

# NEWS CORNER

The latest news and information about Mulberry Wood Wharf Primary.

## Sarah Jane's Reflection of the Week

This week our school community has been full of kindness, creativity, and connection, and it has been a real joy to see.

We have loved celebrating National Storytelling Week. Children across the school took part in live lessons with the National Literacy Trust, which sparked imagination and a genuine love of stories. They began the week in a particularly special way with a visit from a professional storyteller, CJ, who delivered a highly engaging launch session. Pupils joined in enthusiastically through songs, rhythm, call-and-response, and expressive movements and gestures that brought the animals in the story to life. They were introduced to a tale about Monkey and Mr Crocodile, who embark on a journey in search of friendship. The session immersed pupils in feelings of kindness, awe, and surprise, keeping them on the edge of their seats as Monkey navigated the jungle and the story unfolded. CJ commented on how impressed he was with the pupils' engagement and the passion and creativity they showed as storytellers. It was a wonderful reminder of the power of listening, sharing, and connecting with one another through stories.

Lorna and I also attended a very insightful lecture this week led by Evelyn Forde on the theme of belonging and why people truly matter. It gave us a valuable moment to pause and reflect on how we ensure that inclusion and belonging are not just words we say or statements we write into policies, but something we actively see, feel, and practise every day in our school community. It prompted important thinking about how belonging is built through daily actions, relationships, and the way we listen to and value one another. Educational research reinforces this. As Kathryn Riley notes:

'A sense of belonging is an intense personal experience and is shaped by what we bring to it, what we encounter and what others expect of us. When we have a sense that we belong, we feel connected and safe. Our confidence grows and we dare to dream' (2022) Belonging is not an add-on, it is foundational to learning and wellbeing.

It was also wonderful to see Year 1 visit a local church to support their RE learning. We are committed to ensuring that all children experience a range of places of worship across different religions. Religious Education helps children understand beliefs and practices that may be different from their own, encouraging respect, empathy, and kindness, values that are central to our school community.

**mulberry**  
Wood Wharf Primary

Outstanding and good in all areas.  
Ofsted, May 2025

20 Brannan Street, London E14 9ZR  
admin@mulberrywoodwharf.org  
www.mulberrywoodwharf.org

Outstanding in Behaviour and Attitudes  
Good in Quality of Education  
Good in Leadership and Management  
Outstanding Personal Development  
Outstanding Early Years Provision

Friday 6th  
February 2026

Year 3 were out again this week, this time taking part in an artist-led workshop at the John Ruskin Prize exhibition at Trinity Buoy Wharf. They explored artwork, discussed ideas, and responded creatively, making the experience both inspiring and memorable. Year 2 also enjoyed a fantastic trip to the Half Moon Theatre, where they watched a performance of Brave Bettie. The live performance and storytelling brought their learning to life in a different and exciting way.

One of the real highlights of the week has been seeing children inspire one another. After Sophie's "Look After Our Planet" initiative last week, Aliah in Year 2 shared how Sophie inspired her to do something similar, she even created certificates for her peers. I've also been approached by Noa and Kayla about leading a poetry club at lunchtime, while Ria and Avyann have plans to create a pop video. These conversations have already grown into a wider idea for an Inspiration Day, where children could come dressed as someone who inspires them. Isn't it amazing to see children leading in this way and lifting each other up? I truly have to pinch myself when I see it happening and it looks like my to do list has grown!

Looking ahead to next week, we will be marking Children's Mental Health Week. Children will take part in a class activity focused on the theme "Being in My Place", alongside a live session with Picture News, creating space for reflection, discussion, and kindness towards ourselves and others and focussing nicely on the theme of 'belonging'.

We also have Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 10th. Pupils in Years 1-3 will be taking part in a live assembly with Tech She Can, an organisation well worth exploring, as they do fantastic work around STEM and inspiring young people to explore future pathways in technology.

For parents and carers, we are pleased to be hosting two coffee mornings next week:

- **Wednesday:** Join us to watch the NSPCC parent session on online safety (the link was shared earlier this week and see flyer in this newsletter)
- **Thursday:** A coffee morning focused on how parents can lead on the organisation of the school fete and explore ways to get more involved in school life.

School site update: We have been informed by the council that the process to procure a contractor to complete the building has now begun. The current expectation is that works will start in April and be completed in August. We will continue to share further updates as the project moves forward.

As we reflect on kindness this week, I want to thank parents and carers for the many ways you model and reinforce these values at home. School and home work best when we are aligned, supporting children together and keeping them at the heart of everything we do.

Have a lovely weekend, let's hope this period of rain gives us a break! I'm heading into a slime party this weekend for one of my little one's friends... wish me luck!

"If you are kind, it doesn't matter how clever you are, you will always find your way." - Roald Dahl

# Growing Readers and Writers

In this part of the newsletter, I would like to share some of the wonderful learning experiences and events we have enjoyed the half term, as well as some exciting plans coming up soon. This week was National Storytelling Week, and we have laughed, loved, and learned through interactive storytelling sessions with CJ the Storyteller. Our pupils were completely captivated and eagerly joined in by clapping, singing, and sharing ideas as they journeyed through stories with Monkey and Mr Crocodile. CJ was so impressed with our pupils that they shared the following feedback:

"I had the most wonderful time meeting the staff and children at Mulberry Wood Wharf. The energy in the room was incredible, the participation in the story was amazing, and the feedback was so positive."

We are currently in the process of creating our 'We Are Storytellers' Big Book to showcase the pupils' responses and love for stories so keep an eye out for this!

Looking ahead, we have lots of fun events planned for next half term. To end Spring 1, we are delighted to announce the return of the MWW Book Swap. Next week, pupils will have the opportunity to swap a book they no longer want for a different book to take home and keep as their forever book. If you have any unwanted children's books at home, please send them in and hand them to your child's class teacher, who will be collecting books.

**The Book Swap will take place on Friday 13th February at 3:30pm**, outside your child's classroom door. Your child can choose a book to enjoy at home. (Year 3 will take part in the Book Swap during class time.)

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. – **Shireena (English Lead)**



## What's Coming Up:

WANTED: Book donations by Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> Feb

MWW Book Swap - 13<sup>th</sup> Feb

World Book Day 5<sup>th</sup> March - Year 3 Readers to Canary Wharf

World Book Day Dress UP 6<sup>th</sup> March

Author visit - Lucy Noguera 11<sup>th</sup> March

Cosy Read - Reading in PJs

Give Me 10

Core book Challenge

# MWW BOOK SWAP

**FRIDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 2026**  
**3 :30-3:45PM**

We welcome donations of any pre-loved books. Please hand them in to your child's class teacher between Mon 9th to Thurs 12th, so they are ready for our Book Swap on Friday. Thank you for your support!

## A message from our Chair of Governors



"A belated Happy New Year to all pupils, parents and carers, staff and your families. My name is Mark Traynor and I am the Chair of Governors. It is such a privilege and a pleasure to be involved with Mulberry Wood Wharf. I have been delighted to have visited the school a number of times, including attending a recent Friday assembly and it is so clear that it is a school which is joyful, nurturing and fiercely ambitious for its pupils. Sarah Jane and I meet every couple of weeks and I visit the school as often as I can – no hardship when the children are all so happy and engaging. You will all be aware of the delays in completing the upper floors of the school, however, the Trust is working closely with the local authority and other interested parties and we are very hopeful that all works will be completed in time for the next school year commencing in September.

For anybody who might be interested, I have been involved with Mulberry Schools Trust as a Trustee since its formation in 2016, having previously been a Governor of Mulberry School for Girls for three years before that. When I am not being a Governor or Trustee I am a solicitor specialising in commercial property law, with a focus on schools and other educational bodies as well as charities generally. I have been with the firm Bates Wells for over 20 years. I live in Bermondsey with my wife, Marie-Claire, and daughter, Connie, who is nine and likes Lilo and Stitch. I am really looking forward to the next few years working with all involved with Mulberry Wood Wharf to build up (literally as well as figuratively) the thriving school community here."



# Tiger Class



This week in Tiger Class, we have been busy learning about The Gruffalo's Child! It was fantastic to see the children using full sentences, capital letters and full stops in their big write pieces all about their favourite part of the book. It is wonderful to see the amazing growth in confidence in all the children within our writing sessions.

In Maths, we have been focusing on odd and even numbers and amounts to 10 through lots of games and by recognising dice patterns. We particularly enjoyed using the foam dice to roll to a partner and read the number shown on the dice.

We have also been busy learning our songs for our upcoming performance of The Gingerbread Man next half term – we will send a link on Arbor to the playlist so you can be practicing at home! We are looking forward to our final busy week of term next week, full of fun and even more learning.

# Blue Whale Class

The children have had a wonderful week learning all about The Gruffalo's Child. They enjoyed exploring the setting of the story and talking about what we might see in a woodland environment. The children did an amazing job retelling the story during their Big Writes, and their sentence writing is developing beautifully. The team are incredibly impressed with the progress the children are making and the effort they are putting into their work.

In maths the children have been learning about odd and even numbers and have been able to identify these numbers independently. The children explored odd and even numbers by grouping objects and counting them in pairs. They discovered that even numbers can be shared into equal pairs, while odd numbers always have one left over. This hands-on approach has helped the children develop a clear understanding and confidence in recognising odd and even numbers.

The children also took part in their very first tennis lesson this week, which was a great success. They learned the names of the different parts of the racket and practised how to hold it correctly. The children showed great enthusiasm, and we are very excited for our next lesson!



# Lion Class



Our week started with a visit to Christ Church as part of our RE learning about places of worship. We were warmly welcomed by Vicar Tom Pyke, who talked to us about the history of the church, showed us lots of features of a church and the importance of it. We then completed a short activity, drawing and writing about one chosen feature. At the church we noticed lots of intricate details, including pictures that told stories and a huge organ. We were lucky enough to hear Tom play it for us- what a treat! A very big thank you to our wonderful parent volunteers who supported our trip and learning. Both Lion and Panda children showed exemplary behaviour and attitudes throughout the visit, well done everyone!



This week also saw Lion class take part in National Storytelling Week. We joined in with an online webinar by author Annemarie Anang. The session was based on Building Stories Through Sound.

We thoroughly enjoyed the hands-on experience of telling a story using sounds and actions, with time given to explore characters' thoughts and emotions. It was a fantastic experience for everyone involved.

In English, we started our new class text 'Traction Man' by Mini Grey. The children have loved exploring the story and learning about the different missions Traction Man goes on. They chose their favourite missions, and next week they will be writing a letter in role as Traction Man, describing their chosen adventure.

In Maths, we have been focusing on adding and subtracting numbers to 20, using a range of concrete resources such as ten frames and number lines to support understanding.



# Panda Class

We started this week with an exciting class trip, and what a fantastic start it was! The children had such a wonderful time exploring our local community and discovering some of its special places. They were wonderful role models throughout the trip and were brilliant ambassadors for Mulberry Wood Wharf. We are incredibly proud of how well they represented our school, and we are already looking forward to taking the children to many more places over the course of the year to continue building these valuable real-world experiences.

Back in the classroom, we have been working hard in Maths. This week, the children have been busy using their prior knowledge of number bonds and number lines to support their understanding of addition and subtraction. They have shown growing confidence in applying these skills in different ways and explaining their thinking.

To support your child's learning at home, please continue to practise addition and subtraction together. Encourage them to choose their favourite method, whether that is using objects, drawing number lines, or recalling number facts.

This flexibility helps build confidence and strengthens their overall mathematical understanding. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.



# Elephant Class

Year 2 pupils have had a busy and exciting week of learning across the curriculum. In Maths, pupils focused on developing their understanding of multiplication by using arrays. They explored how equal groups can be organised into rows and columns and used counters to represent these visually. This hands-on approach helped pupils make links between arrays and multiplication sentences, supporting their understanding of how numbers can be grouped and counted efficiently. Pupils showed growing confidence in identifying and explaining multiplication facts using this method.



In Science, pupils investigated versatile materials and explored the reasons why different materials are chosen for specific objects. They considered the properties materials need to be useful and learned to describe them using scientific vocabulary. Pupils have been confidently using words such as durable, stretchy, waterproof, brittle, opaque, and translucent in discussions and written explanations. It has been fantastic to see pupils not only learning new vocabulary but also applying it thoughtfully in their reasoning.



We ended the week with an inspiring Art lesson linked to the work of William Morris. Pupils explored his use of repeated patterns and natural designs before creating their own prints using natural materials. They experimented with arranging shapes and patterns, demonstrating creativity, focus, and enjoyment throughout the activity. Overall, it has been a wonderful week of learning, with pupils showing enthusiasm, curiosity, and pride in their work across all subjects.



We also visited the Half Moon Theater to watch the production of *Brave Bettie*. Year 2 pupils enjoyed the show and were impressed with the creative storytelling and performance. What an inspiration to watch.



# Penguin Class

As we head towards half term, it's been another busy and productive week in Year 2, with the children continuing to show great enthusiasm and perseverance in their learning.



This week, the children were very excited to begin tennis lessons in PE with our new tennis coach. They learned how to hold a racket correctly, practised controlling the ball, and took part in fun activities to develop their coordination and movement skills. The children listened carefully, tried their best, and really enjoyed learning something new – a fantastic start to tennis!



In Maths, the children have been building on their understanding of multiplication by exploring arrays and multiplication sentences. They used practical resources and drawings to represent equal groups and arranged objects into rows and columns. This helped them clearly see how multiplication works and link arrays to number sentences. The children showed great focus and were proud to explain their thinking.



In English, the children have begun writing their sequels to *The Owl and the Pussy-Cat*, using the plans they created earlier. They have been working hard to turn their ideas into full sentences, thinking carefully about characters, settings, and events. It's been wonderful to see their creativity come to life as they imagine new adventures for the owl and the pussycat.

Please can parents be reminded that yellow reading records should be filled in everytime children read to keep track of their progress between school and home.

With half term just around the corner, we are so proud of the effort and progress the children have made. Well done, Year 2 – keep up the fantastic work!

# Koala Class

This week in Koala Class, the children have been busy learning and have shown great resilience and perseverance this week.

In maths lessons this week, the children focused on calculating perimeter and using rulers to measure accurately. These activities helped develop problem-solving skills, spatial awareness and resilience when working through challenges.



In science, pupils explored magnetic materials through hands-on investigation. We tested a range of objects, discussed their properties and began to use scientific language to explain their observations.

During our visit to Trinity Buoy Wharf, the children explored an art exhibition and shared their responses to a range of artworks. We expressed our own ideas, discussed our thoughts and feelings, and reflected on how artists communicate through art.

Koala Class's positive attitudes and willingness to share ideas has been brilliant to see.

## LORNA'S UPDATE



There is always so much going on in Mulberry Wood Wharf, and being in school regularly means children can take part in everything on offer and continue to make strong progress. A special shout out to **Lion class for their excellent 99% attendance!** Well done for setting such a positive example for everyone.

Punctuality remains really important too. Arriving on time helps children develop valuable organisational skills, grow in independence and start the day feeling confident and ready to learn. It also supports them in taking pride in their learning and routines.

It has been a particularly busy and exciting week for trips. Year 2 had a fantastic time on their visit to the Half Moon Theatre, and Year 3 were proud to showcase their work at the art exhibition. Learning outside the classroom plays a vital role in developing children's understanding of the wider world and bringing their learning to life.

When I was teaching in Panda class this week, I was delighted by the progress in handwriting. **A special well done to Saya and Alice** for the effort you have put into improving. Your hard work and determination are really paying off.

I hope you all have a fabulous weekend, and fingers crossed for some sunshine soon!

# Ramadan

MUBARAK

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we look ahead to March, we are very much looking forward to celebrating Eid with our school community.

We would like to remind families that the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, who set the term dates that schools follow, have identified provisional dates for Eid as either Thursday 19th March or Friday 20th March. **The exact date of Eid will be confirmed on Wednesday 18th March**, following the sighting of the moon and parents and carers will be notified **via Arbor and the website**.

Please note that the school will be closed on the day that Eid is observed. **This means the closure could be on Thursday 19th March or Friday 20th March**, and families will be informed once the date is confirmed on Wednesday 18th March.

As Ramadan begins later this month, we would also like to take this opportunity to wish our families a peaceful and blessed Ramadan.

Kind regards,

Sarah Jane

# stars of the week

Blue Whale Class: Nyra and Athrav

Tiger Class: Hamzah and Taneesh

Panda Class: Aamilah and Nafis

Lion Class: Henrique and Ethan

Elephant Class: Liam and Lea

Penguin Class: Dev and Mubarak

Koala Class: Mia and Adam A

# ATTENDANCE!

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

The attendance trophy this week goes to:



Lion Class - 99%



**GOLD - 91+**

**SILVER - 95 - 97%**

**BRONZE - 90-95%**

# Menu week 3

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

## Mains

HAPPY TUPS  
MEAT FREE

Mucho Mexican  
Chicken with Zesty  
Rice and Sour Cream  
(Mk, Q)

Classic Shepherds Pie  
(Ce, Mk, So)

Grilled Piri Piri  
Chicken (Ce) Served  
with Spicy Rice

Battered Fish Fillet  
(Q, F)  
or  
Battered Sausage  
(G, Su)

SEASONAL & FRESH, FRESHLY MADE

## veggie

EXTRA GOOD

Sweet & Sour Quorn  
Served with Soy &  
Ginger Noodles  
(G, E, So, Su)

Vegan Puy Lentil  
Shepherds Pie  
(Ce)

Cauliflower and  
Potato Curry

February  
LEAKS

## Carbs

FUEL 1000

Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt  
(Mk)

Steamed Carrots

Whole Green Beans

February  
PARSNIPS

## Dessert

SOMETHING SWEET

Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt  
(Mk)

Prawn Crackers  
(Cr, Su)

Garlic Bread (Q)

March  
KALE

## Jacket potatoes

TASTY FAVOURITES

Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt  
(Mk)

Steamed Wholemeal  
Rice

Steamed Wholemeal  
Rice

April  
NEW  
POTATOES

Look for this logo on  
the menu to try a  
yummy seasonal special

## Dates

19/01/26 - 09/02/26  
09/03/26

## Allergens

Please note the allergens shown within these menus are subject to change.

F = Fish  
G = Celery  
Cr = Crustaceans  
E = Eggs  
L = Lupin  
Mk = Milk  
So = Soya  
Mn = Nuts  
P = Peanuts  
Mu = Mustard  
N = Nuts  
Su = Sulphur Dioxide



Accent

# LUNAR NEW YEAR!

Join in the Lunar New Year celebrations with a tasty lunchtime takeover! Enjoy yummy treats, explore new flavours, and welcome good fortune with every bite!

THURSDAY 12TH FEBRUARY

# LUNAR NEW YEAR

-Special menu day-

Sticky Honey 'Good Fortune' Chicken Thigh  
(None)

or

'Eat Curious' Golden Stir Fry  
(None)

~

Lunar Rice

(None)

~

A Wealth of 'Chinese Steam Vegetables'  
Green Cabbage, Carrots and Sweetcorn

(None)

~

Zodiac Chinese Cookies

(G)

**LOOK OUT!  
ALLERGENS**

Ce = Celery

Cr = Crustacean

E = Eggs

F = Fish

G = Cereals containing  
Gluten

L = Lupin

Mk = Milk

Mo = Molluscs

Mu = Mustard

N = Nuts

P = Peanut

Se = Sesame Seeds

So = Soya

Su = Sulphur Dioxide

# SAFER INTERNET DAY

*Coffee Morning*

Tuesday 10th February 2026  
9:05am - Hall

JOIN US TO WATCH THE ONLINE WORKSHOP TOGETHER  
IN SCHOOL ABOUT HOW TO USE THE INTERNET SAFELY  
AND RESPONSIBLY.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO WATCH IT TOGETHER, PLEASE JOIN  
US FOR A CUP OF COFFEE AND A BISCUIT AND THE  
CHANCE TO TALK WITH OTHER PARENTS.

# PSA COFFEE MORNING



THURSDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2026 - 9:00AM

JOIN US FOR OUR FIRST PARENTS AND  
STAFF ASSOCIATION MEETING.  
IF YOU'RE INTRETED IN JOINGING THE PSA  
WE WOULD LOVE FOR YOU TO BE THERE!

# WE ARE HIRING

## MATERNITY COVER RECEPTION CLASS TEACHING ASSISTANT

Mulberry Wood Wharf  
Current Vacancies



- **Closing date:** 12pm Wed 25th Feb 2026
- **Interviews:** Wed 4th March 2026
- **Start:** March 2026 (specific date tbc)

**APPLY NOW**

A young girl in a purple swimsuit and goggles is smiling in a swimming pool. The background shows the blue water of the pool.

# Make a splash with intensive swimming lessons!

Get aheadstart in swimmingthis Spring half termwith our short,intensive swim course at Mile End and York Hall Leisure Centres. Perfect for beginners needing extra support and building confidence before heading back to school.

 16-19/20 February

 Daily 30 minute lessons

 4+ For ages 4+

 Smallclasssizesforfocused learning

Fun, friend ly lessons with teachers supporting beginners in the pool!

**Book your place today!**



January 2026

## **QMUL (DENTAL INSTITUTE) WORKING IN COLLABORATION WITH TOWER HAMLETS AND MULBERRY WOODWAHRF PRIMARY**

Dear Parent/Carer Locally, some of our children have poor dental health. We recognise that this can affect children and they may have difficulties eating, speaking and sleeping. We would like to support the local community in improving children's dental and general health by supporting the SUGAR SMART Campaign in Tower Hamlets.

### **What does the SUGAR SMART Campaign involve?**

The SUGAR SMART Campaign promotes healthy living and raises awareness on the impacts of sugars on health by working with local schools. All activities are in line with national guidance and PSHE within the curriculum.

- The Dental Institute at Queen Mary University of London is setting up collaborations with local primary schools.
- Dental students under supervision from a tutor will be giving health education messages to children in Key stages 1 and 2 (Years 1 to 6) and in some cases children in Reception
- Children will also take part in a classroom based activity, which raises awareness on the amount of sugars in drinks and food.
- Children in years 3-6 will complete a short survey at the start of the sessions and again at the end of the session to assess the benefits of healthy education messages.

### **Dates for the school visit**

We have timetabled the school visit for the 10th March Tuesday.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your support.

Huda

*Huda Yusuf*

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