

It has been lovely this week with the weather and the children being able to use the refurbished playground equipment. Even though the works have taken place we are still fundraising to help cover the costs. There are numerous ways you, friends, family and businesses can support this. We have the gofundme page, the easyfundraising, businesses can sponsor the works and we have myschoolfund. Myschoolfund and easyfundraising costs you absolutely nothing and you even get rewards on myschoolfund.

In the month of March we are focusing on Article 14 – Every child has the right to think and believe what they want and to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights.



Tuesday saw the children enjoy a special Shrove Tuesday lunch complete with pancakes. It is the day before Ash Wednesday when tradition has it that people used what was left in their cupboards before Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. Will you be giving up anything for Lent?

The holy month of Ramadan is upon us. We have some year 5 and 6 children observing their fast for Ramadan. If your child is in the lower years they can be encouraged at home to do a partial fast.

We welcomed footballers from Leyton Orient to help us celebrate world book day.

There were some amazing costumes and colours walking around school on Thursday. The Leyton Orient players were quizzed and questioned by Harry Potter, Paddington Bear, Wednesday and many more. Jayden Sweeney, Tom James, Alfie Wellens, Preston Knight and Claudio Nzang did their best to dribble past the tricky questions. It was great to hear about books they enjoyed reading when they were at school and their favourite authors.

Not only did they bring their players for the afternoon, Leyton Orient donated some books, medals for best costumes and a signed top for the school to use to help raise funds! Thank you, the O's.

It's been quite a sporty week at MG. Thank you to all of you who joined us for the winter fun run on Tuesday. The Waltham Forest School Games Organisers certainly got a surprise by the number of children taking part and the support from parents.

Today we helped celebrate girls can play too by having mini football tournaments throughout the day. Read more later in the newsletter.

Katie Jennings

Headteacher

Next week is STEAM week. So the focus will be on Science, technology, engineering, art and maths. We will be changing and adapting old style board games. If you want to come in and work in your child's class keep watching on the website for times. Here are some

Tuesday 11th March:
Woodpecker and Waxwing (9.15 – 10.15) and Wren (11–12)

Wednesday 12th March:
Wagtail (9.15 – 10.15)

Chiffchaff – Tuesday
18th from 8.45 – 9.30

Chaffinch – Wednesday
19th from 8.45 – 9.30

Cuckoo – Thursday
20th from 8.45 – 9.30

Crow – Friday 21st from
8.30 – 9.15

Thursday PM for year
5—north site all classes

Nursery—Wednesday 12th
Nursery North 9am and 1
pm

Nursery South 10:20am
and 2:15pm

SPECIAL DATES

Year 6 Leavers Hoodies

We will be placing the order for this years leavers hoodies on April 3rd. We have sent an app today with all of the details. We do them at this time of year so that they can have them for some of the summer term at Mission Grove.

The children have loved them in the past. The cost is £25. You can pay on parent pay or at the school office. It will be a red hoodie with black writing.



On the app you need to click the [blue](#) word SIZE and that will open a pdf of the different sizes available

March

- 10th STEAM week—check future newsletters for more information.
If you work in the science, computing, technology or maths industries and feel that you could come in and do some workshops with the children, please let your class teacher know.
9am North site PTA meeting
2.30pm & 5.30pm Swan parent meeting re: Sleepover
- 11th Chiff Chaff @ transport museum—reception INTO film festival @ WoodGreen.
- 12th Seated football– year 5 & 6
Year 2 & 4 @ INTO film festival Woodgreen cinema
- 13th 9am & 5.30pm Sparrow, Skylark & Swallow parents meeting about sleepover
- 14th Comic Relief—wear it funny
Year 5 & 6 Basketball
- 17th Waxwing class @ V & A
- 18th Chaffinch @ Transport museum
- 20th Inclusive swim festival
Finance Governors
- 21st Year 4 sleepover
Swallow & Wren Class Assembly
- 24th Rock Steady Concerts—participants can come dressed as a Rock Star.
Wagtail @ V & A Museum
- 25th Woodpecker @ V & A museum
Year 1 @ London zoo

The world is full of kind people.

If you can't find one, be one.



Help us create a safe and happy environment for everyone. Think before you shout or get angry with staff. **RESPECT YOURSELF, RESPECT OTHERS!**

MissionGrove
PRIMARY SCHOOL

RESPECT YOURSELF RESPECT OTHERS



Shouting & swearing will not be tolerated anywhere in school.

MG Diggers February 2025

What's happening in the garden?

Hooray! The light is coming back and the temperature is warming up. this is signalling to the plants and flowers that it's safe to start growing. Have you spotted any changes?

MG Diggers are always super excited to get snipping, clearing and sowing. But, as wildlife gardener's we have to be careful not to disturb the soil and standing stems too early.



Mission Grove LOVES READING

Waxwing class assembly was on World book day.

Thank you for everyone who came along to watch a fantastic assembly this morning. A great way to finish a wonderful week of promoting reading.

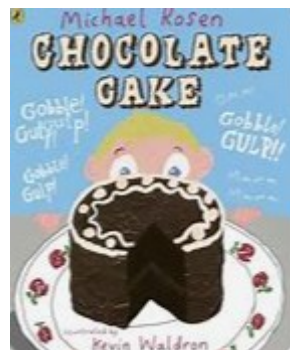
Linked to Article 29 – Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures and the environment.

Linked to Article 31 – Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

Linked to Article 17 – Every child has the right to reliable information from a variety of sources, and governments should encourage the media to provide information that children can understand. Governments must help protect children from materials that could harm them.



Reception enjoyed a lovely session with **Micheal Rosen** in a virtual story telling experience. Micheal Rosen told us some very interesting folk stories from around the world with his illustrator doing live drawings besides him. The children were fascinated to see his stories come to life in real time and were inspired to do a bit of story telling themselves!



LONDON REPAIR WEEK

As the ongoing cost-of-living crisis continues to put pressure on household finances, we're always looking for new ways to help families save money wherever possible. We also believe that doing our bit for the environment - whether through renewable and efficient energy use or the promotion of active travel and environmental conservation efforts - should help to cut costs at the same time.

That's why our programme for this [London Repair Week](#), between Monday 3 to Sunday 9 March, is about offering residents in Waltham Forest the chance to both save money and reduce unnecessary waste by giving their possessions a second life. Throughout the week and beyond, we're running a range of borough-wide events and initiatives to help make it easy for you to repair, reuse and save money.

On this Saturday 8 March alone, [two walking tours](#) will give residents behind-the-scenes access to repair and restoration specialists across the borough, and the free Dr Bike service will operate out of Ridgeway Park, E4 from 10am to 4pm. The ever popular [Reuse and Repair Fair](#) will also return to Waltham Forest this year on Saturday 10 May at Langthorne Park, Leytonstone.

Additionally, I'm pleased to announce the upcoming launch in April this year of a new Repair Voucher scheme giving you 50 per cent off electrical repairs in partnership with The Restart Project, ReLondon and fix1.today, powered by FixFirst.

We're determined to hit our target of being a zero-waste borough by 2030, and changing our approach to waste - from sprucing up old clothes, learning basic DIY skills and locating expert repairers in your area - can both tackle the climate crisis and put more money in your pocket.

This Sunday also marks the COVID-19 [Day of Reflection](#), to remember those who passed during the pandemic. It's a moment to remember the family, friends, neighbours and colleagues who we lost, a time to acknowledge that grief and support those who were bereaved, and an opportunity to reflect and remember.

We will not forget them.

CLLR GRACE WILLIAMS, LEADER OF WALTHAM FOREST COUNCIL

We will be having a **year 5 come dine with your child** on Tuesday 25th at 12.30. We appreciate that it is in the middle of Ramadan, which will impact on many of the families who are fasting. Due to this we will be looking to organise another in the summer term. To help the kitchen, midsdays and to ensure we don't have to extend our lunch break, we can only do come dine with your child on a day when we have at least one year group out for the day.

Comic Relief—Friday 14th March

The school council voted for 'Wear it Funny'. This may include wearing odd socks, clothes back to front, clothes that are too big and/ or funny hair. This could be the style or the colour of their hair. We will have donation buckets on the playground. In class the children will have some mini comic talent shows. We haven't got any red noises on sale this year but you can buy them on Amazon.

PTA meeting

There will be a meeting on Monday 10th at 9am . Key things that will be discussed are Mother's Day (Sunday 30th March) and VE day (8th May) .









Reading enables a 360-degree growth of an individual. It develops your thought process, expands your viewpoints and keeps your mind active

BENEFITS OF READING



Sharpens your mind



Helps in self-discovery



Improves writing skills



Improves your language skills



Builds focus & concentration



Source of light on dark days



Evolves you as a human being



Lets you enjoy the me-time



Helps to learn the art of empathy



Boosts your sleep



Helps to learn new things



Great source of entertainment



Year 5 Camping

There will be a meeting in the next couple of weeks to discuss the logistics of the year 5 camping trips. We need at least 20 children from each class to sign up for going. If we don't get 20 children per class then we will have to change the current format.

Currently each class will go one day by coach, sleep over night in a tent and then come back to school the following day. The dates booked are the 29th, 30th April and 1st May. If you can indicate on the app if you would like your child to attend. Payment is via parentpay or at the school office.

Check the website later today for more information.

Mr Craddock 'it's great to see so many girls playing and enjoying football. We have so much talent within the school, so it's great to see them express and showcase their skills'.

Aliya 'I enjoy football because you get to interact with new people and it's competitive.'

Fatima R 'Get to play with new people and I enjoy working in teams'.

Yazel 'I like football because it's really fun and I enjoy playing in teams'.

Safiyah 'it's fun and you get to work and encourage your team mates'.

Manha 'it's fun to interact with new people and play games you don't get to play as often'.

Ranya 'it gives girls a chance to play football and sports is not just for boys, it's for all genders'.



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.

2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.

3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.

4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.

5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.

6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Repeatedly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.

7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.

9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press Play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING

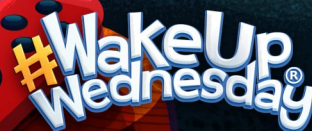
Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.

10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13–16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowri is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, Neuroteachers, which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.



The National College