

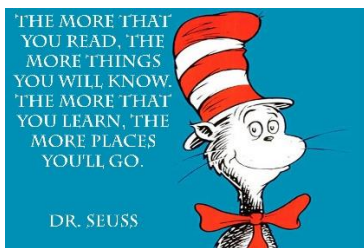
January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Happy New Year and welcome back to the Spring term! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday, the team have been really looking forward to welcoming all of the children back to school. I would like to send a warm welcome to new families who have joined this term, I know the school community will do too.

As always, we like to keep you informed with lots of upcoming events and launches, I have included some information that you might find useful below.

Reading



You may remember in a previous newsletter when I shared some fascinating statistics on children who are read to during the week and the amount of words they learn, retain and use.

The word gap:

At 5 years old

Never read to – 4,622 words

1-2 times a week – 63, 570 words

3-5 times a week – 169, 520 words

Daily – 296, 600 words

Five books a day – 1, 483,300 words

Parents will likely be going through the stages now where their child will be applying their reading and phonics skills to read words independently, this is fantastic! However, there still needs to be many opportunities for you and your child to enjoy listening to and reading books together, this really supports their language development and comprehension on why stories are structured the way they are. Exploring why the author has chosen certain words and illustrations helps children understand purpose, meaning and inference which are important reading skills to practice and have!

Welcome

Nazma will be our new receptionist from Monday 15th January, Nazma has previously been based at Mulberry Canon Barnett Primary and will bring with her a wealth of experience. Nazma is also very approachable and will really enjoy getting to know all of our families! Fahmeda will continue to support the office and we send thanks to her for the incredible support she has given to the school in the autumn term.

Exciting times

You may have seen as you have been out and about shopping that Mulberry Wood Wharf Primary is appearing in the Canary Wharf shopping malls. We have had a lot of interest in the school and we have recruited many families for next year as their first choice.



Yesterday I had a brilliant meeting with John Lewis and how we can partner with them to host joint events and learn from one another. They have already donated all of their Christmas decorations to us. They have some upcoming family events coming up so pop them in your diary and I will be in touch with more details soon. You can find out more by downloading their app and joining the John Lewis My Members <https://account.johnlewis.com/my-members>

Upcoming dates:

May 4-5

September - to be confirmed

December 7-8

Celebrations and events

This week we will share the celebrations and events calendar and assembly schedule. Just like in the autumn term, this will incorporate global events and cultural and religious celebrations from all faiths. We are an inclusive, community school and we welcome learning about family traditions. Please do not hesitate to come and tell us about a tradition that you would like us to mark in school and teach all of the pupils about.

Here is a reminder of the assembly focus each day:

Monday – Value of the week

Tuesday – Global theme/Rights respecting

Wednesday – Singing

Thursday – Class assembly

Friday – Celebration assembly

We would like to open the Friday celebration assembly to parents. For safeguarding purposes we will operate a strict entry and exit system. Parents arriving after 3pm will not be allowed to enter the assembly.

3pm: Parents arrive and take their seats

3:05pm: Children arrive and celebration assembly begins

3:20pm: Children go back to their classrooms to prepare for home time, parents are asked to wait in the foyer

3:30pm: Home time (unless staying for a club/wraparound)

Communication systems

We are delighted to announce that we have selected a parent communication app that we will be launching soon.

It will hold all information in one place such as trip letters, newsletters, the school calendar and general notifications. Parents will also be able to book events such as parents evening through the app.

The system will mean that the app will send you a notification rather than you having to rely on email communication which can sometimes get lost or be hard to re find.

Noticeboard and school website

Both of these are updated regularly so that you can find the information you need.

Newsletter

This will continue to be emailed to parents and displayed in the school foyer on a weekly basis.

Parents evening

The next parent evening sessions will be:

Tuesday 26th and Wednesday 27th March

Open door policy

Myself, Anita or Anne will always be available each morning welcome and at the end of the day. We really enjoy talking to families so please feel free to approach any of us if you wish to discuss anything or give feedback. If it requires a private conversation or some more time, then we are more than happy to arrange a meeting with you. Please speak to one of us at the door or email admin@mulberrywoodwharf.org.uk

Class teachers also love talking to families, if there is something quite pressing that you would like the class teacher to know but they are unavailable then please let the admin team know or a senior leader who will get the message to them.

Attendance

It's a new term and yet again we are striving for a whole school target of **97%** weekly attendance! Each week the class with the best attendance will take the attendance trophy back to class to admire for the following week.

At the end of the term, pupils who gain 97% attendance will be invited to a special event with the headteacher. Pupils who get 100% will take home a medal. Pupils who gain 100% for the whole year will be invited to a fun trip offsite!

Extended leave

Please note that requests for extended leave from school will be unauthorised unless for exceptional circumstances

Illness

We understand that children do become unwell and it is best that they stay at home and rest and recover. It also prevents any unnecessary spread of infection. The NHS website is a good location for offering advice but in general:

- Please keep your child at home if they have a temperature, it is a sign that they are fighting an infection
- If your child has sickness, diarrhoea or both, then you must keep them at home for 48 hours since their last moment of sickness or diarrhoea
- Please contact the school if your child is going to be absent so we can update our registration system. You can do this via telephone, email or the new school app.

Punctuality

Thank you to parents for getting their child to school on time last term, we know how busy mornings can be for families. The children are much more settled and calm when they arrive with their peers. A reminder of the registration times are:

8am: Breakfast club starts

8:50 – 09:00: Doors open for children to arrive

After 9am: Parents will be asked to fill in the lateness sheet, this is so we can track and ensure all children have been entered on the register

09:05am: The register will close

After 09:05am: pupils will be marked as late

Homework

Class teachers will be sending out their half termly letters this week detailing the upcoming learning that will be taking place in class. Please take the time to read these. Included in the

letters will be details on how you can support your child at home this half term, including a home project linked to a class topic.

The Government believe that a sensible programme of homework activities for children in Key Stage 1 should be designed on average to take about 1 hour a week. At Key Stage 2 the demands should gradually increase so that by Years 5 and 6 children are spending about 30 minutes a day (two and a half hours a week) on homework. Reasonable time request is to be made of children, taking into consideration that a number of our children may have out of school commitments.

At Mulberry Wood Wharf Primary we support home learning by:

1. Requesting daily reading

As mentioned above, this is the most important homework for our children to do because it helps them to:

- Improve their spoken English, their English vocabulary and awareness of grammar
- Become more fluent readers with improved comprehension
- Develop their writing skills.

2. Spelling practice in Y1

3. Home projects linked to class topics, sent out by the class teacher

4. Workshops for parents

Teachers will be hosting several workshops this term, we hope all parents will attend. Workshops are planned to be engaging and interactive and with purpose so that parents leave feeling well informed about the teaching and learning practice in school. The workshops always have tips for parents and ideas on how to support their child at home.

Worksheets

We prefer not to use worksheets as a tool for homework, they are not always developmentally appropriate for young children because they can be abstract in presenting a concept. Young children learn best by hands on, concrete experiences. We are also very mindful of how much printing we do in school and have moved away from printing resources unless it enhances learning significantly.

Online learning

Class teachers will be informing parents of good online learning tools. We are also developing our online learning platform through the website and have already added some Year One learning booklets from the White Rose Maths Scheme here [Year 1 – Mulberry Wood Wharf](#)

Parental support

Haleema Hoque, who is the parent engagement lead at Mulberry Canon Barnett will be based at Mulberry Wood Wharf every Tuesday morning. She will be leading coffee mornings, workshops and attendance meetings. Haleema is really friendly and approachable and is very experienced in finding support for parents who need it, she is really excited about getting to know you all!

Our school values



As well as the values running through the curriculum, we focus on one per week so that children really understand what each of them mean. Each week, children are rewarded with a certificate in the celebration assembly where they have demonstrated the value of the week.

Value dates

w/c 8th Jan – Community

w/c 15th Jan – Respect

w/c 22nd Jan – Kindness

w/c 29th Jan – Creativity

w/c 5th Feb – being active (body and mind)

Term dates

The Trust will be sending out the 2024/25 term dates out shortly.

2023/24 dates

Spring Term

Term 3: 8 January – 9 February 2024

Half Term 2: 12 – 16 February 2024

Term 4: 19 February – 28 March 2024

Easter Holiday: 29 March – 12 April 2024

Summer Term

Term 5: 15 April – 24 May 2024

Half Term 3: 27 – 31 May 2024

Term 6: 3 June – 19 July 2024

Eid al-Fitr: 9 or 10 April 2024 (falls within Easter Holidays)

Eid al-Adha: 17 June 2024 (closed to students)

In addition to this we will be closed on bank holidays

As always, thank you parents for your continued and growing support, we feel very lucky to have you be a part of the school community.

Let's get busy learning!

Yours sincerely



Sarah Jane Bellerby

Executive Headteacher