

September 2018

Muswell Hill Primary School – Newsletter 1

Welcome back to all parents, carers and children. A special welcome to all our new children, parents and carers; we know your children will soon settle in and you will all become part of the Muswell Hill Primary School community.

We hope you all had a good summer – the children certainly seem refreshed and ready to get down to some great learning.

We are also delighted to welcome our new head teacher, Mandi Howells and all our other new members of the team.

Mandi has written to you below:

Hello.

It is so good to finally be here with you at Muswell Hill.

It seems like such a long time since the appointment was made, but it's great to be on board. Everyone has been so warm and welcoming to me and I look forward to meeting many more of you as the term progresses.

I'm really pleased to be the head teacher of Muswell Hill and I am looking forward to an exciting future. I am already planning some coffee sessions to meet as many of you as possible, but you are going to see lots of me around and about, so do please come and chat. I will also be at the 'Meet the teacher' sessions, which start next week and I will be on the gates as many mornings as possible. In addition, I will try to write a biweekly newsletter to keep you fully informed about everything that is happening at the school.

Last week began with an unexpected bang as we had to deal with 'the leak' and the flooding of the school premises. The staff and community of local schools pulled together to support us and we were still able to hold two out of our three scheduled staff professional development days. This was an opportunity for the team to work (even though we were in different sites) and discuss where we are now, and begin to think about a shared vision of where we want Muswell Hill to be.

Of course, I am really keen to hear your views and I will be creating opportunities over this term to hear your thoughts and ideas about how, together, we move Muswell Hill on from a great school to an extraordinary one.

Mandi



Redecoration of the classrooms

In the July newsletter we informed you about the decorating works that were taking place over the summer holiday – we hope you have noticed our lovely, freshly painted classrooms!

The class environment is now so much cleaner and more pleasant for the children and our teaching staff. They will form a fantastic base for the learning displays that your children will be creating in the next few weeks.



As you will have gathered from the July newsletter we have a number of new staff members who are really excited about joining our school community.



Doy SENDco

Anita SEN LSA

Meabh Y4 Tchr

Rachel – Y6 Tchr

Dee SMSA



Isabel LSA Y6

Nathan Y1 Tchr

Jack Y5 Tchr

Cecilia SMSA

Same but different!

My name's David Howes and I'm the Deputy Headteacher as Muswell Hill. I've been teaching for twelve years now and all of them have been here - from my NQT year in Year 6 way back in 2006, through Years 4 and 3 and Assistant Head for Upper KS2. Teaching has been my second career and the reason I love it is your children are the best colleagues anyone could wish to work with. They're fun, energetic and sparky and make the week fly by; I have never had a job like it.

If you need me for anything, hopefully you'll see me in the playground across the week but if not email the office and I'll get back to you.

My name is Liz McMullen and I am the Assistant Head for Years 3, 4 and 5.

I hope you all had a wonderful summer holiday and that your children are ready to start an exciting new year with us. Our team is dedicated to ensuring fantastic learning experiences for your children in our happy, creative and nurturing school environment.

I am really looking forward to working with you and your children throughout the coming year.

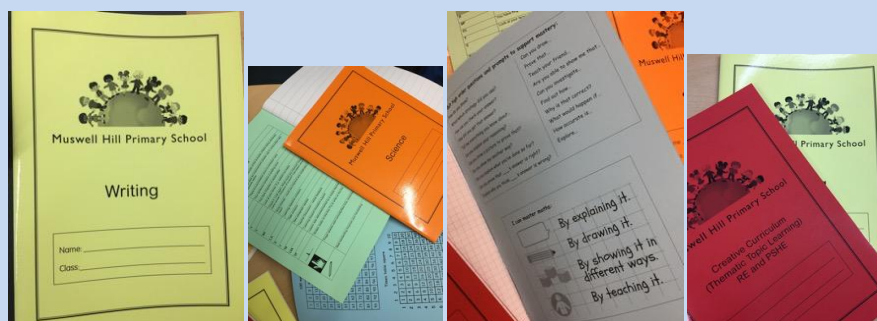
Welcome to Y1 and Y2 children, parents and carers. I hope you all enjoyed the summer.

My name is Suzy Fotheringham and I am very excited to take on the role of Assistant Head for Years 1 and 2. My duties include overall responsibility for the teaching and learning and pastoral needs of all the children in Years 1 and 2. I can't wait to get to know all 120 children in Orange, Amber, Yellow and Gold classes. Alternate weeks I will regularly teach in each class while the class teachers have time to plan and deliver exciting and engaging lessons – more on this will be covered at our Meet the Teacher sessions.

I will be in the KS1 playground most mornings so please come and say hello.

Again, I look forward to meeting you.

How we've been spending money from the Learning Enhancement Fund



Thank you so much for your donations to Muswell Hill's learning enhancement fund.

1. We have designed and made new subject books for all the children from Year 1 to Year 6 to record all their amazing learning. Each book includes our marking codes and prompts for children and adults. This will help them feel a sense of pride and care with their learning materials, improve their presentation and record their creative outcomes. We will be exploring further home reading and homework records as we progress through the year.
2. We have already made collaborative links with the Unicorn Theatre in Southwark and we have 200 places to take children there. However, we would love to take all 420 children to the theatre this year so will be looking at additional ways to help fund these wonderful creative learning opportunities.
3. Our final learning project involves an online homework package that will support the practice and embedding of key skills required for Literacy and Numeracy. Each child will receive a personal log in. We will discuss this more with you when you come to the 'Meet the Teacher' meetings this week and at the 'Meet the Leaders' sessions with me over September.

For a reminder about how you can contribute to the Learning Enhancement Fund please [click here](#).

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 12th September 2018	Year 2 (KS1 Hall - 9.05am)
	Year 3 (KS2 Hall – 9.05am)
Thursday 13th September 2018	Year 6 (KS2 Hall – 9.05am)
Friday 14th September 2018	Year 4 (KS2 Hall – 9.05am)
Monday 17th September 2018	Year 1 (KS1 Hall- 9.05am)
Tuesday 18th September 2018	Year 5 (KS2 Hall – 9.05am)
Wednesday 19th September 2018	Orchestra starts again 8.30am in the KS2 Hall
Tuesday 25th September 2018	Meet The Leadership Team (KS2 Hall -9.05am)
Thursday 27th September 2018	Meet The Leadership Team (KS2 Hall -5.45pm)
Friday 28th September 2018	Individual school photographs for all children
Monday 1st October 2018	Year 6 to the Isle of Wight

Wednesday 3rd October 2018	Reception (KS1 Hall – 9.05am)
Monday 15 th October 2018	Meet The Leadership Team (KS2 Hall -2.45pm)
TBC: Saturday 1 st December 2018	The Festive Winter Fair
Tuesday 18 th December 2018	Winter Christmas Shows – colours
Wednesday 19 th December 2018	Winter Christmas Shows – jewels
Friday 21 st December 2018	Carol Concert at The Baptist Church (tbc 10am)
Friday 21 st December 2018	School closes at 1pm for ALL CHILDREN (post lunch)
Monday 7 th January 2019	TAD day – (A new vision for the school)
Tuesday 8 th January 2019	Children back to school

NB: 'Meet The Leadership Team' will involve meeting Mandi, Dan - the new Chair of Governors, David the Deputy Head and some governors and members of SLT (if they are not teaching!)

For those celebrating religious festivals this month we hope you have the opportunity to celebrate with your families and friends.

Rosh Hashanah on the 10th (Jewish New Year), Al-Hijra on the 11th (Islamic New Year), Padmasambhava Day - 18th

On Thursday, I held a whole school assembly and told the children a little bit about me. I have asked them to produce a self-portrait/selfie and record three things they would like me to know about them. By Friday night, I had already received some. I have included a few pictures below, to show you what a talented bunch of artists we have.



Welcome Message from the Chair of Governors

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! Having visited the school over the past few days it is a real pleasure to see how all of your children have settled back into school life so positively.

Moreover, I am delighted to be your new chair of governors.

Having worked on the board of governors for the past five years and watched the school develop and respond to its ever increasing challenges, it has been fantastic to see Muswell Hill Primary recognised as the No.1 primary school in Haringey.

However, we must all remember that primary school league tables are not the only measure of success. At Muswell Hill Primary, ensuring that our children are happy at school, and are given the tools and opportunities to reach their potential both academically and socially is equally, if not even more, important.

We are very lucky to have such a fantastic team of teaching and support staff who work above and beyond to ensure that the school is caring, creative, and gives all the children a sense of security and confidence on their journey through the school.

Led by our new Head teacher, Mandi, who many of you will have met at the school gates, we are all excited about the next chapter in Muswell Hill Primary's own school journey.

I will be working closely with both Mandi and our amazing group of governors, who work tirelessly and voluntarily on your behalf, to ensure that the school continues to deliver the special atmosphere and the results that can so easily be taken for granted.

My predecessor Simon Wantman did a fantastic job and I very much hope to build on his success, in both challenging and supporting the school, ensuring that it is fit for the world we live in now, as well as in the future

Over the coming weeks one of our key priorities will be to listen to all our stakeholders in order to develop a sustainable long-term strategy, ensuring that we maintain the very special sense of community and kindness that comes from both the children, the parents and carers as well as all the staff.

I look forward to meeting many of you over the coming weeks; I will be joining Mandi at her "Meet the Leadership Team" sessions, and will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Regards

Dan Salem

House Keeping Reminders

NB: We will send a more detailed newsletter in a few weeks reminding everyone about healthy eating and the packed lunch policy, health and safety expectations around jewellery and hair and other Behaviour, Health and Wellbeing issues.

Punctuality Reminders

Please remember school gates are open from at 8.45am.

School starts at 8.55am.

Children arriving at 9.05am are considered late and will have missed an opportunity to respond to their marking.

Anyone arriving after 9.30 am receives an unauthorised mark – this counts as a school absence.

10 unauthorised absences result in referrals to Education Welfare Services and could result in a Penalty Notice or fine.

2017/18 Attendance

Reception to Y6 **96.25%**

Blue class had the highest attendance with 97.65%

Let's see if we can improve our whole school attendance this year!

School lunches

Please don't forget to let the school office know if your children are changing from school lunches to packed lunches (or vice versa) this half term. Please also remember that we ask you to commit to a full half term before changing lunch arrangements.

Safeguarding Reminder: Mobile Phones **MUST be switched off** in school. Anyone using a phone will be asked to leave the setting. Please take calls outside of the school.

Parent View gives you the opportunity to tell both us and OFSTED what you think about our school. You can visit their website by [clicking here](#).

Emergency Numbers: All personal contact details are being updated.

Please ensure we have accurate details of your address and emergency contact details. We require a minimum of two numbers.

Over this half term we will be emailing and/or sending you a copy of the information we have on our system. Please check if all the information is correct and let us know any changes we may need to make.

Thank you.