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Moreland Primary School

Reaching higher than I dreamed, becoming the person that I want to be,
doing the best I can for the world and for me.

7th December 2015

Executive head teacher's news

New National Curriculum and Inspire Maths (Singapore Maths)

We will be running parent workshops again next term. We are almost one term into this new method of teaching Maths and the children have risen to the challenge. Singapore Maths is one of the two schemes recommended by the DFE who have researched Maths across the world. They recommend the Maths taught in Singapore because its pictorial, abstract and concrete method appeals to every child. The approach means that children can access the new National Curriculum with its higher expectations.

Singapore Maths is new to the children and new to us and we are very mindful of matching what we teach to the ability of individual children whether they are more able or in need of additional support. There is now a lot more opportunity for children to broaden and apply their knowledge and understanding to problem solving, real life situations and this in itself can be pitched very high with complex language or put more simply, depending on individual children's ability. There is a healthy Maths buzz of enquiry going round and increasingly confident children which I hope continues.

Attendance:

The government made changes to attendance expectations earlier this year. The expectation used to be that 95% was considered to be satisfactory. This has now risen to 96%. 85% attendance used to be categorised as persistent absence and schools were instructed to send out a series of letters and even issue fines for absence. This now happens if your child's attendance is 90% or below. We as a school have to follow the instructions of the local authority and the government. Children do of course get ill but they are supposed to come to school with minor illnesses and not kept off school for tiredness. Many of you will know that I am no longer allowed to authorise holidays or trips in term time. I ask that you do your best to get your child to school on time every day. As an incentive, we will be having a monthly attendance draw with a prize of a £20 voucher on the first Friday of every month for all those children with 96% or more attendance.

Catch-up:

We had a lovely November. We had a fabulous International Afternoon- thank you again for contributing all the lovely food. We fully celebrated Remembrance Day. We raised over £100 for Children In Need and had an enjoyable day. Thank you also for supporting Operation Christmas Child.

We joined in with National anti bullying week. We are very watchful of bullying not just for this week of the year. It is during anti bullying week that we reflect upon what bullying actually means and we do a lot of work with children about what to do if you think you are being bullied. We encourage children to tell their parent at home but also to tell us at school and to tell us if they think or they know that another child is being bullied. Cases of bullying are rare but children being children do sometimes push the boundaries- we are well aware of this.

It was great to see such a good attendance for parent's evening. If you were unable to attend you are still welcome to make an appointment with your child's teacher between now and the end of term.