



Moor Hall School News



February 2019 • enquiry@moorhall.bham.sch.uk • 0121 675 3966
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Mr Steggall's Message

January has been a very busy month at Moor Hall with lots of exciting things happening. We kicked off the year with our Book Week and as you will see from our website and Tweets lots of wonderful creative work took place.

This term we have clarity over the completion schedule for the new build. Hand over to the school will take place on 25th June, 2019. Clearly, Balfour Beatty are trying to finish work earlier. The latest photographs of the structure are on our website.

The other building work continues. We have beautiful, acoustic bi-fold doors in place in Early Years and work continues to reach completion for the new office and the outdoor area of the EYFS.

At the end of last year we said good-bye to Mrs Michel. I am delighted to welcome Mrs Barratt and Mrs Reeves to our team. Both members of staff are manning the front desk and will be your first point of contact to school.

We were overwhelmed with your kindness in donating gifts to Birmingham Crisis Centre for Christmas. We received a letter of thanks which is on our website [here](#).

We are very grateful to those of you who volunteer at school and continually look for help. Please can you contact the school office if you are able to help hear children read or can spare some hours on 22nd July when we will be moving a lot of resources into our new building.

Towards the end of this term we will be having a planting day as part of the completion of the EYFS area. Again, if anyone can help with this please let us know in the school office and we will confirm when this event will take place. Further, if anyone has suitable plants that we could use at school they would be gratefully accepted.

Andrew Steggall

Government Childcare Vouchers

We are now up and running to receive HM Government 'Childcare Choices' childcare vouchers which may be used towards Moorhens fees. Parents, if eligible, can save up to £2,000 per annum, per child towards their care. To find out more please visit: www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

If you are paying with Government vouchers please ensure that you advise the school of the payment reference number in each instance.

Inset Dates

Following our recent communications to all parents the following inset days have been confirmed:

29th April 2019

3rd June 2019

22nd July 2019

The 22nd July has been allocated for movement of furniture and resources to the new classes.

Communications

Don't forget there is lots of information posted on the Moor Hall Blog—please take a look:

<http://moorhall.blogspot.com/>

<http://www.moorhall.bham.sch.uk/home>

and please follow us on Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/moorhallprimary>



If there is anything you would like to see in future editions of our newsletter please email:

a.southgate@moorhall.bham.sch.uk

February/March

- 12th & 14th Feb—Parents Evenings
- 13th—Y3—Iron Age Day
- 15th—Last day of half term.
- 25th—School reopens for staff and children
- 26th—Butterflies Reading Workshop
- 27th—Ladybirds Reading Workshop
- 1st March —Year 1 Reading Workshop
- 1st—PA Film Night (5pm)
- 4th—Year 2 Reading Workshop
- 7th—World Book Day
- 7th—Year 3 Reading Workshop
- 11th—15th—British Science Week
- 11th—Year 4 Reading Workshop
- 11th—13th—Y5 Bikeability
- 14th—Y6 Reading Workshop
- 14th—PA Disco (KS1 5pm; KS2 6:15pm)
- 15th—Red Nose Day
- 18th—Y5H Reading Workshops
- 19th/20th/21st —Reception Height and Weight checks
- 21st—Y5P Reading Workshops
- 29th—Mothers Day Assembly (2:30pm)

Key Dates

Coming UP..

- 1st—5th April—Scholastic Book Fair
- 3rd April—Bags to School
- 5th April—PA Coffee Afternoon
- 12th April—Last day of term.
- 29th April—Inset Day
- 30th April—Children return to school
- 6th May—Bank Holiday
- 10th May—Quiz Night
- 13th-16th May—Y6 SATs Week
- 20th May—Walk to School Week
- 25th May—Last Day of half term.

Palm Oil



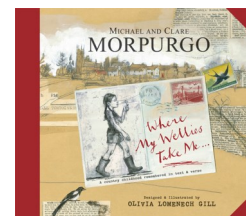
Well done to these girls in Year 5 who have been raising awareness of the effect of using unsustainable palm oil on our environment.

They have held a sale of products not containing palm oil to their class mates and teachers to raise funds and awareness. They have used their own initiative to undertake this project. A great example of 'The Moor Hall Child'.



Moor Hall School Book Week

During the first week back at school in January the whole school took part in 'Moor Hall Book Week'. We all shared the fantastic book 'Where My Wellies Take Me' by Michael and Claire Morpurgo. The children took part in a range of activities during the week including: welly walks,



creating sketchbooks, welly wanging, writing poetry, sketching, painting and performing. This all culminated in a wonderful celebration assembly where each class showed the school what they had done. The children produced some super work throughout the week and it was a great start to the spring term!

Learning Trust for Excellence (LTE)

We are delighted to announce, as part of the LTE, we have been awarded a Leading Aspect Award for excellence in our safeguarding work which ensures our children are safe, secure and happy in everything they do.



The Leading Aspect Award is a national award that identifies and celebrates leading practice in education.

Safeguarding is of paramount importance to schools and runs across all aspects of school life. The award recognises the quality of policies, practice and commitment to safeguarding shown by all involved in the LTE and acknowledges the significant impact of collaborative working on our schools.

A range of people including teachers, parents, governors, pupils and head teachers were interviewed as part of the verification process required in order to achieve the award.

Thank you to everybody who has been a part of this. We are so proud that the work we have done with the other schools and partners has had such a positive impact on us all, and most importantly our children.

The LTE has lots of exciting plans for 2019 so watch this space. If you want to know more about the trust, please [click here](#).

Moorhens Availability

Please be advised that there are still places available for Moorhens Activity Clubs for Spring Term 2.
Monday - Badminton/Volleyball, for the net sport enthusiasts

Tuesday - Super Scientists, for those who like to experiment

Thursday - Netball, for those who like to shoot high

Friday - Football for anyone aiming to be the next Ronaldo

Come and have fun with Moorhens!

Sports Update

Well done to house team Bolt for coming first in our reception class inter-house multi-skills competition.

This was the first inter-house competition for our youngest children. It was a close competition with all the children enjoying the games. Cadbury were a close second with Armstrong then Ennis not far behind.



National Online Safety (NOS)

On #WakeUpWednesday, NOS created a **free online safety guide for schools to share with parents and carers about Grand Theft Auto (GTA)**; the 18+ rated game in which adult themes are used prolifically in the game. Popular for its criminal narrative, the GTA series encourages users to break the law in order to succeed and progress through the game.

With over 100 million users on the game's online social club alone, Grand Theft Auto is hugely popular amongst young people under the age of 18!

NOS have asked us to share their guide for parents and carers across your social platforms:

TWITTER: <https://twitter.com/natonlinesafety/status/1088005920678952960>

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/NationalOnlineSafety/photos/a.1681508315488685/1953266721646175/?type=3&theater>

DOWNLOAD: <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/platform-guides/grand-theft-auto-online-safety-guide-for-parents/>

ICT Tip

Use safe search engines such as swiggle.org.uk or kids-search.com. Safe search settings can also be activated on Google and other search engines as well as YouTube. You can find out more at <https://safety.google/families/>.

Fake news can be false information, photos or videos purposefully created to confuse or misinform. It can also be genuine information that has been manipulated to deceive. It is important that we can distinguish between real news and fake news.

Ask Yourself...

Does it sound real?

How long has the page existed?

Who wrote it?

Are there any spelling mistakes?

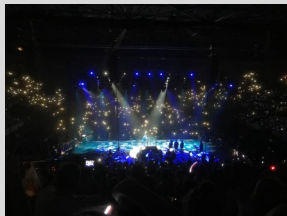
Is the site secure? Does the URL (site name) look right?

Young Voices

On 25th January our school choir, over 30 children, had a memory making trip to the Genting Arena to perform with over 6000 other children

The children have given their time and dedication to learn the songs being performed and it really paid off when they took part in this very exciting event.

Along with the children's choirs there were performances from street dancers and the legendary Martin Kemp of 1980's sensation Spandau Ballet.



Welsh National Opera

Well done to all the children and staff who made this such a special occasion.

It was a first for Moor Hall School on 28th January when we welcomed the Welsh National Opera into school. The children took part in workshops during the day and experienced a genre of music they may not have come across before.



Social Media

At Moor Hall School we strive to achieve the best for all children. We do, however recognise that on some occasions you may feel that we could have done better. Sometimes we hear your concerns through WhatsApp groups and have no prior knowledge of the nature of the issue you are raising. In most cases issues can be resolved quickly when we can give factual information to explain what is happening. Equally, some concerns do need to be dealt with. We would like to encourage you to come in and discuss any concerns with us by following appropriate procedures. Initial contact should be made to the school office to arrange a meeting with your child's class teacher. If the problem relates to behaviour, safeguarding or lunchtimes then contact should be made with Miss Jones. For concerns that relate to school policy and systems then it is important that you make an appointment to see Mr Steggall.

Comments made on social media, especially WhatsApp groups can be damaging towards the school and have a detrimental effect on our staff who work tirelessly with your children.

Our team at Moor Hall are extremely committed to providing the best they can for your children. If there are concerns please make staff aware so that we can understand them and work in partnership with you to solve any problems.

Food Bank

We took the food to Sutton Coldfield United Reformed Church this morning with Sophie and Finley. Reverend David Walton was there to greet us and was delighted with year 6's contributions. I have attached a photo of the children with Rev'd David who is more than happy for the food bank to be mentioned in the school newsletter and the photograph to be included.

Responsible Child

Rev'd David explained that the church is open to all visitors two days a week on a Tuesday and a Friday where hot meals and drinks are provided. There is no limit on how many times people can visit. The church also opens its shower room each week for people to use - he was particularly delighted with the large number of toiletry contributions. The service is run solely by volunteers and is very well used. The volunteers and Rev'd David also chat with those who attend to help point them in the right direction dependant on the type of help needed.



As well as year 6's contributions going towards the Tuesday and Friday meals, they will also form part of the regular food parcels that the church provides for those in food poverty in the Sutton Coldfield area.

PA News

There are lots of exciting PA events in the diary



which we very much hope you will support. First we have the ever popular **Film Night on 1st March at 5pm.** The film showing is Incredibles 2.

There is a school disco on 14th March.



If you are thinking of having a little Spring clean out, please save any unwanted clothes for our Bags to School collection on 3rd April.



We are hugely grateful to everyone involved in organising and supporting these events. The money raised goes directly back to improving the school life of our children. This includes resources for our classrooms, sports equipment and the funding of our new library which will be completed once the building work has been completed.

Message from Local PSCO

The following message has been sent to local schools from Sutton Police Station:

We have recently had a really rare event outside our schools where a car has been taken from a parent waiting for her children. AT this time can we please ask for your assistance? Please be aware if you are waiting anywhere in your vehicle, particularly outside your school.

If you are waiting in the car please follow the following tips:

- *keep your car doors locked—prevents numerous offences occurring—Thieves do not want to spend any longer than necessary anywhere near any vehicle.*
- *If possible, park in well-lit parts of the street. Sounds strange, but the better lit the safer.*
- *If anyone does approach your car that you do not know, DO NOT, open the door, open the window as slightly as possible if you think you do need to speak to them.*
- *If you leave your car, keep valuables out of sight, remove incentives for a thief.*

Finally, any suspicious behaviour, anything at all—Please Report It.