



May 2021



Mawsley C.P School

Summer 1 End of term Newsletter

Half term Holidays

With restrictions lifting, we are aware that some families will be travelling over the half term break for holidays.

Please ensure you share with us if travel has taken place to an amber country. This will ensure we can work together in following all guidelines, and support to ensure children are accessing remote learning tasks if they are required to quarantine.

Covid Isolation Reminder

If your child displays symptoms associated with Covid-19 you will be asked to collect them from school and either ensure they undertake a PCR test or isolate for 10 days. Any members of your household should also isolate whilst you await the result of the PCR. This means that children in other settings should be collected if your child is sent home from school with Covid-19 symptoms.

Please ensure that if any child who lives in your house, but attends a different setting, is sent home with Covid-19 symptoms then any siblings attending Mawsley School are collected immediately.

Sports Days - Whilst uncertainty remains around what the lifting of restrictions will look like, we have taken the decision as a school that sports days will go ahead without spectators.

More information about how this will be organised will be provided next term.

Staff News

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Istok on the safe arrival of their baby boy.

At the end of last term we said good bye to Mrs McNamara who has taken a new job opportunity – we wish her every success in this role and thank her for her hard work and contributions to our school family.

We also say goodbye to Mr Smyth today. Mr Smyth has not been with us long but has been a great addition to our Before and After school team, the children have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in various sports and activities alongside him. He leaves our team today for new adventures, we wish him every success.

School Uniform

School uniform provides a sense of unity and is in keeping with a purposeful learning environment. We politely request that every child attends school in the correct school uniform or PE uniform and footwear. A reminder of our expectations is available on the school website.

If you are finding it difficult, due to financial difficulties, to purchase school uniform please contact Helen Smith, School Business manager, on helen.smith@mawsley.org.uk

Attendance

On 8th March attendance for children at school became mandatory. We are incredibly proud that our whole school attendance was 97.6% up to and including May 21st.

Where possible please ensure appointments are booked outside of the school day to reduce the potential for lost learning.

Big Ask Survey

The Children's Commissioner has asked all children across the country to take part in a survey to determine their views on lockdown and what happens next for children. We have provided many of our children the opportunity to take part.

Parking and Waiting

Next term, please continue to park safely and considerately. This includes not parking on double yellow lines or dropping children off in the layby. By adhering to this request we ensure all children have a safe route into school.

Please wait considerately whilst waiting for access to the school premises. We have received reports that young children and parents with pushchairs have been required to walk in the road due to no clear path being available around the outside of the school.

Year 3

The Year 3 team have been absolutely thrilled with the effort and learning behaviours of the whole year group this term; we have worked hard to make up for some of the learning that had been forgotten during lockdown. Some children have come to After School Booster sessions in their own time, and have shown real determination and focus – even after a long day at school!

In Maths this term we have worked hard on improving our fractions knowledge. This was tricky to start with, but soon realised that fractions were easy when you remember a couple of key things. We have moved recently onto learning about angles and lines, which the children are enjoying a lot!

In English lessons we have really enjoyed using the book 'Tuesday' as our inspiration. We have learned how to use complex sentences and have spent our lessons shouting out 'I SAW A WABUB' whenever we spotted a complex sentence. Our story writing has also improved too and Mrs Johnston and Mrs Wright have been really impressed by the standard of the independent Hot Writes.

Science has amazed and surprised us as we learned about magnets and forces. We are ending the term this week learning about Japanese Music, musical instruments and even learned some Japanese!

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Reception

We've had a brilliant term in Reception with so much learning and fun as usual. Many of the children have enjoyed having the opportunity to have Fred the frog come and stay at their house with some fantastic writing produced as a result. Fred has had some very interesting new experiences this year; enjoying a hot tub, spending plenty of time at local parks and even helping to feed a baby lamb! Earlier in the term the children enjoyed a walk around the school to look at things around them in their locality and we also had a great time baking numicon biscuits to help us learn about taking away. It was the most delicious maths lesson! The fun hasn't stopped there as we have rounded up the term with our castle days today and yesterday. The children have participated in medieval activities such as jousting, making catapults, medieval dancing, sword skills, baking, embroidery and have even experienced a display of birds of prey in the school hall. After all of this we are sure the children are ready for a break! Have a super half term everyone and well done Reception, we are so proud of all of you for your brilliant effort with your learning.

Year 1 and 2

Everyone in years one and two continues to work really hard. We have had such a busy term in all areas of our learning. We have been learning about growing in our science lessons and have investigated what makes a seed germinate and how to help plants to be healthy. In our English lessons, we have been creating our own flying creature and became an expert on it so we could write an information page. In our computing lessons, we have researched animals and have begun to learn how to use Word to present our information. In our maths, we have become expert on shapes, measuring and money. What busy learners we have been!

Our new Read Write Inc home reading system is now in full operation and working really well. Thank you to all the children and parents who have been working hard on reading at home and remembering to return the books every Monday. The children are really enjoying the new books and we are enjoying seeing how much progress they are making each week. Our children who are using the Accelerated Reader scheme are also doing brilliantly. They are independently changing their own books and logging onto quiz about what they have read. The small group of children on Accelerated Reader have read 552,708 words and completed 289 quizzes between them! What awesome reading!!!

Year 4

We are so proud of the progress the year 4 children have made this term and it has been lovely to open the door each morning to smiling and eager faces. They have really settled back into their learning and have all been working incredibly hard. We have incorporated extra catch up sessions this term, which has allowed the children to revisit some of the areas they might have found tricky when being taught by zoom such as fractions and I know all the children have enjoyed having the opportunity to have some extra Maths lessons (as have we teachers!). Mrs Farrow's Friday mile runs have also proven to be highly popular and have provided an energy boost on Friday afternoons.

In English, the children have been inspired to produce some lovely writing, using the fabulous resistant texts 'Tuesday' and 'Floatsam' written and illustrated by David Weisner as a stimulus, with their hot writes showing great vocabulary and creativity. For the year 4 staff, one of this term's highlights has simply been to watch the children playing happily together on the playground, re-establishing friendships and just having fun and we are all looking forward to having a great final term with the children.

Year 5

Year 5 have been working their socks off since our return in March! We have been trying desperately hard to cover all aspects of the maths and English curriculum that we had missed and the children have performed brilliantly. They have also enjoyed their science this term - examining changes in materials and seeing how different liquids can corrode iron - vinegar being the most lethal! There has also been a lot of flipping, rolling, balancing, serving and volleying in PE as the children have been developing their gymnastics and tennis skills - if you find any tennis balls over the school fence then please return - blame Class 12! We also know that the children are very much looking forward to Wow Week and getting colourful and creative using the Batik method of dyeing fabrics. Finally, we have received some great news for next term - the children will be able to attend their swimming coaching at Montsaye in the last term - very exciting!

Year 6

Year Six have had another amazing term since returning from our closure. One of our main focuses this term has been improving on our writing skills, which the children have worked tirelessly on. We have been writing from picture books, images, video stimuluses and even sequels to a mystery story. The children have blown us away with their efforts and improvements. Another area which the children have been making great progress within, is their Problem Solving. The children have managed to consolidate all of the areas of our Year Six maths curriculum through problem solving and we have also been using Knowledge Organisers to help do this. One subject that the children have particularly been enjoying is their PE, in which we have been looking at cricket and rounders - it has been great to see the children improve their skills each week. Finally, this week the children have enjoyed looking at the origins of 1950s and 1960s music and also painting in an abstract style.

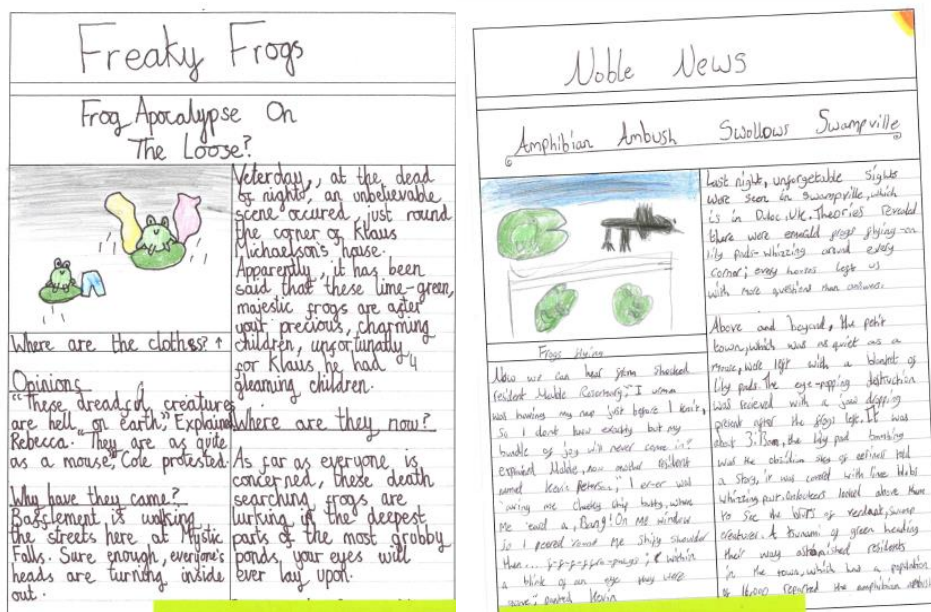
If you are ever concerned about the welfare of a child, please contact our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs). Contact details are available on our school website: <https://www.mawsleyschool.co.uk/>

If you are concerned about the safety or welfare of a child during periods outside of school hours, please contact the MASH team on 0300 126 1000 (option 1) or e-mail them at MASH@northamptonshire.gcsx.gov.uk

If you think a child is in immediate danger or missing, please contact the police and/or an ambulance directly by phoning 999

English News

This term, we have been seeing flying frogs everywhere, as our whole school has been using the picture book, 'Tuesday' by David Weisner. Through a series of illustrations, it brought to life the story of how a town and its inhabitants became overrun during the night by lots of frogs, who travelled through the air on Lili pads, leaving a trail of chaos to be uncovered the next day! Our children not only unfolded the mystery of this suspicious event, but also wrote the most amazing news reports, diary entries and stories based upon this, across the school. Year 4 loved using interesting descriptive vocabulary to convey the plot and particularly enjoyed being detectives, when they acted the role of different characters and interviewed each other. Year 1 and 2 had a wonderful time creating magical potions that would make the frogs fly (keep an eye on your cats and dogs at home!), whilst Year 3 retold the mysterious tale using great grammar features. Year 5 decided to immerse themselves in the characters in the book and told the story through a series of diary entries, and Year 6 have discovered some budding journalists, through the superb creation of news reports.



Across the school, children and teachers have been so impressed with the fantastic writing and hard work and effort that has gone into the writing that we have produced this term. Well done Mawsley!

Ooh! The frogs were so naughty! They frightened a man eating his sandwich!
Y1&2

The book was cool and adventurous; we got to be detectives! Y4

We loved the cliff-hanger ending – we substituted the frogs for chickens and wrote our own version! Y5

May 2021

A message from our Chair of Governors...

I hope you are all keeping safe and well. It has without doubt been a most unusual time and continues to be so for many of us and our children.

The main reason for writing to you today is to let you know of some changes to our school Governing Board. We recently saw the term of two of our parent governors come to an end. Both Greg Guilford and Suzanne McMinn had served on the governing board since 2017 and were extremely experienced and valued members. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to both for all of their commitment, contribution, enthusiasm and support during their time in office. This created two parent governor vacancies and following a nomination process I am delighted to welcome John Joy and Daniel Glenn to the governing board.

We have also been carrying two co-opted governor vacancies. I am very pleased to announce that these posts have been offered to Greg Guilford and Naomi Nanor. Earlier this academic year we welcomed Stephen James and Adam Griffin also as co-opted governors.

All our new governors are now going through a period of induction, training and getting themselves up to speed with our school, how it operates and what our goals and aspirations are for our children. I'm sure they will all add to the board's role of challenging, supporting and being a 'critical friend' of the school.

Over the last 15 months, the school has continued to operate (albeit in a different way) and therefore so has the Governing Board. We have been unable to visit school and meetings and monitoring has taken place remotely. We have also moved from a committee structure to what is known as the 'Circle Model of Governance'. This has been a big change for us - especially those of us that have been here a while!

Governors are responsible for overseeing the management side of our school: strategy, policy, budgeting and staffing. We enable the school to run as effectively as possible by working alongside Miss Harris, her senior leadership team and all the other staff members to provide outstanding education to our children. All our Governors bring a wide range of skills and expertise from their professional lives to the governing board and the school benefits greatly from working with skilled volunteers.

The governing board is there to support and challenge the school's senior leadership team. We play a crucial role in holding the Head Teacher to account for securing the best possible outcomes for pupils. By challenging key decisions and asking pertinent questions about the school's performance data and operation, governors aim to guarantee high standards in education. We take this approach to every decision discussed, made and agreed.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to Miss Harris and all the school staff for continuing to make the school day as normal as possible for our children whilst continuing to manage the challenges that the current situation delivers to us. It's also a thank you to you to for the huge part you play in ensuring that the school runs as safely and efficiently as possible.

Finally, on behalf of the school governors, may I take this opportunity to express again our gratitude to the entire school community for your flexibility and determination, in continuing to make Mawsley School the fantastic school it is.

Stay safe and look after yourselves and one another.

Best wishes

Andy Taylor

Chair of Governors

