



# 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.

## 5<sup>th</sup> February 2016

### Executive head teacher's news

#### Spring term:

34 years of teaching has shown me that spring term is the time when children make the best progress. Children tend to come back to school after the 6 weeks summer holiday very relaxed but also out of tune with some of what they learned the term before, especially if they have not done much/any reading or homework over the summer. We have to spend some of the first half of autumn term consolidating learning from the previous year before we can launch into what they should be learning. Before we know it December is upon us. In spring term there are no distractions. Please make sure your child does their homework. Homework reinforces the learning children do in class. Nursery and Reception class have their version of homework based around practising how to correctly write letters and numbers- developing fine motor skills. Reading to your young child and with your child is the most important thing you can do at home. Even older children respond well to this. This develops a love of books, nurtures a curiosity and desire in children to read for themselves and is very good for their overall language development.

Year 6 have a homework diary which is based on the secondary school model, with examples of maths, meanings of science vocabulary, general knowledge facts and a host of prompts to support them. We have produced this ourselves, using the EGA School (Elizabeth Garret Anderson) model as a starting point.

#### Progress:

It is essential your child makes good progress. There are up to 30 children in every class and every child is different. Some are very bright and naturally intelligent, some are what we call 'average' ability and some need support with their learning. In Moreland we always make sure that children who struggle with their learning receive additional support as and when they need it which is right and proper. They need to catch up so they at least reach 'average' ability. In some classes one or two of these children will not reach 'average' ability because they have individual needs which mean they make slower progress. However, they do still make the progress they should be making. So within a class of 30 children, one teacher has to make sure that every child makes the right amount of progress. We expect at least 40% of children in every class to make more than expected progress. This means that we challenge children who we know have the capacity to fly with their learning. Interestingly some children are surprising us in Maths because they are really enjoying and responding to Singapore Maths.

Teachers sent out 'What your child will be learning this term' at the beginning of term. This is a useful reference for you and a talking point because you know what your child will be learning.

### Growth Mind-set:

We have seen a real shift in children's mind-set and attitudes to learning. They want to learn, they are inquisitive and we give them ample opportunities to enjoy learning- this is when the best learning happens. The children are becoming more and more aware of words such as resilience, resourcefulness, determination and choices and are becoming more reflective as learners. These are all important learner qualities for them to master as they join up their learning and understand how to solve problems and a great preparation for future life.

### E Safety:

Next week is E-Safety week. We do a lot of work with the children about E-Safety as part of an on-going programme. Some children have openly said they are on Face Book. Children should not be using Face Book until they are 13 years old. We have arranged a series of workshops for parents which I really encourage you to attend. Children are vulnerable on-line, even when you think they are just playing computer games.

### Adventure Challenge:

Recently we had an inspirational dream catcher assembly when year 6 interviewed explorer Nick Carter. We are taking inspiration from Nick and will be setting children a challenge for half term- parents you will receive a letter next week as you will need to sign off what your child does. Nick will be running 250K from Ouarzazate to Marrakech in Morocco in the same week.

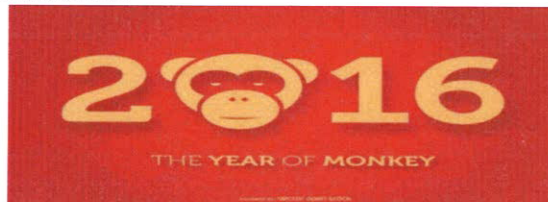
You can see the slides Nick shared with the children describing his Moroccan adventure and ideas for children's challenges (see slide 27) on our website. There are also some great ideas on this National Trust site: <https://www.50things.org.uk/>

*Have a lovely weekend*

*Ann Dwulit*

### **Executive head teacher**

Moreland has been learning all about the festival of Chinese New Year which falls, this year, on Monday 8th February. It is now the year of the monkey! In assembly, Mrs Cheshire told the school the story of how the 12 animals of the Chinese zodiac were chosen to represent different years and how Chinese communities around the world will be preparing and celebrating this week. She brought in some things from her own home and told us how her mixed-heritage family celebrates. Each class was then given an Art project to create decorations and pictures linked to Chinese New Year. These will be used to create a beautiful display in our school shared areas. Look out for the photos in next month's newsletter.



Children taking part in our non-uniform day on **Thursday 11th February** were also given the opportunity to bring in their donation to Great Ormond Street Hospital in a red and gold "lai see packet" which are traditionally given to children at this time of year.

**REMINDER-** If you drive your child to school you will have to stop and park either on Central Street or Goswell Road and walk through. There will be a man by the back gate walking alongside all big lorries that will be coming through but we ask you to please remind your child/children to be careful and aware of all the lorries if they walk through on their own.