

MARJORY KINNON NEWS

Headteacher: Ms. T Meredith



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Key Dates

Spring Term

Last Day of Term: Thursday 28th March 2023 *Pupils finish at 1pm*

Summer Term

First Day of Term: Monday 15th April 2024

May Bank Holiday: Monday 6th May 2024 - School closed

INSET Training Day: Friday 24th May 2024 - School closed for pupils

Half-term: Monday 27th - Friday 31st May 2024

Last Day of Term: Wednesday 24th July 2024 *Pupils finish at 1pm*

Headteacher Update

Dear Parents & Carers

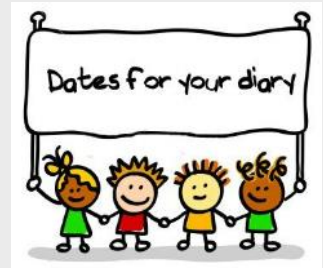
This has been a very busy term. Thank you all for attending and supporting many of the events.

An important piece of news that I would like to share is that Mr Kevin Smith, my senior deputy, is retiring this term. He has given 15-years dedicated service to the school and has been a huge source of support to me as Headteacher. We all wish him a very restful retirement.

We have lots more to come in the summer term and we would love to welcome you to join in and support your child.



Summer Term Events



Event	Date	Time	Venue
Parental Workshop on the Communication Tools used at Marjory Kinnon School.	Tuesday 26 March	1.15-2.45pm	Training Room
Parent Coffee Morning with the MKS Speech & Language Therapist and the MKS Interventions Team.	Wednesday 27 March	9.15-10.45pm	Secondary Dining Hall
<p>MKS Runners Sessions</p> <p>Parents are very welcome to come along and join staff for friendly and relaxed training runs.</p> <p>There will be groups ranging from walkers, (couch to 5k) beginners and experienced / fast runners.</p> <p>Email jkalman@marjorykinnon.hounslow.sch.uk for more info.</p> 	Thursdays, starting on 18 April	4pm	School Field
 <p>Oral Hygiene Parental Workshop with Kendra Blinco (from the Hounslow Oral Health Promotion Team).</p>	Monday 22 April	9.30-10.45am	Training Room
Augmentative & Alternative Communication (AAC) Workshop for all Parents.	Friday 17 May	1.30-2.45pm	PE Hall
<p>Parent Coffee Morning with speakers from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LBH Housing. Iyke Gentles (Behaviour Change Officer, Sustrans) - introducing MKS families to the accessible cycling sessions at the All Ability Cycling Hub at Inwood Park.  	Tuesday 21 May	TBC	Secondary Dining Hall
<p>Marjory Kinnon Summer Fayre</p> 	Wednesday 10th July	2.30-4pm	Playground / Hall
Secondary Performance	Wednesday 10th July	1.30pm	Hall
	Thursday 11th July	1.30pm	Hall



OUTDOOR PLAY AND LEARNING

Marjory Kinnon School joined with OPAL to improve our outdoor playtimes.

Playtime is critical in developing children's social communication potential and we will be making changes to school practice, policy, guiding principles and environment to embed this initiative.

We are looking for a **Parent Champion** to get involved by attending an occasional meeting. If you are interested, please email office@marjorykinnon.hounslow.sch.uk

HOW CAN PARENT'S HELP?

- Get in touch if you are a tradesperson willing to make donations of spare parts (e.g. pallets, pipes, etc) or if you are able to give some time to support us to develop and change the school grounds.
- Attend upcoming Parent Workshops on 'Outdoor Play'
- Attend future 'Play-day' sessions with your child.

Supporting school improvement through better play and playtimes. What are the benefits of the programme?

More teaching time

Schools report happier, more creative, and well exercised children who settle to classes much more quickly.

Improved behaviour

Schools report up to 80% decrease in use of behaviour policies and 90% drop in senior leadership time spent resolving playtime issues.

Faster core skills development

Children develop creativity, imagination, cooperation, resilience, stamina, confidence.

Inclusion

OPAL's approach makes play better for every child, every day... no exceptions!

Happiness and wellbeing

Play is a human need and a human right. Children report feeling less stressed and more excited about school.

Children spend 20% or 1.4 years of their school attendance in play and yet many schools have no strategic or values-based approach to play across all ages.

The Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) Programme is a mentor-supported school improvement programme. It addresses all of the areas schools must plan for if they want to strategically and sustainably improve the quality of their play opportunities.

OPAL is the only programme of its kind that has been independently proven to sustainably improve the quality of play in British schools. Research shows that play contributes to children's physical and emotional health, well-being, approach to learning and enjoyment of school. Given the importance of play in children's lives and current concerns about children's health and opportunity to access time and space to initiate their own play outdoors, there are considerable benefits for children, parents, school and the wider community from participating in OPAL's programme.

The OPAL Programme supports schools in developing a cultural shift in thinking about and supporting children's play. Its success comes from a series of interrelated actions undertaken with the specialist support from the OPAL Mentor. This embeds play into school's policies and practices and establishes clear guiding principles and strategies for initiating changes at playtimes. The results can be transformational and - at best - spectacular and show progress even in more challenging school environments.



This term at Marjory Kinnon is a very busy term for themed weeks and events. Some of the themed weeks held this term were:

World Book Week, Science Week, Red Nose Day and **Creative Arts Week**.

Below are a few highlights from some of these events.

WORLD BOOK WEEK

The theme for this year's World Book Week was 'Read Your Way!'

The pupils were encouraged to explore and share how, where, what and why they like to read.

Over the week, we placed many new exciting books in the library (as pictured below), dressed up as some of our favourite book characters, and took part in a multi-sensory theatre experience.



SCIENCE WEEK

This Years Science Week theme was time. The Secondary Science Department and US3 delivered a fantastic assembly and challenged our pupils to various tasks linked to time.

One of the most popular challenges was how long can you hold your breath for?

Did you know the world record is 24 minutes and 37 seconds!



CREATIVE ARTS WEEK

US5 worked with great focus and creativity during a clay workshop, delivered by visiting ceramicist Marika Kovacsova Gillman. They learned some basic skills: how to make a pinch pot, roll a slab and attach appendages using the scratch and slip technique. Everyone produced a wonderful sculpture linking to their chosen fruit, which will become part of their Art & Design BTEC, 'Creating an 3D Art Object' project.



Visiting mural artist, Eloisa Henderson-Figueroa has spent two days running workshops with eight of our Secondary classes, where they have had the opportunity to spray paint part of the new playground mural. The theme of the mural is play and the design is based on artist, Keith Haring's colourful, moving figures. The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and did a brilliant job of the spray painting. Well done all!



The students have also been entertained by many musical performances featuring both staff and pupils. We have had daily busking from some of our fantastic staff musicians, the students were rocked by staff performers at the MKS Concert, including a beautiful rendition of popular Disney song 'Let it go' by Mrs Hartland, and, perhaps the highlight of the week, we were stunned by the amazing voices of the MKS Choir, and the incredible debut of The United Musicians who performed hit songs to a raucous crowd.





Wraparound Childcare

We will be writing to parents shortly to roll-out a pilot for a small-scale **Wraparound Care Project** in June. Places on the trial will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

The project provides a safe and supportive environment for the children to play and socialise and will be in addition to the enrichment and extra-curricular activities already offered as After-School Clubs.

There will be a charge for each pupil to attend which will go

towards the costs (as explained in the survey that went out to parents in February). More details will be sent out next term.

Work will take place over the Easter break in the car parks to improve safety for all users.

SAFETY IN THE CAR PARK

We are introducing additional speed reducing humps and new signage.

Line markings in the Visitors Car Park will be refreshed and extended.

Please support us with car park safety by respecting the 5mph speed limit when driving into school, particularly at peak times. The speed limit is there to protect our vulnerable children - many of whom do not have road safety awareness.

**Our Kids Are
Counting on You!**

**Practice Safe
Drop Off & Pick Up**



Winners of the Leo Drawing Contest



Leo the Lion is Phonak's paediatric mascot and a companion for children with a hearing loss.

Every year Deaf/Hard of Hearing primary school children are encouraged to embrace their creativity and to draw their own picture of Leo the Lion to feature in the Phonak calendar.

We are very proud of **Logan Msibi's** achievement as his artwork was chosen from many entries as one of the 12 most creative designs. His drawing will feature in the Phonak 2024 Leo the Lion Calendar and Logan was awarded with a Leo the Lion winners pack!



Healthy School Initiative

Due to the high number of pupil allergies and the vulnerabilities of our special needs children, we would like to ask parents who wish to bring in something to celebrate their child's birthday, not to send birthday cake, sweets or party bags with food in them.

We would be very happy for you to **send a book** - of a similar value to a cake - as a birthday treat that can be read to the children.

You would be supporting us with our Healthy School initiatives and our School Development Plan targets to improve reading and engagement with books.

We would also like to remind Parents and Carers that MKS is a nut-free school.



Whilst MKS passes on information about events and services for families from the Local Authority and other providers in the community, this is general information only and does not constitute formal advice or a recommendation on the appropriateness of the events/services for your child. Families seeking to use or access a service or provision are responsible for undertaking their own checks to determine the suitability and fitness for purpose of that service and provision, as well as to ensure that the service has adequate policies and procedures in place including child protection and the safeguarding and wellbeing of children and young people.



Hounslow Connect
@HounslowConnect



If you are looking for everyday support & want to speak to a variety of local services, visit the [#Brentford](#) Community Hub. Community Solutions will be there if you need to speak to someone about an issue.



Brentford Library



Every Friday, 10am– 2pm

hounslowconnect.com



Community Events



Service

Hounslow Family Matters

This service is run by the organisation [Ruils](#). View their organisation details and other listed services.

[View organisation](#)

Who is it for?



Age Group

0 - 4 years, 5 - 11 years, 12 - 15 years, plus more...



What is this service?

Our Family Matters Advisors provide practical support, advice and information to families with children with disabilities and/or additional needs who are feeling under pressure or who are experiencing difficulties.

What we offer?

- We run free, monthly workshop for parents to provide support and information on a variety of topics
- We will support you to focus on areas of family life that you find challenging and will work with you to identify steps to address some of these difficulties
- We will provide you with information on activities and services and will support you to access them.
- We will listen to your worries and experiences in a non-judgmental way
- We will work with you to identify what is working and what is not working

We provide Family Matters, our parents support service, in Richmond and Hounslow. Our Family Matters Advisors provide practical support, advice and information to families with children with disabilities and/or additional needs who are feeling under pressure or who are experiencing difficulties. We will

- Listen to your worries and experiences in a non-judgmental way
- Work with you to identify what is working and what is not working
- Support you to focus on areas of family life that you find challenging and will work with you to identify steps to address some of these difficulties
- Provide you with information on activities and services and will support you to access them.

To find out more about our Hounslow service contact Alka Tripathi on 07376 354 638 alkatripathi@ruils.co.uk.

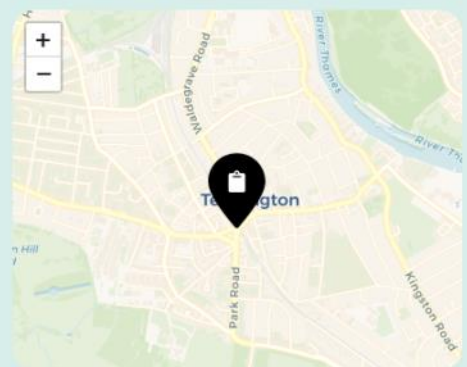
To make a referral to our Family Matters service or to self refer to the service please complete our referral form and send to the team

- For Hounslow referrals: [Download Hounslow referral form](#) and email to Alkatrpathi@ruils.co.uk



This service is free

Where is this service?



How can I contact this service?



Website

<https://www.ruils.co.uk/services/family-...>




Email

alkatripathi@ruils.co.uk



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Page last updated 28th November 2023

The London Borough of Hounslow provide breaks for children with disabilities and their carers. These breaks can be for a few hours, half day, full day or overnight.

The aim is:

- for the child to have fun.
- enjoy educational activities as well as leisure or therapeutic activities.
- to let carers take a break from their responsibilities. We aim to improve the quality of life for families particularly if they feel they are in crisis or experiencing difficulties.

A short break is an enjoyable and fun activity for your child to do after school or on the weekends or during the school holidays. Children take part in either one to one or group activities, giving the carer a break to carry out other activities.

The short breaks on offer provide a mix of different activities for children and young people up to the age of 18. Siblings are welcome to join in.



Short Breaks for Disabled Children

Easter 2024 newsletter



London Borough
of Hounslow

Go to the LBH Shortbreaks website to see the timetable of activities for each school holiday so that you can plan activities for your children.

To book onto a short break please call 020 8583 3636 or email:

shortbreaks@hounslow.gov.uk

<https://www.hounslow.gov.uk/shortbreaks>