



MARJORY KINNON NEWS

Headteacher: Ms T Meredith



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Key Dates

Monday 20 April
Summer term

Friday 8 May
May Bank Holiday

Monday 25 to Friday 29 May
Half Term.

Tuesday 21 July
Last day of term

Headteacher's Welcome

During these very difficult times we have endeavored as a school to support you with home school learning packs, website learning resources and childcare provision for keyworker's children. I have asked teachers to remain in touch with you by email or phone - please do make requests for more learning from them if you need it.

However, we understand how difficult this time must be for our children and we are still unsure when they will be returning to school. I would like to prepare you for the fact that when they do return, things will be different for a long period of time as we try to put in place social distancing and reduce risk factors around the transmission of Covid-19. It is possible that there will be a slow phased return and the children may not have a full day at school or be in every day of the week. Children with serious underlying health conditions may still not be able to attend. We will give you more information on this as the Government provides it.



We are looking forward to seeing the children again and will follow the Government and Local Authority guidance.

Until then, please do take care of yourselves and I hope you and your family keep safe and well.

We would like to draw your attention to the new

MKS YouTube Channel set-up by Mr Griffiths, Mr Hill and Mr Lambert. We thank all the teaching staff who have provided the content. We hope you enjoy the video clips as much as everyone enjoyed making them. There is a great version of the school song for parents to learn!



To access, log on to www.youtube.com and search for Marjory Kinnon School.  to the Channel and click the little bell icon  to receive alerts when new videos are added.

Dear Parents / Carers

The Government have updated the Relationship & Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education curriculum and the guidance associated with this. As part of this change, we are required to update our RSE Policy to reflect the changes.

A draft copy of the new **Relationship & Sex Education Policy** is located on the school's website www.marjorykinnonschool.co.uk or we can email pdf copies upon request.

So that we can make the draft RSE Policy as relevant to our pupils and community as possible, we are consulting with Parents/Carers of pupils from all key stages. If you would like to participate in this consultation, then we invite you to read the draft RSE Policy and email the school at rsepolicyconsultation@marjorykinnon.hounslow.sch.uk to ask questions or provide feedback on the draft.

The deadline for feedback will be Friday 15 May 2020.

ANNUAL REVIEWS

Changes for Parents to note:

Whilst the school is closed, Class Teachers will contact parents/carers to schedule the Annual Review Meeting. The meeting will be held either by telephone or video conference call.

The Annual Review Meeting is a pupil-centred review and will ascertain whether the Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP) is fit for purpose. There will be an opportunity in the meeting to discuss your child's progress.



If you have not yet registered for your account or if you have mislaid your registration letter, please contact us on the school's emergency number **07736 466907** for assistance.

We are using the **Scopay** system to send vital communications to Parents whilst the school is closed.

When we reopen, we will be using **Scopay** for payments and appointments:

- Permissions for off-site trips
- Scheduling Parents Evening appointments
 - Payment of dinner money
 - Purchasing school uniform*

*Parents please note that uniform with the school logo is optional

Spring Cultural Events

At Marjory Kinnon we are focusing on our school core values throughout the year (Kindness, Respect, Tolerance, Perseverance). The school focus for the spring term was Tolerance.

We would like to celebrate some of the exciting events that took place in school in the spring term.

Staff worked hard to arrange engaging enrichment activities across the whole school that included:

Chinese Dragon Dance Workshops in celebration of Chinese New Year



World Book Week

The timetable included resources, lesson plans and activity ideas for our Roald Dahl themed book week culminating with a quiz and an Awards Ceremony where certificates and prizes were handed out. Staff and pupils dressed up as Roald Dahl characters.

We were very pleased to welcome Ghislaine Walker as our guest Storyteller and Karin Littlewood who ran Book Illustrator Workshops.

Karin Littlewood is a practising illustrator who shares her experience and enthusiasm for stories with children and teachers.



Workshops begin with storytelling, then Karin will show how the book was 'born' - from first marks on paper, initial sketches and the chance to see the original illustrations.

It continues with the children working on a project and is a very hands-on experience with an emphasis on drawing and the children's role, as illustrators, of telling a story through the pictures they create.

See Karin's illustrations, including the Immi book our pupils worked on: www.karinlittlewood.com



Ghislaine Walker is a Professional Storyteller who works in the Education field.

"For me storytelling is about communicating: the teller, audience and the story become one for a brief moment and all manner of magic things happen!"

Whether I am working with individuals with profound disabilities, gifted children, family groups the connections the story creates are what matters.





YOU SAID... WE DID...

Constructive ideas and pupil feedback were sought from the Pupil Representatives who attended Change Team Meetings (as part of the work towards the Wellbeing Award for Schools) and from Year 6 pupils on the Primary Pupil Council (responsible for representing classes within Early Years, Lower and Upper Primary).

The Yr11 Pupil Rep (following Mrs Pelikan's talk on Cyber-bullying & Behaviour), suggested an increase in supervision to monitor behaviour at the bus stop and school perimeter as a preventative measure, but it didn't need to be as extreme as last year's escorting of pupils. He suggested having Teachers present but not shadowing. He explained that mainstream school staff monitor pupils at shops.

Ms Meredith confirmed that staff members would do an end of day duty at the Bus Stop. The Parent Representative added that he thought it was an excellent idea.

The Yr7 Pupil Rep asked if school trips could be reinstated for Year 6 pupils (e.g. Chessington). The Yr11 Pupil Rep agreed that the overnight PGL trips should be reinstated.

PGL activities may be considered within the school grounds. MKS brought back the Duke of Edinburgh Award involving an overnight stay.

Ms Meredith asked if learning about mental health would be good? Pupil Reps welcomed discussion in lessons about what it means. The Yr11 Pupil Rep proposed this happen monthly in Year 9-11 taught by Mr Griffiths. Ms Meredith asked what the Pupil Reps learnt in PSHE. The Yr11 Pupil Rep said that pupils talk about emotions but felt it would be good to talk about mental illness too.

Mental health education for pupils and information on who to go to when upset has been built into assemblies and PSHE curriculum for older pupils.

Pupils asked when would the grass field be ready to play football matches.

Mr O'Brien explained that further remedial work was required for planting and maintenance. Part of the field would need to be dug up to resolve foul pump issues. Line marking and Woodland Trust planting was yet to be finalised with Bedfont Primary. Mr O'Brien will investigate funding for changing rooms.

Water fountain in playground.

Water fountains will be sourced for the playground.

Library - More books especially non-fiction.

Colour coded book shelves to make it easier to sort and look for books.

Ms Meredith agreed that the right books would motivate pupils. Parents would be encouraged (instead of cake for birthdays) to donate a book to their child's class. An official unveiling of the libraries would take place to coincide with Book Week in March 2020 with a Storyteller giving a reading. Mr O'Brien plans to establish a lending system with toys to accompany the books.

Legal High Information

From the Met Police

PC Coopey, our Safer Schools Officer, provided information on “Lean”, a popular DIY legal high. There has been a massive increase in school age young people, who are making and using the latest DIY drug. Called “Lean or Purple Drank”, this has been popularised by American rappers, and celebrities and has been popular at festivals.

Some of the shops in Feltham have been found to have been selling codeine based products to school kids in the area. Codeine Linctus is easily available from pharmacies and well known products such as Benylin or Night Nurse may be used.



Unfortunately there are no age restrictions in the UK for the sale of this type of cough syrup. Most young people think this is a legal high and they think they are not breaking the law. However under the Psychoactive Substance Act 2016, the production and supply (if they share it) of a psychoactive substance could result in imprisonment, fine or both. (Maximum 7 years imprisonment).

LEAN is very easy to overdose on and can cause serious issues such as –

- shallow or laboured breathing problems
- low blood pressure and a weak pulse
- muscle twitches
- nausea and vomiting
- tiny pupils
- spasms of the stomach and intestine
- seizures
- loss of consciousness
- coma

WHAT THE GOVERNING BODY DID IN THE SPRING TERM

Marjory Kinnon's Governors work with the school's leaders (including Tracy and Mark, who are both governors) in three key ways:

1. We support, advise and challenge the school's senior leaders and help them make good decisions.
2. We set the strategy for the school, to ensure it achieves its vision.
3. We ensure the school's money is being spent on the right things.

Here are four things that are going on this spring term as part of that work:-

- We recently held an 'engagement afternoon' at the school, where we considered the school's strategy for the next three years - this is a work in progress. We also had a discussion around safeguarding with the school's Safeguarding Lead, Amy Higgins and had the chance to meet with the Pupil Council.



- Training and developing the skills to be an effective school leader is a key part of being a governor. Andrew Wood and Paul Dimon, two of our governors, are currently participating in a six-month leadership training programme for school governors run by the National Governors' Association, which is helping us to think about how we govern and best support the school's leaders.
- Music, Art and PE subject leaders each gave a presentation to Governors which outlined specific subject knowledge, skills, progression across the Key Stages, and interventions in place in their subject areas. Particularly impressive, in each subject area, was the emphasis on the education of the whole child, with therapeutic development, creative and social skills embedded in and integral to each of the curriculum areas.
- As well as regular committee meetings which happen at least once a term, governors often visit the school to meet with staff and visit classrooms, so we can give feedback to the school's leaders and ensure the school is meeting the right standards. You may see us around the school. Please stop us and say hi!

If you are interested in what we do or if you have any feedback for the governors, we'd love to hear from you. Please get in touch with [Shahid Khan](#), Chair of Governors, or [Andrew Wood](#), Vice Chair via the school.



RUMI - MKS THERAPY DOG

We are very excited to welcome Rumi to Marjory Kinnon School. Rumi was born on 14 January 2020. He is a Silver Labrador puppy who is in training to become a school therapy dog and is set to become an integral part of our school community. Videos of Rumi can be found on the MKS YouTube channel.

Rumi is owned by Mr Sedaghat, a new member of staff who pupils and parents will meet when the school reopens. Prior to purchasing Rumi, Mr Sedaghat visited the breeders of the puppy's parents to ensure that the temperament of the parents was suitable for interaction with children.

The rationale is to have a school therapy dog that children interact with, to support the following areas:

- ◆ Cognitive – companionship with a dog stimulates memory, problem-solving and game-playing.
- ◆ Social – a dog provides a positive mutual topic for discussion, encourages responsibility, wellbeing and focused interaction with others.
- ◆ Emotional – a school dog improves self-esteem, acceptance from others and lifts mood, often provoking laughter. Dogs teach compassion and respect for other living things and relieve anxiety.
- ◆ Physical – interaction with a furry friend reduces blood pressure, provides tactile stimulation, assists with pain management, gives motivation to move, walk and stimulates the senses.
- ◆ Environmental – a dog in a school increases the sense of a family environment, with all of the above benefits continuing long after the school day is over.
- ◆ Reading – reading to dogs has been proven to help children develop literacy skills and build confidence, through both the calming effect the dog's presence has on children, as well as the fact that a dog will listen to children read without being judgmental or critical. This comforting environment helps to nurture children's enthusiasm for reading and provides them with the confidence to read aloud.
- ◆ Research shows huge benefits for many children with Autism where they promote a sense of calm and encourage interaction and build confidence in social and emotional development.

Some concerns Parents/Carers might have:

My child is allergic to dogs

Some parents may be concerned about their child's possible allergic reaction to a school dog. However, Rumi will be subjected to the most thorough cleanliness and grooming regime. He will also only be allowed in situations with pupils who voluntarily wish to work with him. Permission will be sought in advance of Rumi having access to, and working with, each child in school.

Will Rumi be properly cared for?

The puppy lives with Mr Sedaghat and is to be introduced to pupils gradually. Mr Sedaghat takes Rumi to a local vet's practice where Rumi had his initial puppy health check, vaccinations and worming treatment in line with European Vet Guidelines. Records are kept of all of Rumi's health checks.

Rumi will come to school most days but will stay safely in the office until satisfactory training has been completed. He will, in time, listen to pupils read in a controlled setting and will always be accompanied by a trained adult. He will undergo thorough and rigorous training (beginning with puppy classes), so will be extremely well-behaved. Whilst Rumi is in school, he will have access to a dog crate in the office where he can relax during the day. If Rumi is unwell he will stay at home with a babysitter!

My child is scared of dogs

Rumi will only be in contact with children whose parents have given their permission. Rumi's training will help him to be calm and gentle around children; he is already showing signs of a very loving and gentle nature. Research has shown that, with proper guidance and handling, children can learn to overcome their fear of animals and grow in respect and appreciation for them.

A letter will be sent home to seek permission regarding pupil's contact with Rumi before contact occurs in a reading/therapy setting. Although we do not envisage this to be before autumn term, there may be times before then, as pupils return to school, when Rumi is introduced to classes/assemblies without physical contact. If you have any concerns, please email office@marjorykinnon.hounslow.sch.uk.

Information for Parents on the use of CCTV in School

At Marjory Kinnon School we take our responsibility towards the safety of staff, visitors and pupils very seriously and to that end, we use Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) both internally and externally on the school premises for the following purposes:



**Warning
CCTV
in operation**

- To protect pupils, staff and visitors against harm to their person and/or property.
- To increase a sense of personal safety and reduce the fear of crime.
- To protect the school buildings and assets.
- To support the police in preventing and detecting crime.
- To assist in identifying, apprehending and prosecuting offenders.
- To assist in establishing cause of accidents and other adverse incidents and prevent reoccurrence.
- To assist in managing the school.
- Promoting the health and safety of staff, pupils and visitors as well as for monitoring student behaviour and preventing bullying.
- Reducing the incidence of crime and anti-social behaviour (including theft and vandalism).

The system comprises a number of internal and external cameras and does not use any sound recording capability. The CCTV system is owned and operated by the School and the deployment of it is determined by the Senior Leadership Team.

Healthy School Initiative

Due to the high number of pupil allergies and the vulnerabilities of our special needs children, when we return to school, 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/Carers that we are a nut-free school.

