3RD MAY 2019

MORGANS MAIL

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Collaboration Confidence Craftsmanship Communication Curiosity Creativity Commitment

Welcome Back!

Welcome back to the summer term at Morgans. We hope that you have had a great break. The children have come into school re-energised and engaged in their learning. We would also like to make a special welcome to the 8 new families that have moved their children to Morgans over the last month. We hope that you will join us in supporting them and making them feel part of our community. Making this an amazing 37 number of children that have joined Morgans school since September this year.

Congratulations are in order for two of our teachers who got married during the Easter holidays. Miss Venosi is now Mrs Perkins and Miss Warman is now Mrs Fisher. I now will join me in wishing them both well!

This week we have had a three amazing opportunities that we have provided to the children free of charge. The Mad Science company led fun and interactive workshops for children across the school called Action H20. This taught children the need to conserve water and the importance of water for our planet. We are raising awareness in our children of the need to look after our planet.

Secondly, provided free Scooter training this week for our Year 2 pupils. This is a project that we have got involved in with Hertfordshire County Council. The children were taught important aspects of road safety together in an assembly and the importance of exercise, alternative ways of coming to school, as well as environmental awareness. The children worked in small groups practicing how to keep themselves and others safe whilst using their scooters in both a practical and informative way.

Lastly, yesterday we organised the Dogs Trust to come into Morgans and work with children across the school. The sessions and assemblies were about how to stay safe and be confident around dogs. This was an idea from a parent of the school who has worked successfully with the Dogs Trust and felt that it was a fantastic offer for the children at Morgans. Thank you for this great idea, if any parents have any other ideas of educational opportunities that we can organise for the children please let us know.

It's been a fun and busy start to the summer term and it is so lovely to be back in school with all of your enthusiastic children!

Alis Rocca

Budget Update

Further to the information we shared with all parents regarding the enforced budget cuts that are affecting all schools in England, we think that the beginning of a new term is an ideal time to share how we, as a school, seek every opportunity to save money in order to continue to provide the best learning opportunities and outcomes for your children.

Everyone at Morgans is committed to reducing costs in every aspect of school life. We are creative in our approach and some successful examples of how we have worked together in recent months are:

- Successful Capital Funding Bids to replace the roof and window-walling in the Mandeville building. This has helped reduce energy costs and lower emissions
- FREE Installation of Solar panels in Mandeville building to reduce energy costs and emissions
- FREE repairs and maintenance provided by the Community Payback Team. This continues to be a successful and worthy project which takes place at weekends and some school holiday periods. Projects undertaken have been Annie's Garden, fencing within the school grounds, general maintenance of external areas for example, painting of indoor classrooms and communal areas, to name but a few. This has helped the school to eliminate the use of external contractors for some aspects of school maintenance.
- FREE purpose-built tree house provided by a professional organisation that specialises in outdoor activity constructions. This facility is designed to enrich pupils' experiences through learning and play outside of the classroom. All resources were provide free of charge by Lawsons.
- Successful Healthy Pupils Capital bid of to provide a weather-proof running track. This will provide opportunities for pupils to use the track, all year round, to encourage and embed healthy lifestyles, promote fitness and improve wellbeing. As you can see this track is already being constructed and will be completed in readiness for this year's Morgans Mile. We would like to thank FOMS for their amazing contribution of £2500, which will go towards the final cost of the track. All pupils in the school will benefit from this.
- The workman already in situ, who are completing the track, will provide the services of digging out a pond for FREE. This is an amazing opportunity and will save the school a lot of money. The pond will be used to teach a variety of the curriculum, including Science, PHSE, Geography, Forest Schools and will engage our children even more in their outdoor learning.
- Lettings - the school works tirelessly to promote the school's facilities for use by and within the community. Income from all school lettings is ploughed back into school funds to help reduce the impact of budget cuts on pupils' education. Examples of current lettings are: Indoor rugby club, karate club, adult fitness, adult knitting club, and adult Weight-Loss club. In addition to regular clubs, the school also hires out the facilities for events such as birthday parties, christenings, wellbeing events, quiz nights etc. If you are interested in hiring out our facilities, including our superb treehouse (and catering facilities) for birthday parties, please contact the school office for further details.
- FREE pupil workshops and gardening clubs provided by Groundwork, Hertfordshire. This will provide opportunities for pupils to understand the importance of food sourcing and growing their own produce to encourage and embed healthy lifestyles, and improve wellbeing.
- All staff at Morgans are committed to reducing the amount of paper used in school. For this reason, we will be sending your child's end of year school report via Parentmail/email as a PDF document. These will be sent out to parents during the week commencing 8th July. Further information will follow in due course.

As a school we always think of positive and creative ways to maintain our fantastic educational offer to your children. We hope you can see the amazing benefits and the impact of everything that we are doing

School Trips, Visits and Events

We want to explain what the process is of arranging educational visits and activities. The school considers costings and tries to cover as much of these as possible through the school budget. As you may be aware school budgets are decreasing in real terms currently, meaning that the budget is stretched further and further year on year. For example an activity such as swimming which is part of our National Curriculum provision may cost the school in the region of £4000 a term; this would cover pool hire, staffing costs etc. As a result of this the financial viability of many educational trips and activities are dependent on parental contributions as the school may simply not be able to afford these otherwise.

Of course a voluntary contribution is by definition… voluntary. However, if there is not enough funds contributed then sadly activities may not be possible to fund. The school also makes allowance for those who simply cannot afford to contribute and uses some of its Pupil Premium funding to support those who are unable to pay with an additional contribution. The school advises those parents who feel they cannot contribute to discuss this on an individual basis with the School Business Manager. These discussions take place with the utmost discretion and children are in no way singled out or made aware if their parents cannot or will not contribute. No child will ever be excluded from an activity under this guidance due to lack of parental contribution. There are however in school some activities that are not part of the National Curriculum and for these activities the school can ask for payment. For example residential trips, day trips, visitors, additional musical instrument, clubs that run after school that are not part of the curriculum etc.

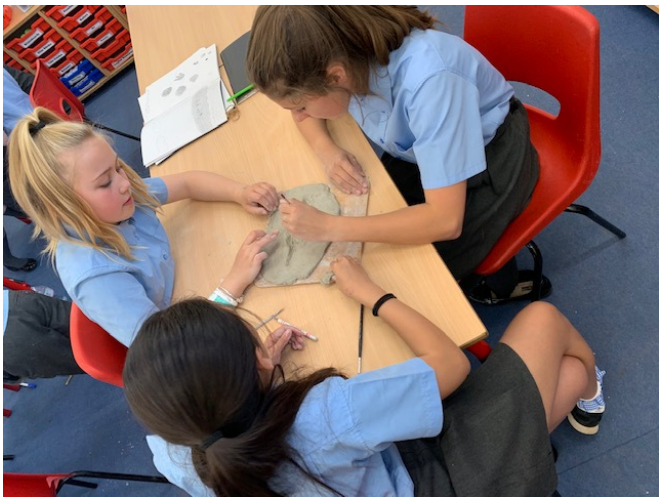
In guidance written by the Department for Education 'Charging for school activities' (October 2014) it sets out that a school cannot 'charge' parents for any element of the National Curriculum, this includes materials for learning or educational activities. However, governing bodies and local authorities can ask parents for 'voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school or any school activities'. In essence, this means that any activities that are costly can be subsidised by reasonable contributions by parents to enhance the experience of learners at the school.

During the last financial year, March 18 to April 19, the shortfall from parental contributions for school trips was £3800 which the school has had to make up from the school budget. This in turn means that this money had to be reallocated from other areas of school provisions.

We hope that this information has clarified the issues regarding contributions to trips. At Morgans School we aim to give all children the best possible chances in their education whilst weighing up the cost for both ourselves and parents and hope that you will support us in this.

Year 6 Learning about Fossilisation

Year 6 have been learning about the process of fossilisation. Using clay, the children created moulds that they will then be using to recreate their original fossil sketches in 3d form, using plaster of paris.



Year 2 Sycamore took part in scooter training today. We had a great time. We learnt how to stay safe while riding a scooter. We practised stopping and starting and listening to commands. We used our growth mindset and resilience power to have a go. We enjoyed working together to keep safe.

Year 4

Year 4 had great fun with Mrs Brady. After designing our creations last week, we then started the making process this week. We cannot give you too much detail as we will spoil the surprise for the Year 4 performance!

The Morgans Mile Sponsored Run 2019 - Friday 17th May

Year Group	Race Time	Year Group	Race Time
Year 5 (Children come to school in PE kit, ready to run!)	9.00am	Nursery (AM&PM)	10.35am
Reception (Children come to school in PE kit, ready to run. Children will be supported by Year 5 Pear.)	9.15am	(Both classes and their parents/carers are welcome to bring food and stay for a picnic lunch afterwards. Parents of children staying for the afternoon session must stay until 12.30pm.)	
Year 1 (Children will be supported by Year 5 Elder.)	9.35am	Year 3	11.00am
Year 2	9.55am	Year 6	11.40am
Year 4	10.15am		

Look out for a letter and donation envelope coming home in school bags today. Here are a few key reminders:

- On Friday 17th May, please ensure your child has a full water bottle, and pop a T-shirt in your childs house colour* in their school bag. *Rib=Green; Beane=Blue; Mimram=Yellow; Lea=Green.
- Reception and Year 5 children should arrive at school already changed into a T-shirt in their house colour, PE shorts and trainers. They should bring their uniform in a bag to change into after the race.
- Year 1, Reception and Nursery children can be accompanied on the run by a parent or carer.
- All Parents/Carers are very welcome to come along and support their children. There will be a stall selling refreshments.

Mr Molloy

My favourite children's book is: Janette and John

My favourite colour is: Blue

My favourite food is: Chips

My favourite film is: Bridge on the River Kwai

The latest book I have read is: Tottenham Football Programme

Five words that describe me:

Hardworking, Good Helper, Caring, Dedicated, and Committed

Did you know that Mr Molloy has an array of skills that have enabled the school to save thousands of pounds by carrying out carpentry work and general maintenance throughout the school that would normally be carried out by external contractors .

Thank you Mr Molloy for all you do for Morgans!

Attendance

Class	Last Fort-night	This Week	Did you know?
Rec Spruce	95.4%	97.8%	Attending school every day = 100% attendance Attending 4½ days a week = 90% attendance = 4 weeks missed per year Attending 4 days a week = 80% attendance = more than half a term missed per year. Attending 3½ days each week = 70% attendance = more than a quarter of the school year missed. An average attendance of 80% or less across a child's school career adds up to missing a whole 2 years from school. Being late for school reduces learning time. If your child is 5 minutes late every day they will miss three days of learning each year. If your child is 15 minutes late every day they will miss 2 weeks of learning each year.
Rec Birch	86.0%	92.5%	
Year 1 Walnut	93.3%	99.6%	
Year 1 Cherry	95.8%	98.3%	
Year 2 Maple	95.9%	93.6%	
Year 2 Sycamore	89.6%	97.9%	
Year 3 Fir	92.5%	98.9%	
Year 3 Rowan	94.1%	98.5%	
Year 4 Whitebeam	96.3%	95.7%	
Year 4 Lime	89.0%	94.5%	
Year 4 Ash	93.7%	94.3%	
Year 5 Elder	93.3%	93.0%	
Year 5 Pear	94.0%	96.0%	
Year 6 Pine	93.3%	99.0%	
Year 6 Hornbeam	93.3%	90.3%	
Whole School	93.4%	96.0%	

Upcoming Dates

8th May 2019—Class Photos - Please ensure your child has their school cardigan or jumper.

10th May 2019—Ranger Stu in to see Year 2

13th—15th May 2019—Year 5 Aylmerton Trip

13th—15th May 2019—Year 6 SATS