacts whilst at school and notify the appropriate individuals that they will need to isolate. Please send the email/text confirming the test result to the office@muswell-hill.haringey.sch.uk email address.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Parents/Carers – useful links

Parentkind has launched Parent Hangout for parents to support each other in the challenges of remote learning

Established in 1956, Parentkind (formerly PTA UK) is a charity that aims to advance education by encouraging the fullest cooperation between home and school, education authorities, central government and all other interested parties and bodies.

‘Parent Hangout’ by Parentkind on Facebook is a friendly space for parents to come together and use their own experiences to help each other with the challenges of remote learning. Parentkind created the new group so that parents can get the reassurance and kind words they need from other parents in the same position. Any parents of school-aged children are encouraged to join and ask their questions, share their anxieties and post their ideas as part of a safe online community.

If you are interested, visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/parenthangoutbyparentkind> to find out more and sign up.

Supporting Parents Helpfinder (Young Minds)

Young Minds is the UK's leading charity committed to improving the emotional wellbeing and mental health of children and young people. They campaign, research and influence policy and practice.

“Times are tough for many people right now. Parents find themselves pulled in many different directions and children may be struggling being in the house for so much longer than usual. A mixture of concern about covid, working from home and having children at home, along with a possible financial impact make for a stressful household. Young Minds have created a useful 'Supporting Parents Helpfinder'. By answering six questions, parents can find out how to support their child's mental health during the pandemic (and beyond).”

Find the help finder here: <https://youngminds.org.uk/supporting-parents-helpfinder/>

When emotions explode (Young Minds)

Young Minds have also created a useful poster highlighting ways to give support to children when they have angry feelings or outbursts and it may help families start a conversation and talk about each other's feelings.

Download the poster here:

<https://youngminds.org.uk/media/4291/when-emotions-explode-poster.pdf>

Safer Internet Day – 9 February 2021

Message from Ritu, our Computing Leader of Learning at school:

This week we participated in Safer Internet Day and I've seen some fabulous posters, videos and fact files on how to work and play safely online. I am impressed by the mature suggestions on what the children would do if something unexpected occurred when using online platforms. What a sensible bunch they are!

Do take a look at the coding club information as it is a fun event to engage in and we look forward to seeing more of your work next half-term.

Have a restful break and enjoy some screen-free time!

Online after-school activity idea

[Code Camp](#), who have run a camp at school previously during the holidays, will be running a 6-week online coding course (cost is £45.00) after half term. "Elevate your child's coding skills from the comfort of your own home. Each week children will be guided by one of the Code Camp facilitators for 60 minutes, with access to a live tech support team for 2 hours. You will also have 24/7 access to Code Camp World - Code Camp's online coding platform, to keep the children coding after the sessions conclude."

The after-school sessions start on Tuesday 23rd February. Please go to www.codecamp.co.uk/oas for more information.



Hot off the press

The first edition of the [Muswell Magazine for Kids](#) will soon be printed – it was Year 2 Rosa's original idea and together with 13 other children from Gold and Yellow classes the children have produced their first copy over the last month or so.

We think it is a fantastic idea and would like to give Rosa and her fellow collaborators a shout out for being creative and inspirational, we look forward to seeing more editions in due course.

We'll keep you informed of future developments.

School Shout Outs

A HUGE thank you to all of **YOU** amazing parents/carers who have facilitated so much fantastic learning this half term. You have supported your children with their remote learning in difficult circumstances – you all warrant a truly ENORMOUS shout out!

All the children also deserve a whole school shout out this week, it's not easy working from home and missing your friends at school – we are all so impressed with your resilience and determination – lots of Year of the Ox characteristics being displayed rather magnificently!

We wish you all a happy half term and we look forward to a time – hopefully in March – when we will see you again in person. In the meantime, we hope you do manage to have a bit of a break and the teachers will be back remote learning with the children on Monday 22 February.

PSA Virtual Valentine's Balloon Race

Good luck to everyone who is participating in the PSA's latest fun fundraising event.

It is too late to buy a balloon now, but we look forward to hearing all about the winner in due course.

Thanks to the PSA for organising this event and to everyone who is taking part.



Toby's Art Exhibition page

Here are some lovely LOVE art posters inspired by the artist Robert Indiana.



Golden Learners of the Week

Red Class – Lucy’s Shout Outs

Our Golden Learners in Red Class are **Alexandra** and **Harvey**. Both have recently completed some amazing creative home learning tasks, including making a volcano and a bird-feeder! It's lovely to see them so actively involved in their learning at home.

Ruby Class – Grace’s Shouts Outs

My Golden Learners for this week are **Daizy** and **Kitson**. I can see that Kitson is working really hard and challenging himself to do his very best. I have been particularly impressed with his writing. Daizy, for all her fantastic videos uploaded to Tapestry. She has a brilliant sense of humour and always makes me smile. They both show such a positive attitude towards their learning. Brilliant work you two! Finally, a MASSIVE shout out to the whole of Ruby class for all your hard work this half term. I am super proud of you all!

Orange – Jeni’s Shout Out

The Golden Learner in Orange Class this week is **Adam**! Adam has shown great resilience and determination with his learning this week, especially his writing. I can see how hard he is working to improve his writing and I am really proud of him. Well done Adam!

Amber – Toby and Roisin’s Shout Outs

Amber Class Golden Learner this week is **Natalie**. Always showing resilience in her learning, persevering with humour and a smile! Well done Natalie :)

Yellow – Geoff’s Shout Out

The Golden Learner in Yellow Class this week is **Christopher**. Christopher has worked incredibly hard all term! There have been times where he has found English to be a little challenging, but he always perseveres and tries his best. I have seen his work improve throughout the term as a result so he should be very proud of himself. He often teaches me new facts about animals on Zoom too for which I will be forever grateful. Well done Christopher!

Gold – Nathan’s Shout Outs

My Golden Learner this week is **Herman**. Herman has been showing great determination and perseverance with his learning at home. This week he has come up with some particularly thoughtful and imaginative responses to our literacy learning. As well as this, he always shows me that he can reflect back on his learning by answering my extra questions. Well done Herman!

Green – Kath’s Shout Outs

Aston - For all his work on Seesaw and especially his fantastic maths. He has got to grips with multiplication and division of two digit by one digit numbers. A terrific achievement. He also always makes excellent contributions to our Zooms and always makes the time and effort to prepare beforehand. Well done Aston!

Josephine - For fabulous engagement with Seesaw. From the very start she has applied herself to all activities and always challenged herself by doing the optional mastery work. Her maths has been excellent, and she has really got to grips with multiplying and dividing larger numbers. Well done Josephine!

Emerald – Lara’s Shout Outs

James for his fantastic creative work on seesaw; his wonderful reading and for his perseverance when learning has been tricky. James has worked very hard this half term and I am very proud!

And...

A massive shout out to all of Emerald class! You have all been wonderful during this phase of remote learning. I have loved seeing all your efforts on seesaw and our zooms always leave me with a huge smile! Happy half term!

Blue – Ritu’s Shout Out

This week's Golden Learner is **Shane** for showing a great deal of resilience as well as flexibility towards his learning!

Shane has produced some excellent work in Maths due to his determination not to give up and to learn from his mistakes. He's been willing to give things a go and, if he's not been 100% right the first time, he's used what he does already know to help him to move on to the next step of his learning. This has been particularly true in his Maths work.

In reading, Shane has also shown resilience and taken onboard feedback, particularly remembering to look at punctuation to help him read with the correct expression, showing that he understands what is needed for the text to make sense and engage the person listening to his reading. I couldn't wait for the next part of the story!

In her GL video, Mandi also looked back on the need to have flexibility in our approach to learning and Shane has certainly done this - he's been using new ways of accessing his learning and adapted to this really quickly with patience and, once again, resilience when technology has meant going back to the start and trying again!

Well done Shane, you deserve to be this week's Golden Learner. Keep it up!

Sapphire – Sophie’s Shout Outs

Essie and **Vanessa** are this week's Golden Learners - for their positive engagement and attitude this week, beautifully written and considered poetry, a final push to the finish line in our unit on multiplication and division and visually stunning and impactful art - Essie labelling her Wave masterpiece with key geographical features and Vanessa trying her hand at Origami and Baking! Congratulations to you both and to the whole of the wonderful, hard-working and resilient Sapphire Class :)

Miss Fryer’s Brilliant Blue Bubble Shout Out

We've had a lovely week continuing to express ourselves in kennings poems and drawing pictures in the snow. We're looking forward to a well-earned break over half term. Everyone has been fantastic in the brilliant blue bubble.

My Golden Learner this week is **Izzy**. She has a great attitude towards her work and always powers on to produce a great quantity and quality. Her focus on listening is really improving and her maths skills are showing great progress. Keep up the good work.

Indigo – Hadley’s Shout Outs

Bill has shown great maturity and a very impressive attitude to work all year, showing a determination to understand what is expected in all lessons and to complete all of the tasks set. He has produced great work across the curriculum, and I have been particularly impressed by his willingness to learn from mistakes and take advice. Bill is also impeccably well-behaved, polite and respectful to others.

Kira has many talents and produces extraordinary work across the curriculum almost every day. She has a great creative urge and demonstrates her talent for imaginative writing and art every day, and not just in English and art lessons, either! Best of all, although Kira could probably be forgiven for being a massive show-off, in fact she is modest, kind and supportive of other children.

I have to single out two children each week but the reality is that ALL of Indigo Class have been A.M.A.Z.I.N.G. all year, and especially this term. You've definitely earned a rest and I wish you all a lovely lazy week of loafing!

Cobalt – Elena’s Shout Outs

The Golden Learners in Cobalt Class this week are ALL of the children!

Teaching you all, as your class teacher this half term, has been a pure joy. Each and every one of you have shown resilience, reflectiveness, enthusiasm, positivity and independence with your online learning. As well as this, the empathy and kindness you show to one another is beyond incredible. What a supportive, caring class you are! I am so proud of you and wish you all a well-deserved half term rest (and a big shout out to your parents for their ongoing support too). Elena.

Violet – Muriel’s Shout Out

Blown away by the creative soul
Artistic flair that will leave you in awe
Imagination is the key
Lyrical poem that impressed me
Entertaining news report - teenagers getting arrested for eating sausage with no knife and fork :o
Young, he may be - but his voice shall be heard!

Bailey, the Golden Learner, will change the world ... one small action here we go!

Amethyst – Joseph’s Shout Out

This week's Golden Learner in Amethyst is **Eve**. Eve has been a remote learning superstar: she has shown outstanding independence, resilience and diligence. Eve completes so much remote learning every day and to a high quality. Furthermore, she is always prepared to give things a go and her relentless positivity has inspired me over the lockdown. In particular, her Mandarin work impresses me (and makes me slightly jealous!) and this week, she made a fantastic Chinese lantern for art. Well done, Eve.