Muswell Hill Primary School
Academic Year 2026-27
Newsletter No. 5
6 November 2026

GOLD – RIGHTS RESPECTING

Upcoming events at a glance

- **Bikeability:** Amethyst Class – week beginning 9 November; Violet Class – week beginning 16 November. Sessions run all week.
- **Thursday 12 November, 6.30pm:** Meet the Governors online.
- **Friday 13 November:** Year 6 Bake Sale after school in the playgrounds.
- **Week beginning 16 November:** Anti-Bullying Week – 'Break the Silence' & Maths Week
- **Friday 20 November:** World Children's Day and School Council Elections.
- **Looking ahead – Friday 18 December:** Autumn Term finishes at 1.00pm.

Celebrating our school community

Wishing a very Happy Diwali to all our families and members of our school community who are celebrating this weekend. Diwali, the Festival of Lights, is a time for joy, hope, new beginnings and the triumph of light over darkness.

We hope everyone celebrating has a wonderful time with family and friends. May the year ahead bring happiness, peace and prosperity.

Happy Diwali!

Meet the Governors Online Event – 12th Nov at 6.30pm

We warmly invite our Muswell Hill Primary School parent community to join us for a '**Meet the Governors'** online webinar on **Thursday 12th November at 6.30pm**.

This is a great opportunity to meet our Co-Chairs Sara and Ellie, as well as other members of the governing body, learn more about our roles and responsibilities, and gain a better understanding of the work we do to support and shape our school's future.
We'll also share information about future opportunities for parents to get involved in governance and contribute to our school community.

We look forward to seeing you online on 12th November!

Link: https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74474054008?pwd=wjoUIa0V1K4Ne2BYFP9qmoPb7nF8uI.1

Fireworks Night – A Huge Success!

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us on Tuesday evening for our Fireworks Night celebrations. It was a fantastic evening, filled with fun, excitement and a wonderful sense of community!

A special thank you goes to our amazing **PSA** and volunteers for all their hard work, organisation and dedication in making the event such a success. We are incredibly grateful for the time and effort that goes into organising these events and creating special memories for our children and families.

Thank you, too, to everyone who came along and supported the evening. It was lovely to see so many of you there!



Congratulations to Ollie M from Orange Class for setting off the night with a bang! Ollie took part in this summer's auction of promises to win the honour!





And a huge thank you and welcome to Cheyenne – another Arsenal fan. I promise it wasn't in the job description!

Cheyenne has made a fantastic start this week, really finding his feet and working so well with Luke.

Thanks to everyone who has already made him feel so welcome to our wonderful community.
Cheyenne lives locally with his family. Like Luke, he also went to Fortismere!

Our School IT Strategy – Technology with Purpose

We have received a few queries about changes to our digital strategy and our long-term plans.

To reassure you, our priority is to ensure that technology is used purposefully to support teaching, learning and the development of essential digital skills. **We have no intention of expanding our use of digital technology beyond our current curriculum offer**.

Our focus remains firmly on providing a balanced education, where technology has its place alongside high-quality teaching, books, discussion, practical experiences, creativity and play.

Technology should enhance learning, not replace the rich experiences that are at the heart of what we do.

We will share more about our school IT strategy and our approach to using technology in learning, in line with the national digital strategy and guidance in time.

What are current priorities and actions?

We moved from SeeSaw and Tapestry to Dojo in September to support communication between parents and teachers around learning. As previously reported, we are currently working on improving our home learning and targeted support offer by moving from IXL to Doodle.

We are continuing to review our school administrative systems with the new office team to streamline processes and improve communication. Arbor offers more integrated and efficient systems, for example for reporting absences and booking parent consultations. We will introduce these changes gradually, at a manageable pace, to ensure they are effective and timely.

As we review each area, we are mindful that game-based apps can encourage quick wins rather than deep learning. We also recognise that, for some children, these apps can provide motivation for repeated practice and overlearning. It is therefore important to assess all the available evidence objectively, alongside our own observations. Where we can move to alternative apps or stop using them, we will do so.

With these considerations in mind, we would like to share an update from TT Rock Stars for families with children in Years 3–6.

What's changing on 24th November?

Curfew:

- Students will only be able to log in between 07:00 and 20:00.

Out-of-school daily play limit:

- Students will be limited to 20 minutes of games per day outside school hours, including before and after school, at weekends and during school holidays.
- There's no play limit during school hours as linked and managed by staff. (We use this app in Years 3 and 4 to help prepare children for their Year 4 maths assessment and use it for morning practice for children who have not yet secured all their times tables.)
- If a student has a homework session due, their daily play limit is automatically extended so they can finish it. The curfew still applies.
- Find out more.

Class and school leaderboards:

- Turned off.
- This does not affect Battle of the Bands or Top of the Rocks tournaments, which have their own leaderboards.

PSA Reminders

Sign up for easyfundraising – it is completely free

The UK has an amazing system in place where free money goes to charities, like the PSA (yes, we are a registered charity). With easyfundraising, over 7,000 shops will give a percentage of your purchase to a charity of your choice. This can be any charity, although we are partial to the PSA as the money then goes back to the school.

All you need to do is download the app and sign up, which takes a minute.

If using a web browser, please make sure to click ‘Add extension’ after you enter your email and password. It will bring you to a page to download the easyfundraising app. Do this and it will make everything automatic.

If using Safari on your phone, go to ‘Manage extensions’ and make sure easyfundraising is ticked. To do this, go to Safari and click the puzzle piece on the left of the browser. Click on ‘Manage extensions’ and turn on easyfundraising.

With easyfundraising added as an extension, whenever you make a purchase you will automatically have the shop donate a percentage of your bill to the charity of your choice. There is no extra money that comes out of your account and no fees attached. It is a completely free way to give money to the school.

Follow this link to get started!

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?char=112381&invite=KXI5LW&referral-campaign=c2s&utm_source=easyfundraising-app&utm_medium=referral&utm_content=share-tray

Thank you so much.

PSA dates for your diary

Friday 13 November – Year 6 Bake Sale – after school in the playgrounds

Come and buy some goodies after school to help raise funds at the first of our regular Bake Sales.

Term dates: academic year 2026–27

There will be five TAD days in the 2026-27 academic year. The confirmed dates are below. Please ensure you avoid taking holidays during the school term.

Autumn Term 2
Monday 2 November – Friday 18 December 2026

School Holiday – Monday 21 December 2026 – Monday 4 January 2027

Spring Term 1
Monday 4 January 2027 – Friday 12 February 2027
Monday 4th January 27 – Staff training day – no children

Spring Half-Term Holiday - Monday 15 February 2027 – Friday 19 February 2027

Spring Term 2
Monday 22 February – Thursday 25 March 2027

School Holiday – Friday 26 March 2027 – Friday 9 April 2027

Summer Term 1
Monday 12 April 2027 – Friday 28 May 2027 (NB: Monday 3 May is a Bank Holiday)
Friday 28th May 27 – Staff training day – no children

Summer Half-Term Holiday – Monday 31 May 2027 – Friday 4 June 2027
Summer Term 2
Monday 7 June 2027 – Thursday 22 July 2027

Autumn term dates and events

The dates below are listed in chronological order. Items highlighted in colour are especially important for parents and carers to note.

Dates highlighted in yellow have been amended or added here

Sunday 8 November – Diwali
Week beginning 9 November – Amethyst Class – Bikeability all week
Wednesday 11 November – Armistice Day

Thursday 12 November – Meet the Governors online at 6.30pm

Friday 13 November – Year 6 Bake Sale – after school in the playgrounds

Week beginning Monday 16 November – Violet Class – Bikeability all week
Week beginning Monday 16 November - Anti-Bullying Week – 'Break the Silence'

Friday 20 November – World Children's Day – School Council Elections

Wednesday 25 November – Full Governing Body meeting
Friday 4 December – All extended clubs end (MASC continues)
Friday 4 December – Y4-Y6 Guitar Concert for Y5/6 continuers @ 2.00pm/Y4 @ 2.30pm

Friday 11 December – Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch

Tuesday 15/Wednesday 16 December – Christmas concerts – more information to follow

Thursday 17 December **– MASC finishes**
Friday 18 December – **Autumn Term finishes at 1.00pm**

Monday 4 January 2027 - Staff Training Day - no children
Tuesday 5 January 2027 – Children return to school

Please remember you can download the dates from the school website calendar to your phones. https://www.muswellhillprimary.co.uk/Calendar/