

Dear Everyone,

I was delighted to hear the enthusiasm and knowledge Year 3 and 4 children brought back from their trip to the Central Mosque in Regents Park. We are bombarded with a range of views and perceptions about Islam and about Muslims in general. How do we know what to believe? As those of you who have been able to come and learn with us at Parent Fridays know, learners at Maple Cross begin with questions they would like to answer, and then they explore and investigate and debate. I was excited to find out what our learners discovered yesterday and what this tells us about our perceptions of Islam.

My own experience, having worked in Qatar for nearly two years, is that there are some very unpleasant Muslims and some very pleasant Muslims. But then, I could say the same about groups I am identified with: As the son of a vicar, I can tell you I have encountered some very unpleasant Christians and some very pleasant Christians. As a Nottingham Forest fan, I can tell you I have encountered some very unpleasant forest fans and some very pleasant forest fans. In fact, to make this even more complex, when I look in the mirror and reflect on my own behaviour, I have seen some very unpleasant behaviour and some very pleasant behaviour.

In essence, what is it that makes us who we are? Is it a label we are given or are told we belong to, or how we choose to act? Last week, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 told us that they valued their school and that we shouldn't drop litter. I told them words are cheap... could they show me their values? On Monday they all went outside during assembly and cleared the field of litter. On Thursday, I am informed, some children decided to do this for themselves. Wow.

If we truly believe in British (human) values, we need to show people what these are and what they mean. If they involve honesty and reason, then we need to show honesty and reason. And if, in honesty, we have some questions about something, it is only reasonable to explore to find answers.

As I said, I was delighted by the enthusiasm and knowledge the children brought back from their trip to the Central Mosque.

Yours sincerely,

Duncan Roberts

Headteacher



Sun Setters' After School Film Club



Thursday 29th February
1:30pm – 3:30pm

£2 per child (includes a snack and drink)
all tickets to be purchased in advance
from our after school club

Our Sun Setters after school club will be hosting their next Film Club on the last day of term. Tickets are available from now until Wednesday 28th from the Sun Setters' staff, however, there are only 50 tickets and these will be sold on a first come first served basis.

Our film will be **Despicable Me III**.

The Student Council Weekly News Report

Our council's report from last week

To Maple Cross,



Last week we discussed how well the tea party went and took in some feedback.

We are going to have more events involving senior citizens such as: talent show, visit to them at their home, buddy family day and charity events.

Hope you are enjoying the snow! :))

Thank you,
from the *Student Council* ☺

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

To all current Year 5 parents Secondary Transfer September 2019

The parents/carers of any child currently in Year 5, who might apply for a secondary school place at any of the Consortium schools under the academic test criteria, will need to register with the Consortium. The best way to do this is via the SW Herts Admissions Consortium website which can be found at <http://www.swhertsschools.org.uk>.

Registration to take the tests will open on Monday 30th April and close on Friday 22nd June. The period in which parents can register this year is set over seven weeks and **no late registrations will be accepted.**

Prior to registering for the tests, we advocate that parents ensure that their child is eligible for a place at their preferred school/s under that school's admissions criteria. Admission arrangements are published on each school's website and if the child is not eligible, there is no point in that child taking any of the tests. Please check now to avoid possible disappointment at a later stage.

Parents of children with special needs that will require their allocated test centre to make particular support arrangements will be required to send written evidence after test registration, quoting their child's full name, date of birth and their South West Herts Consortium Reference number.

Please either email the documents to the Test Co-Ordinator at swhsconsortium@gmail.com or by post to The Test Co-Ordinator, South West Herts Schools Tests, P.O. Box 2439, Watford, WD18 1UZ. It is very important that parents do this so the paperwork is received by Friday 22nd June, at the latest.

Parents will require written support from the primary school Headteacher, stating the arrangements usually made at school. Parents should be reminded that it is not the responsibility of the Primary School to ensure the Consortium have received their written evidence.

The test centre will be allocated, based on primary school postcode, by Wednesday 4th July. This has absolutely no bearing on parents' eventual secondary school preferences.

PTA Events

March



**Friday 29th March – 4pm-6pm
Children's Easter Disco** at Maple Cross Club, Longcroft Road. £1.

April



Friday 20th April – Cake Sale 3.15pm
Donations welcome.



Thurs 19th April – PTA Meeting - 7.30pm.
Maple Cross Club, Longcroft Road.

May



Sat 12th May – Rickmansworth Parade
12.30pm meet near St Joan of Arc School.
12.45pm judging. 1.30pm parade start.



Friday 18th May – Non uniform Day – Your child may **wear Red, White and/or Blue** in celebration of the Royal Wedding in place of school uniform (but, as always, sensible shoes please).

**Followed by, at 3.15pm – 4:15pm,
a Royal Wedding Tea Party** in the community room.



Please donate cakes & come for a royal tea party. Adults and children all welcome.

School Office/Phone

Please be aware that the school office is open from 8:30am to 4:30pm. The phones switch to answer phone at 4:30pm until 8:00am. Please, do not keep calling the school after 4:30pm and before 8:30am with the hope that your call will be answered: please leave a message and we will call you back.



Letters Sent Home **LAST & This Week**

Letters from last week referring to events that have finished are not included

- Nursery & Reception - Visit by the Three Billy Goats Gruff – **donation requested**
- Year 5 - Staffing Arrangements
- Year 5 - Tag Rugby *Tournament* – **reply needed**
- Tag Rugby Team - Tag Rugby *Match* details – **reply needed**

Home-School Agreement

This Week's Agreement Extract is from the parents/carers's section

To help my child at school,
I will attend open evenings for parents.

An open evening can take many forms. This term we have a Nursery & Reception Class Parent/Carer Consultation evening. (There will be a report for Years 1 to 6 this term with their consultation evening next term.) Such events are an important communication point. If you have a child in Nursery or Reception and have not yet booked your slot, please do so through the School Interviews website.

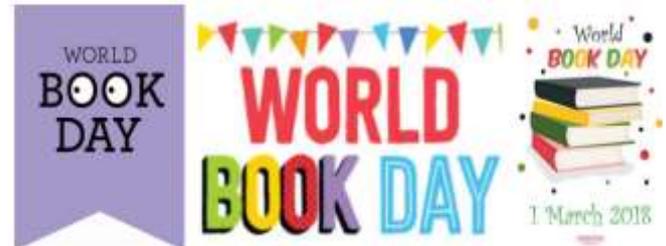
DIARY DATES

March 2018

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Thursday 15 th | EYs Parent Consultation |
| Monday 19 th | Year 5 – Greenwich |
| Monday 19 th | FGB Meeting |
| Tuesday 20th | Billy Goats Gruff visit to EYs |
| Friday 23 rd | Hot Cross Bun Sale |
| Thursday 29 th | End of Term,
school closes 1:30pm |
| Thursday 29th | Film Club 1:30pm – 3:30pm –
Despicable Me III
tickets in advance only |

April 2018

- Tuesday 3rd
– Friday 13th Easter Play Scheme



Thank you to everyone who supported the raffle despite the snow last week and the rain this week.

All the books were won.
