

Muswell Hill Primary School Newsletter – 19 June 2020

Academic Year
2019-20



Summer Programmes and Catch Up Funding

The information released this morning about funding for schools to support children in the school year 2020/21 and the option to run some summer programmes is welcomed. Once we are clear about the guidance around numbers of children allowed to group together, we will come back to you with information and potential options available to the community.

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Helen Hattersley is retiring...

After 31 years of commitment and dedication to the Muswell Hill community, Helen has decided to leave after a very long and happy time.

Some of you will know Helen as a teacher and leader of your children, or perhaps she was your own teacher and leader at the school.

The staff and school will sorely miss her.

When Helen told us her news, the same talk about her qualities permeated the emails. Helen has a natural humour; she has tremendous understanding about how children learn and develop. She has a gift for maintaining children's behaviour and how to bring out the best in them. She is also a phenomenal storyteller - she mesmerises children and adults alike. Her integrity is unquestionable, and she is calm, empathetic, caring, warm and patient. She has a strong passion for the arts and music alike.

She is leaving a big hole in MHPS's heart and we will miss her very much.

I am sure you will all join us in wishing her a restful, fun-filled retirement.

Thanks

Mandi

Below is a letter to you, from Helen.

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is a VERY strange time to have to let you know that I am retiring from teaching and I will leave Muswell Hill School at the end of the academic year.

I have had the pleasure of working alongside some wonderful, talented, kind, caring, creative, organised and helpful staff over the past 30 years at the school.

Thank you to ALL of them.

I have never worked with anyone who didn't want the children in their care to achieve or learn and I feel that caring professionals are key to a healthy society. I think that we have all been witness to that over the past few months.

I continue to be amazed by the contribution that parents and governors make to our school.

Thank YOU all for that.

It has always made the progression of the school over the years a positive experience for the children and staff alike.

I have had the pleasure of leading the school over 22 years (alongside Jill Hughes and James Wiltshire) and hope that the ethos and values that we have shared have been a bedrock for Mandi and the current senior leadership team to build upon.

There have been many changes and challenges along the way - none more than the amalgamation of the Infant and Junior schools in 2000. Time has flown by and no year has been the same for me.

I can't believe that was 20 years ago. It seems like yesterday.

Of course, it is the children at the school that make MHPS so special and such a wonderful school to work in.

I continue to LOVE hearing from past pupils and their achievements. It is lovely to know that MHPS had a part to play in their progress and life journey.

That is the wonderful feeling about teaching.

You CAN make a difference in a child's life, even in a way that you might not be aware of.

That makes all the exhaustion, stress, working conditions and challenges worthwhile.

I bumped into an ex parent in IKEA a while back. She recognised me and her child was now 28. She said that I had made a big difference to her child and was always kind to him. He was a very troubled and challenging child at the time.

Memorable in fact!

It was SO nice to hear that and she was very proud of how he had turned out and was doing very well in life.

It made me feel that I have had a job that is truly rewarding.

Us "key workers" (as we are now known!) make a valuable contribution to society and at the end of a long, and at times extremely challenging, career it is great to know that I have helped, supported and encouraged children and staff to achieve their best life possible.

I started my teaching career in the borough of Tower Hamlets (in the 1980s) in a small school in Brick Lane - when it was NOT a trendy part of London.

I learned a lot there about diversity, poverty and prejudice.

I learned how to teach children who didn't have the best start in life and were lively, intelligent and creative. Most were first generation immigrants and the most fantastic families to encounter.

I had come straight from a teaching practice in the docklands of Newcastle, so it was a baptism of fire in a new environment for a new teacher. I loved it.....even the rats running across the road in Fashion Street, in the morning, when I walked to work from Liverpool Street station!

I then moved to schools in Hackney, Islington, Brunei, Japan and Australia then came back to Haringey after a long spell travelling around the world.

I have spent many happy years at Muswell Hill School working with amazing colleagues and have lots of happy memories to take away with me.

Memories of shows, concerts, performances, carnivals, presentations, school fairs, openings, closures (!), children, parents, staff, governors, community projects, visits, visitors, exhibitions, displays and many, many celebrations.

I would like to thank Muswell Hill Primary School for being a BIG part of my life over the past years and for giving SO many happy memories to draw on in the coming years.

I always love the last class that I have taught THE BEST- so thank you to Red Class for an unusual but great year together. You really are THE BEST!

I will hear all about your progress from Roisin and the other teachers as you progress through the school.

Love to you all.

Helen

Muswell Hill Primary School

Golden Learner Shout Outs

RUBY CLASS – Grace’s Shout Outs

My Golden Learner is Christy. She sends me such a range of wonderful work. I loved the planet that she designed this week. I asked the children what they would take to space, and she said she would take her dog, which made me smile. Well done Christy!

RED CLASS – Helen and Roisin’s Shout Outs

Tre is this week’s Golden Learner. His Mum has sent some fantastic work to us by email and on Tapestry. He has been doing SUCH a variety of activities. Story maps, books, number work, pizza making, dream catcher making, upper body strength training are just a few things.

Thank you, Tre and WELL DONE.



ORANGE CLASS – Jeni’s Shout Outs

My golden learner this week is Gali. She has worked incredibly hard this week to complete all the activities set. Her effort this week has been outstanding!

AMBER CLASS – Lucy’s Shout Outs

Ethan has worked very hard and shown amazing concentration when working on his writing this week. He is always trying to improve and shows such a great approach to his learning.

Tilia has impressed us with how well organised she is when she approaches any tasks. She plans and thinks ahead about what she needs to do for all tasks and is always ready to explain her choices.

YELLOW CLASS – Geoff’s Shout Outs

Kayahan for being honest and communicating with me when he doesn't understand something. Together we have discussed different problems over Seesaw as and when they have arisen. He has shown immense patience given the circumstances and is learning new things all the time.

Talia for having an immensely positive attitude. Each week she uploads her work along with questions, explanations and descriptions prompting dialogue between us which I always look forward to. Keep it up, Talia!

GOLD CLASS – Nathan’s Shout Outs

Iona-Mae and Mikey are my Golden Learners this week - for both working so hard at home over the last few months, and for sharing so much of their fantastic work on Seesaw. Well Done!

GREEN CLASS – Kath and Rebecca’s Shout Outs

Our Golden Learners are Florence for her all round effort on Seesaw and super effort in Toby's Music, art and P.E challenge.

Delphi for her excellent effort and great maths explanations in every piece of work.

Harry for his all-round effort on Seesaw especially his clear explanations.

Thea for her super effort on Seesaw this week. So many pieces of work it was difficult to choose just one.

EMERALD CLASS – Lara’s Shout Outs

Izzy for her great geography learning and Anoushka for her dramatic reading. Thank you!

BLUE CLASS – Ritu’s Shout Outs

Kira - huge amount of work and such enthusiasm in all she does. Some of the most creative art I’ve seen.

Guy - such a high standard of art projects. It’s been so impressive.

SAPPHIRE CLASS – Meabh’s Shout Outs

Daniel was picked as this week's Golden Learner for his fantastic character description about a fictional character. He included all the challenges I set him like using expanded noun phrases, list sentences and a simile. Daniel has also been working on his handwriting this year and used fantastic presentation in this piece of work.

Clemence was picked as this week's Golden Learner for her fantastic Science research project about Alexander Graham Bell. Clemence showed great ICT skills by creating a PowerPoint presentation and uploaded a video of her presenting her research to her seesaw account. Clemence included lots of information all about Bell's life and inventions in her project.

COBALT CLASS – Sophie’s Shout Outs

Golden Learner for this week is Oscar W for his thoughtful and kind response to this week’s Rights Respecting Article and his passion to promote equality and challenge the discrimination of others. Well done Oscar.

INDIGO CLASS – Jack’s Shout Outs

Indigo Class’s golden learner this week is Salma. Salma has taken to see-saw like 'a duck to water' and is completing all tasks to the best of her ability. She has shown a tremendous amount of engagement and endeavour over the past week and I couldn't be more pleased with her. Keep up your great work ethic and attitude to learning Salma - well done.

AMETHYST CLASS – Joseph’s Shout Outs

The Golden Big Brain for the last week goes to Eloise. Eloise puts an incredible amount of effort into her work and it shows. Furthermore, her organisation skills, diligence and independence at such a young age are impressive. This week, not only has she completed all academic tasks to a high level but she has produced a veritable feast for her mum’s birthday. Well done, Eloise.

VIOLET CLASS – Muriel’s Shout Outs

The Golden Learner of the week from Queendom A is a thoughtful child who has braced the class with a warm contagious smile since coming back to school. I was extremely touched by her spoken word poetry to raise awareness of equality for all. Please keep an eye out on the school website as the poem will be published next week. As well as this, she designed a statue of a suffragette that she would place in the world so we never forget about the struggle for gender equality. Hopefully Holly's wish will come true and soon they will act like we are all human. Well done Holly, I have loved seeing you use your voice to take action.

The Golden Learner of the week from Queendom B is a hardworking, diligent child who has impressed me with his work ethic since coming back to school. He has made reflective contributions to class discussions and I thoroughly enjoyed his poem explaining how school is more than just a building. He never allows distractions to get in his way and has shown real maturity throughout the year. Noah, a well-deserved Golden Learner, well done!



MAKE YOUR MARK

Closes Monday 6th July

Acclaimed street artist Carleen De Sozer is helping the Palace to design way-finding signage that supports social distancing across the park, and she needs your help!

We want young people – under 16 – to send in drawings, designs and patterns inspired by Alexandra Park. Your designs need to fit inside our arrow template and should be simple, bold and clear using **ONLY** four colours.

So download the template, create your work and send it to us at learning@alexandrapalace.com

Designs must be submitted before Monday 6 July and Carleen will use the winning entries as inspiration to mark out signage throughout the park. So, this is your opportunity to have your artwork on display for our thousands of visitors to see!