

Muswell Hill Primary School Newsletter – January 2020

Academic Year 2019-20

Issue No. 6



Happy New Year - we wish you all a healthy and happy 2020

Welcome back, we hope you all had a pleasant festive break. The children seem energised and ready to learn. This issue of the newsletter contains lots of advance dates for your diaries – do please take a moment to read and jot them down for future reference.

Workshops for parents

Thurs 23 January	All parents and carers - Rights Respecting School – an explanation of our journey to becoming a Rights Respecting School – 9.00am (KS2 Hall) and the same workshop repeated at 5.30pm (Outdoor Classroom)
Mon 16 March	Reception and Year 1 parents and carers - Phonics Screening – what's it all about? 9.10am and the same workshop repeated at 5.30pm – location to be confirmed
Tues 24 March	Year 2 parents/carers KS1 SATS at 9.05am in the KS1 Hall
Thurs 26 March	Year 6 parents/carer KS2 SATS at 9.05am in the KS2 Hall
Tues 21 April	Maths Workshop for Year 1 and Year 2 parents/carers at 9.05am
Thurs 23 April	Maths Workshop for Year 3, 4 and 5 parents/carers at 9.05am

Stop Press:

Children return to school in September on FRIDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2020.

Spring term dates reminder:

We have a Staff Training Day (known as a TAD day) on Friday 14 February - the children do not come to school on this day.

Half term is the week Monday 17 February to Friday 21 February. So the children return to school on Monday 24 February, having finished at the usual time on Thursday 13 February.

We break up for the Spring break on Friday 3 April at the usual time 3.30pm, MASC will run as usual on that day.

We are back to school on Monday 20 April at 8.55am as usual.

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School Assemblies

There are many assemblies each term, some highlights this Spring Term will include:

Safer Internet Day (11 February)

Fairtrade Fortnight (24 February to 8 March)

International Women's Day (8 March)

They will also be learning about the following religious festivals:

Sikhism – the birthday of Guru Gobind Singh which was on 2 January

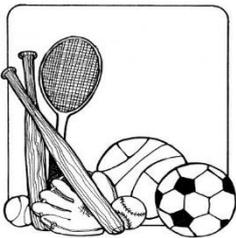
Hinduism – Holi - heralding the arrival of Spring celebration after Winter (9/10 March)

Judaism - Purim - commemorating the day Esther, Queen of Persia, saved the Jewish people (9/10 March)

Christianity – Palm Sunday (5 April) and Good Friday (10 April)

Rights Respecting School Council

As we start our journey to becoming a Rights Respecting School (come to our parent/carer workshops on Thursday 23 January to find out more – the first page of this newsletter gives details of timings) we have already set up and trained a Rights Respecting School Council who will be working to ensure that every member of our school community is aware of children's rights. Members (two children from each year group who have been elected by their peers) will attend five meetings this term where they will discuss issues which concern both themselves and their classmates, such as the school environment and how they can influence events and the development of the school.



Sports Events

The children will be taking part in a variety of sports events this term; some will be high competition events and some will be high participation events. We will be holding trials for children who are not already part of a team for some of these events, we'll let the children know when these will take place.

Thursday 16 January	Year 6 Indoor Athletics
Monday 20 January	Year 6 Football
Tuesday 3 March	Years 5 and 6 Quiksticks
Wednesday 11 March	Years 3 and 4 Gymnastics
Thursday 12 March	Years 5 and 6 Gymnastics
Thursday 26 March	Year 3 Dance Festival

Update on sustainability at Muswell Hill Primary School

Sustainability is an important part of our development priorities and vision for the future, and after half term we are pleased that we will be linking up with the Muswell Hill Sustainability Group to develop an environmental strategy. As part of our parent/carer skills audit we have already identified some parents who may be able to offer us specialist advice in this field and we will be contacting them soon.

If you have any specialist skills (in any area) which you think we may find useful and which you would like to volunteer your help with, do please let us know – we'd love to hear from you and add you to our database.

Year 5 to take part in Apollo Music Project

Musicians from this Classical Music Charity will be coming in to do a series of workshops with the Year 5 children throughout the Spring and Summer terms; they will also perform to all of the KS2 children, and the project will culminate in Year 5 with a concert trip at the end of the year. We are looking forward to working with them. This extract from their website explains a little more:



Apollo Music Projects: Inspiring children through music

'Apollo Music Projects provides a unique opportunity for children to work closely with professional musicians, using the language of music to develop listening skills, communication and teamwork. Our programmes enable students to discover for themselves how to listen to and enjoy classical music, using their own imagination and experiences to enter a new world of sound, stories and feelings.

The programme introduces children to the instruments of the orchestra, the musicians who play them and the music they play, providing the opportunity to hear live music and the tools to understand what they are hearing.'

Other special events for the children this term

On 3 February the children will have a performance from the Confucius Institute to celebrate Chinese New Year – the Year of the Rat - which is on Saturday 25 January.

We will be raising awareness of mental health during Children's Mental Health Week, 3 - 9 February. On Friday 7 February, we will be encouraging children to wear their clothes inside out in support of the importance of talking about their feelings rather than bottling them up inside. During the week this will be one of the subjects discussed.



Children will also be taking part in a number of exciting activities during the following:

- Fairtrade Fortnight – 24 February to 8 March
- Engineering Week - 29 February to 6 March
- World Book Day – 5 March
- British Science Week – 6 - 15 March (NOTE: check for availability of after-school clubs this week as some will be cancelled because of Parent Consultations)

A Night at the Exhibition

We are delighted to be holding another **Night at the Exhibition** this year – it's on Thursday 2 April – we'll be counting down to this major event a little bit nearer the time – it received rave reviews last year so we have set the bar high. Reserve the early evening on that day for a chance to see the children's work showcased around the school.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) – information for all parents/carers of children in Reception classes

During the course of this term each Reception child will be the subject of a 'child focus week' where the Reception Team will focus particularly on a small group of children. In the week following a child's focus week, the parents/carers of the child will be invited to come in for a parent/carer drop-in session where you will have the opportunity of viewing your child's work and having a chat with the teaching team. Watch out for your individual invitations during the course of this term.

Parent consultation meetings and My Plan meetings

Mid-year reports will be sent to parents/carers on Monday 9 March and on Tuesday 10 and Thursday 12 March there will be parent consultation meetings providing an opportunity to discuss them. We will send you a link to book an appointment nearer the time. Most after-school clubs will be cancelled this week – please check with the club provider- MASC will run as normal. For children with a My Plan, parent/carer meetings will be scheduled during the following week, beginning Monday 16 March, you will be advised individually.

Unplugged Music Event

You have been sent information about this event, it is repeated below in case you missed it – note the closing date is very soon.

Calling all musicians for our FOURTH annual music night at MHPS!!

MHPS UNPLUGGED

Friday, February 7th 2020

We are look for children of ALL abilities and ages from across the whole school. Can your child play an instrument? Sing? Beatbox? Are they in a band or music ensemble? All styles are welcome and we would love to hear what they can do! We are looking forward yet again, to showcase the wide range of musical talent at our school. It's a brilliant chance for children of all ages and abilities to perform to an enthusiastic audience!

To take part please send us one 30-second video clip of them performing the song or piece they would like to perform, send to us at: mhpsmusicnight@gmail.com.

Please include your contact details—email/mobile number plus name and class of your child with the video, along with information about the equipment they would bring or require on the night.

The final piece should be around 3 minutes long and we would really love to see children of **all** levels and **all** styles of musicianship taking part—anything goes!

The deadline for submissions is: Tuesday January 14th 2020

Tickets for spectators will be £5 adult and £3.00 per child available soon through the school's Parentpay system. All money raised will go to the school to be spent on Music related items

Message from the PSA



Warm wishes from your PSA!

We look forward to a fun and exciting 2020!

EASY NEW FUNDRAISING ACTIVITY: HAPPY BAGS!

- HAPPY BAGS aims to raise funds by collecting ADULT pre-loved reusable clothes and other items, alongside our successful Jumble Sale of children items (25th April 2020).
- There will be HAPPY BAGS going home in your child(ren) bags where you can place the following DONATIONS:
 - * reusable ADULT clean and dry clothing
 - * reusable ADULT paired shoes and footwear
 - * reusable ADULT accessories (e.g. belts, handbags, etc.)
- Please RETURN FULL HAPPY BAGS TO SCHOOL sometime in April (date TBC).
- Please keep your donations of CHILDREN pre-loved toys, books, bikes and clothing for the Jumble Sale separately (date to drop these at school TBC).

RAISING FUNDS BY USING ONLINE SHOPPING PLATFORMS: THANK YOU!

- EASYFUNDRAISING: Thank you to all those who use this platform to raise funds for our school - last December alone we raised £39.52, which is a record. Please keep on using it! This month's donations by retailers accessed through easyfundraising while you shop online are double!
- SMILE.AMAZON: This is a separate way to raise funds while shopping online. We have generated £28.13 via smile.amazon between June and end November! December data still not available - check this space!

email: mhps.psa@gmail.com / website: <https://sites.google.com/view/mhps-psa/>

Also, please make a note of the following two dates for PSA events:

Friday 17 January – Year 4 parents/carers are running ‘**Fruity Friday**’ - come and buy something fruity as an end of the week treat in the KS2 playground

Saturday 28 March – **QUIZ NIGHT** – further details to follow in due course