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

GOLD – RIGHTS RESPECTING

Upcoming events

- **Please refer to the additional newsletter which is full of bumper fun and events**

Can you help?



A child's red scooter was taken from the school bike shed two Mondays ago. Here is a photo of the original model for reference. It is a red Maxi Micro, though the handles have faded to a pinkish shade over time, and the wheels are black when they aren't lit up.

Please check at home and return to the office on Monday if it accidentally made its way to your home.

Meet the Governors Online Event

Thank you to those parents who joined our webinar last week. For those of you who missed it, here is a short recording, which explains a little more about who our governing body are, what their work entails, and how you can be involved.
Thank you!
Sara & Ellie, Co-chairs of Governors
https://drive.google.com/file/d/120NfLZBaQ8f2iorp6Pz08u2ibZUBT-We/view?usp=drive_link

We will also update the website for ease of access and Ellie will be on the gates with me next Thursday, please come and say hi!

We have had an active couple of weeks since we last wrote!

Sports Reports from Coach Riaan

Football

We have an incredibly well balanced and highly talented football squad this year and they did not disappoint at the most popular Haringey sports event of the year! Starting strong with multiple group-wins and getting better as the tournament went on.



We made it all the way to the final and the boys were gutted to lose but will no doubt remember this experience for many years to come. Very proud of our silver medals but more so the effort and high-quality football on show from everyone involved. **So proud!**



Table Tennis

Our very talented Table Tennis stars visited APS school for the Haringey championships. After some intense battles with local rivals Rhodes Ave and Coleridge, we finished 4th. This was fantastic considering some rivals had England ranked players! Timed games where the winner is decided by who's on top at the buzzer teaches you how to speed up or slow down a match, depending on game state. Great work team!

Tag Rugby

We have worked hard this term at Tag Rugby across the juniors in PE, and Y6 especially have produced some exceptional development in lessons. It made the trials and squad selections harder than ever which was a great problem to have. Our festival squad took their game to the next level and should all be thinking about how far they can go after winning their group at the event. Our tournament squad were so competitive, smashing 5 wins from 5 in the group stage, narrowly losing a 1pt game in their semi-final. They came back strongly to take bronze with a huge victory in their final match. Well done all of you!





A reminder to anyone wishing to take this further, please look out for Serge Betson's rugby club after school – any children keen to progress can join Saracens, as many of our children did in the last two years!



Bikeability….

For the last two weeks, all 60 Y6 children have had a week of cycling lessons. Some novices learned to ride and passed their Level 1 proficiency; others reached intermediate Level 2 and took on the hills around Muswell Hill. This is the first year we have been able to include every child in Y6. The cycling instructors were so impressed with every child. Thank you so much parents and carers for trusting and allowing us to invest our time into this. Thank you also to ***Cycling Instructors*** for supporting and funding this programme for Haringey schools. There are lots of family courses and further lessons available. Please check out **https://www.cyclinginstructor.com** for further information.

A huge congratulations to Mia in Year 4

Last weekend, Mia competed in the first London Q1 regionals county squad in trampolining.
She won first place – check out this amazing action photo. Well done Mia – we are so proud of you!





And to our U11s chess team - good luck tomorrow!

Kai, Nate, Grayson, Alexandra, Gustave and Isha will be competing tomorrow in the 2026 London Junior Team Chess Championships. We are looking forward to hearing about your experience on Monday! A big thanks to Kamlesh and their families for making this wonderful opportunity happen for the children.

School Meals Week

Last week was National School Meals Week. Pabulum (our provider) has put together a recipe booklet that has easy-to-follow recipes for families. The recipes are school menu type dishes including meat and vegan options. Please see attached booklet.

Workshops for families in the coming weeks – see attached leaflets

1. **HEP is hosting a coffee morning for Turkish-speaking families of primary-aged pupils from Turkish, Kurdish, Turkish Cypriot, and Turkish Bulgarian heritage.** The **Parent Coffee Morning** is on 26.11.2026 at 10am. It is open to **all Turkish-speaking parents and carers** across Haringey schools.
   The theme of this session is **'Screen Time'**, but it will also provide an opportunity for families to connect with one another, share experiences, and learn about available support and opportunities within the local community. **Dr Gözde Arslan**, Counselling Psychologist, will deliver it in Turkish and it will be hosted at South Haringey Primary School.
   Refreshments will be provided.
2. A focused group **for parents and carers of neurodivergent children** starting on 8th December at 1pm. Spaces are limited, so please sign up as soon as possible. This group will look at:

- Coping with the stress of supporting and advocating for a neurodivergent child in a neurotypical world
- Understanding how neurodivergent children may process information and their feelings differently using clearer communication techniques and tools
- Supporting neurodivergent children to get the most from school
- Supporting neurodivergent children to grow in a healthy and safe way physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually
- Celebrating each child's strengths and unique gifts, raising their feelings of self-belief and supporting them to flourish
- Looking after the wellbeing of everyone in the family and getting support when it is needed

3. **Together For Families Special Workshop** focuses on attendance, illness-related absence, and supporting children and young people who are finding it difficult to attend school. The session is designed to provide practical advice, strategies, and information to help parents support their child's attendance and wellbeing.
4. **Strengthening Families –** support for parents who co-parent, live apart or together. Free online 6-week course**.** **https://strengthening-families.net/stronger-relationships/**

Message from residents about litter – please be mindful at pick up

Local residents have recently noticed an increase in litter on our streets and pavements, including bottles, food packaging and general rubbish.
Please remind your children of the importance of putting their rubbish in a bin and taking pride in their local surroundings.

Winter weather and colder temperatures

As we move into the winter season, please can you remember to label your children's coats. Children must wear a coat to go out to play at break and lunchtimes. Please ensure they come prepared for all weathers as we try to avoid absences. Please see attached DfE guidance on when to keep children off school and when to send them in. There are lots of viruses around now and the flu season is in full swing. Please don't hesitate to give us a call and let us know if your child is under the weather. We are more than happy for you to send them in and give you a call if it feels a shorter day is better for them than missing a full day.

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 dates for your diary

Y5s Final bake sale of the year to be confirmed

Come and buy some goodies after school to help raise funds at 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

Wednesday 25 November – Full Governing Body meeting

Thursday 3rd December – Years 3-6 visit to Alley Pally Cinderella on Ice

Friday 4 December – All extended clubs end (MASC continues)
Friday 4 December – Governor visits to school
Friday 4 December – Y4-Y6 Guitar Concert for Y5/6 continuers @ 2.00pm/Y4 @ 2.30pm

Wednesday 9 December – 2.30pm both choirs perform at Alexandra Palace for festive carols (if you do want to collect siblings or take your child along, please let us know)

Thursday 10 December – Year 1 theatre visit

Friday 11 December – Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch
Friday 11 December – PSA Christmas film night – see parent rep WhatsApp link

Tuesday 15 December – Colours Winter Peter Pan performance
Wednesday 16 December – Jewels Winter Peter Pan performance – see attached newsletter

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/