

Muswell Hill Primary School

Newsletter No. 6 – 23 October 2020

Academic Year 2020-21



Last week we spoke too soon – we have now had to close two classes, Blue and Sapphire, because of confirmed COVID-19 cases. Our best wishes go to the families concerned and we hope they remain fit and well during their self-isolation; also best wishes to those families whose children have to self isolate and to some of our staff members who are also having to self isolate during the half term break.

We look forward to seeing your children again (as long as you are not self-isolating) on **Monday 2 November** at their usual starting time. We hope you have a healthy and restful half term.

Rights Respecting School Council

We are so proud of our Year 6 Violet Class school councillors, Charlie and Bea, who represented the children of the school as part of the school lunch catering tender process. They listened 'Apprentice Style' to the lunch bids being offered by the companies, made notes and asked pertinent and challenging questions on the children's behalf, giving their viewpoint and making insightful observations! They also got to try out some of the food on the menus, even having second helpings too! We really appreciated their input and both children enjoyed the experience immensely! Thank you Bea and Charlie! You were AMAZING!



Catering Contract Update

Thanks also to the parent representatives, staff and governors who evaluated the bids and attended the presentations from the tendering catering companies. Not forgetting thanks to Mandi and Gary, our Finance Manager, who worked through the summer holidays initiating and organising the whole process. The moderation process was held on Friday and following final checks, Mandi will make a recommendation to the Governing Body – we should have news for you by the 6 November.

Reminder – Year 6 closing date for Haringey Secondary School Applications

Year 6 parent and carers - please don't forget the closing date for secondary school applications in Haringey is **31 October 2020**.

<https://www.haringey.gov.uk/children-and-families/schools-and-education/school-admissions/starting-secondary-school>

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Introducing Rosie

Welcome to Rosie who is a new member of our Year 3 team. She will be teaching Green Class on two afternoons a week and supporting teaching and learning across Y3 during her other teaching times.

Friday afternoon early closure for remote learning and staff PPA

It is half term already and we have had seven weeks of the school closing early on a Friday. This has enabled deep cleaning of the school spaces, and sports and learning equipment, whilst allowing our Site Manager and the cleaners a weekend too.

Additionally, we have been able to retain the children's teaching hours and our staff have been able to have their legal entitlement to Planning, Preparation and Assessment (PPA) time each week without having to change it daily, weekly or break it down into small chunks. It has proved to be a valid way of working - the teams have had time to plan together whilst keeping everyone in their bubbles, working together. We have also been able to reduce the number of supply teachers and cover staff coming on site over this half of the term – although we have taken a serious hit this week – we've had seven members of staff off through closures across Year 4 and another four through some non-COVID health related issues. From our point of view therefore, the early closing has been beneficial to the school and the staff.

However, the Governors and Mandi are very interested to know how it is working out for you as parents and carers so we will be seeking your views, after half term, by asking you to complete a survey to ensure we can support you as best we can. We will also seek your opinions about the drop off times for Breakfast Club. The survey will be released on Monday 9 November. Mandi will then present a full report to the Governing Body on Wednesday 25 November and feed back to parents and carers after that.

It is very important to us to hear your views and we would like to thank you in advance for your ongoing support and trust in all we are doing.

Second half of the Autumn term - sports and games clubs

Whilst it is incredibly difficult to offer any extensive after school provision beyond the Muswell Hill After School Club (MASC), Mandi and Riaan have been looking at the possibility of year group bubble sports nights.

We plan to offer up to 30 places (we cannot offer more than two groups of 15, in line with guidance) per night, per KS2 year group. If this goes well, we will try to extend this to a Year 2 group later in the term.

We are proposing:

Mon - Yr3 (building around football – we know there are girls keen to start)

Tue - Yr6 (building around girls' football group)

Wed - Yr5

Thu - Yr4 (building around boys and girls football groups)

Kickabout will send out an advert over half term. The most difficult part is finding an indoor space if the weather is beyond 'appropriate clothing'. The plan is to try for a 5-week club.

We hope you will understand that we are already using both the halls and one outdoor area for MASC where we are accommodating all school year groups, who must be kept separate.

Why isn't there a half-term holiday club?

We are sorry we were not able to offer any holiday provision over half term. The reasons are two-fold. First, we are getting the KS1 boundary fence and rotted sleepers replaced as well as having a safety fence built around the pond area so contractors will be on site. This is so we can recommence Forest School Classes for the Year 3 children who were not able to complete their provision before going into 'lockdown', and then we can continue with our current Year 2 children from January 2021. We will be writing to you separately about waterproofs and any other hand me downs that you may be able to help us with.

Second, to be frank, the staff are incredibly exhausted. We are prioritising their well-being at this stage as we feel it is important that they ALL get a break and a chance to refuel, ready for another half term.

Haringey Police Cadets

Haringey Police Cadets are recruiting. Junior cadets can enroll at ages 10-13. The Junior cadets were developed after recognising a vulnerability gap between primary and secondary school. They aim to teach young people life skills and social responsibility in a fun and engaging environment. These units are led by Senior Cadets supported by VPC staff, allowing them to be positive role models to their younger peers. If you would like further information, please contact:

Name: PC Ben Tomlinson

Phone: 07799477933 during office hours 9am to 4pm

Email: ben.n.tomlinson@met.pnn.police.uk

Clocks changing this weekend and getting dark early

Autumn has started and we are seeing some gorgeous autumn colours in our local outdoor spaces. Just a reminder that the clocks go back one hour on Sunday, 25 October at 2am. The evenings will then be even darker so perhaps this half term will be a good time to talk to your children about safety for the darker evenings. If your child walks home on their own remind them to use the best-lit routes and to avoid dark shortcuts. Encourage them to walk confidently, even if they don't feel it, especially in the dark. Help them work out strategies for dealing with difficult situations in the dark so that they know what to do in an emergency. Think about increasing visibility so that when children are crossing roads and driveways they can be more easily seen in the dark.



New menus

We have already sent the revised menus to you – just a reminder that if you would like to change to school dinners after half term, please let us know by emailing admin@muswell-hill.haringey.sch.uk



Makaton Sign of the Week

Here is the link for the MAKATON Sign of the Week video. The sign is "Sorry". You can see the symbols on the photo.

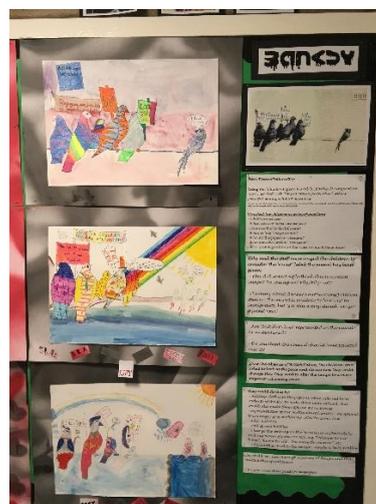
<https://youtu.be/V49g9p0VhNg>

Children's flu vaccination catch-up clinics

Attached with this newsletter is a list of children's flu vaccination catch-up clinics in Haringey and Islington. We have been asked to let you know that Vaccination UK are running appointment-based clinics throughout the flu season for anyone whose child wasn't vaccinated in school and whose parents/carers would like them to be vaccinated. If you would like to book an appointment for the flu vaccine for your child, you just need to call them on 020 8017 7925 (or you can email them at haringey.islington@nhs.net if you need to) and they will book you an appointment at your nearest clinic.

Please note that if anyone turns up without an appointment, they will be turned away and will not be seen. Thank you.

Examples of artwork in the school



Letter from Muswell Hill Primary School Chair of Governors

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing on behalf of the School's Governing Body to update you on our position with regards to the ongoing pandemic and the school's response. It has been a truly extraordinary year for the school, and we are so pleased that we are now settled back into the Autumn term with all the children in attendance. For those of you not familiar with the Governing Body, we are a team of volunteers from the community, staff, parents, and local authority. The Governing Body exists to provide strong strategic leadership to the school, ensuring accountability for its educational and financial performance.

Since March, Mandi and her team have had to respond to an incredibly complex and ever-changing set of governmental guidelines about how best to deliver the best possible education for our children whilst prioritising public health measures to make sure that the children and the school staff remain safe. Mandi has been liaising with the Governing Body throughout the last six months sharing all the reopening plans, risk assessments and recovery plans including the updated blended learning policy which has been shared with parents and carers.

We know that the uncertainty and the different restrictions in place now are unsettling; we want to convey to you that the school's aim is very much to stay open. The school will endeavour to mitigate the impact of any periods of self-isolation for children or bubbles through the remote learning provision. The provision - which has been enhanced - will build on what worked well for the children in the Spring and Summer term, focusing on a broad curriculum offering use of high quality resources and Seesaw, increased interaction with their teachers and appropriate contact time as a group online in an age appropriate delivery model. However, the school's ability to stay open is dependent on government guidelines and we will respond to the advice given to us by the Department for Education and Public Health England.

The Governing Body fully support Mandi, the wider school leadership team, and the staff in their decisions about how to manage the reopening of the school. The staff are reviewing the learning needs identified and working to ensure we have the resources needed to help children catch up on lost learning. As part of our strategic oversight and accountability responsibility the Governing Body will be reviewing the effectiveness of the measures put in place. We have appointed Sarah Lima as Support and Recovery Governor to review the support provided to help children catch up, and we have appointed Hilary Plant, our Vice Chair of Governors, as Staff Wellbeing governor to ensure that we are looking after all of our staff during this stressful and uncertain time. These governors will report their findings into the Full Governing Body.

Further to the letter that came out from the school leadership team, PSA and Governing Body last Saturday we would like to thank those who have already made generous donations to the PSA on behalf of the school. The impact of Covid-19 on the school's finances have been severe and these donations will help protect the children's learning and school experience. If you do feel able to donate the link is www.justgiving.com/muswellhillschpsa and any gifts would be greatly appreciated.

We would like to thank Mandi and all of the staff for their hard work and flexibility over the past seven months. We would also like to thank all the parents and carers for the support, challenge and suggestions made to the school during this time. As ever if you would like to get in contact with the Governing Body you can direct questions via the School Office. We hope that the children are enjoying being back at school, and for a more settled year ahead for us all.

Yours sincerely

Alexa Charnley, Chair of Governors, Muswell Hill Primary School

Golden Learners this week

AMBER CLASS – ROISIN AND TOBY'S SHOUT OUT

Our Golden Learner this week is **Victoria** who is not only always focused and on task but who also contributes to the class with her thoughtfulness and kindness to others.

ORANGE CLASS – JENI'S SHOUT OUTS

My Golden Learners this week are **Juliette** and **Christy**. They have shown great resilience in our guided reading session this week. When faced with a challenge, they showed determination and perseverance.

YELLOW CLASS – GEOFF'S SHOUT OUT

Kiki is Gold Class Golden Learner this week. This is for her incredible resilience, despite sometimes being frustrated she keeps on trying and bouncing back.

GOLD CLASS – SUZY'S SHOUT OUT

This week's Golden Learner always perseveres in all her learning in the classroom - she works hard, uses the strategies shown to her and keeps going to complete the tasks she is given. **Tilila** particularly impressed me in PE - she found learning a new skill in PE difficult but she asked for help and then carried on trying. This shows fantastic resilience; Tilila you should be proud of yourself.

GREEN CLASS – KATH'S SHOUT OUTS

Kira - For really working so well with her table partners and being a supportive and kind friend. She has worked really hard this half term and produced lots of fabulous work. She manages distractions and gets totally absorbed in her activities. Well done Kira!

Lucas - For very good sportsmanship and resilience in all team games this week. Fabulous. Also for all his hard work this half term. He always gets totally absorbed in his activities and manages any distractions really well. Well done Lucas!

EMERALD CLASS – LARA'S SHOUT OUTS

Rin – for really sustained focus and for loving his learning.

Babette – for great resilience in all her learning.

BLUE CLASS – RITU'S SHOUT OUT

This week has been unusual, to say the least, for Blue Class! So, instead of two Golden Learners, I am doing a gargantuan shout out to the whole class!

They have been absolutely amazing! The children have completed Maths tasks, read stories, cracked on with comprehensions and engaged in all sorts of other learning. What has impressed me most is that they have powered on through it all and done it with a smile on their faces.

They have shown resilience, perseverance and the ability to adapt and change as was required this week. Very well-done Blue Class!

A big thank you to all of Blue Class and their parents/carers, some of whom have had cameo roles in videos and on Zoom calls!

SAPPHIRE CLASS – MANDI'S SHOUT OUT

A big shout out to Sophie and her class for getting straight into remote learning. We saw Wednesday and Thursday's lessons. Super proud of all of you. Another example of resilience in action this week.

INDIGO CLASS – MANDI'S SHOUT OUT

A big shout out to **Indigo Class** this week. You have been so brilliant having to work with three teachers this week. You did not miss a lesson, you adapted well and showed flexibility of mind, maintaining a great work ethic throughout. I was so proud of you!

COBALT CLASS – MEABH'S SHOUTS OUT

This week's Golden Learner is **Bella**. Bella has shown great resilience this half-term. Bella has shown great perseverance and absorption in her work. She has been pushing herself to do her best in our lessons and has asked to finish tasks before going out to play. Bella has also been working fantastically with her partner. They have been working well together to solve problems and Bella has been helping to explain how to do some tasks. This is something that has not gone unnoticed, as her partner also gave her a shout out for this before we even announced that Bella was this week's Golden Learner. Well done Bella. Keep it up!

AMETHYST CLASS – JOSEPH'S SHOUT OUT

This week's Golden Learner in Amethyst is **Husna**. All Husna's learning behaviours are outstanding but above all, she is a resilient learner. She can focus for long periods during independent work sessions and never allows herself to be distracted. I particularly love how carefully she listens to instructions. Furthermore, I enjoyed reading her Windrush-inspired poem and seeing how well she collaborated with her group when working on her stop motion animation. Well done Husna - have a well-deserved break.

VIOLET CLASS – MURIEL'S SHOUT OUT

Model student for those around
Attitude that impresses all
Youthful joy that is always welcome
Adapting to situations around her with grace

Well done **Maya**, you have had a golden start to Year 6!