



**Muswell Hill Primary School**  
**Academic Year 2026-2027**  
**Newsletter No.1**  
**1 September 2026**



Welcome back to you all, and an especially warm welcome to our new parents, carers and children. We hope you all had a great summer. We are getting ready and looking forward to seeing the children again, rested and ready to go. This newsletter includes staff updates and key dates for your diaries. We look forward to seeing you all on Friday 4 September.

**In this issue:** welcome back information, office and staffing updates, key school developments, term dates and autumn diary dates.

## Summer Holiday Camp

The last days of holiday club will run on Tuesday & Wednesday this week.



## Office and staffing updates

We are pleased to welcome our new administrative team and to share a brief guide to responsibilities during the transition.

## Camilla will be joining us as the new Team Manager.

Hello! My name is Camilla and I am very excited to be joining Muswell Hill and very much looking forward to meeting you all in person in September.

I previously worked in a school in Islington, first as an HLTA (Higher Level Teaching Assistant) for 18 years and then as a Senior Admin Officer for three years. I am really looking forward to getting to know all the children and families and becoming part of this school community.



**Leanne will be joining us as an Administrative Assistant.**



Hello, my name is Leanne. I have worked in education for six years, starting as a breakfast club supervisor, then working as a special needs assistant in a Haringey special school. I am now returning to office administration, which is where I first began within the health services.

I am looking forward to a new challenge for myself and every time I've been to Muswell Hill the staff and children have been so lovely and welcoming. I am looking forward to meeting the community next week.

**We are also delighted that Darrell will be joining the team as an Administrative Assistant.**

Darrell supported us in the office during last year's changes, and he did such a great job that we simply could not let him go!



Janet will continue to lead on finance for the autumn term to help us transition to the new team.

**Please note, there may be some challenges at the start of term, so please bear with us as the new team settles in. Three long-standing members of our office staff have now retired, so some traditional shared knowledge may take time to rebuild.**

**Please avoid sending communications directly to Annette's email, except for matters relating to the Year 6 trip. Annette will continue to work with us over the next few Fridays as she supports and attends the Year 6 trip to the Isle of Wight.**

## Who to contact

Please continue to direct enquiries to [Office@muswell-hill.haringey.sch.uk](mailto:Office@muswell-hill.haringey.sch.uk). The table below gives a brief guide to who is doing what to help you with enquiries.

| Camilla                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Leanne                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Darrell                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Janet                                                                                                                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Overall manager for administration, premises and resourcing</li><li>• Attendance Officer</li><li>• Lettings, clubs and trips - EVO</li><li>• Communication Lead – newsletter, website, parent consultations</li><li>• Staffing &amp; finance development</li><li>• PSA/parent rep link &amp; Inclusion Team</li><li>• Staff support Joy Committee</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Administrator</li><li>• Resourcing /finance orders,</li><li>• Admin support for staff,</li><li>• FSM vouchers,</li><li>• Parent pay oversight - reconciling</li><li>• Trip booker – parent pay set up</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Breakfast club &amp; MASC Manager (including bookings)</li><li>• First Aid officer on site – children's health Risk Assessments and medication support (Medical Team with Georgina)</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Finance related matters.</li><li>• Refunds and enquiries</li><li>• Budget support, invoicing etc.</li></ul> |

## A Quiet Staff Farewell

At the end of term, Lee decided she was ready to hang up her lanyard and embrace retirement. As is her character, she wanted no one to know, never keen on fuss or group attention; she wanted to leave on her own terms and slip out the back door. This was very difficult to accept as we knew staff would want to celebrate her magnificence.

We respected her wishes and whilst we are saddened to be losing such a valued member of our team, we are very excited for her as she starts a new chapter in her life.

Over the past 22 years, Lee's dedication, professionalism and commitment have had a significant impact on countless children, families and colleagues. Her warmth, care and

expertise have enriched our school and contributed greatly to the wider success of the school. Her influence extends beyond the classroom and has been felt throughout our school community.

Those of you who know her well will cite her impeccable manners, high expectations of herself, colleagues and children alike. She was a breath of fresh air every morning, always singing and energetic, ready to embrace the day. A true gift.

On a personal note, I would like to thank her for the unwavering support, positivity and encouragement she has shown me throughout my time as Headteacher, particularly during the early years. It has been a privilege to work alongside her, and I am deeply grateful for all that she has contributed to the life of the school.

Lee has been a trusted colleague, a dedicated professional and a much-valued member of our school family. She will be greatly missed but I have no doubt that she will continue to make a positive difference to those around her, just as she has done at Muswell Hill for so many years.

We wish her every happiness and fulfilment in her retirement and family life.

### **Welcome to...**

We are also pleased to welcome two new members of staff.

Andrea Lewis-Kennedy, an experienced teacher and former headteacher (who has been a regular support teacher over the previous two years), is going to join us in Reception working as a support worker – we are so lucky to have her on board.

Kate Schwarz, an experienced Early Years Educator will also be supporting us in Year 1 as a support worker.

### **Farewell to...**

Sadly, due to a change in personal circumstances over the summer, Wesley has informed us that he will not be able to return next week. We wish him well and hope we might see him return at some point.

## **School updates for 2026–27**

### **Class Dojo Platform**

We are excited to be introducing a new communication platform - ClassDojo. This will be used to share key information such as weekly homework and school news and will replace SeeSaw and Tapestry. More information will be shared next week and during The Meet the Teacher sessions so please don't worry. You may get a welcome email from ClassDojo over the next few days.

## IXL will be replaced by Doodle

For the past seven years, we have used IXL to support children's home learning. At the time we introduced it, IXL was one of the strongest platforms available to us, although it was American-based, as there were limited UK alternatives.

Over recent years, we have been looking for a platform that is more closely aligned with the **National Curriculum, our school curriculum and, importantly, our approach to teaching mathematics**. We are therefore pleased to announce that we will be moving from IXL to **Doodle**.

Doodle is a more developed and inclusive learning tool, with a range of features designed to support different learners. These include screen overlays to support pupils with dyslexia, read-aloud question prompts, and opportunities to scaffold learning when children have gaps in their conceptual understanding. We feel that Doodle will better meet the needs of our pupils and complement the way we teach mathematics in school.

We will be making the change over the half term. This will give us time to prepare both staff and children and ensure that the transition is as smooth as possible. We will share further information with families during the first half of term, including details about how Doodle will be used.

If you have purchased a family licence for IXL, you can of course continue to use it for as long as your licence remains active. However, we hope that once Doodle is fully established, you will find that there is no longer a need to renew your IXL licence.

## KS1 playground developments

**Thanks to you and the PSA, the KS1 playground is having a revamp.**

**Unfortunately, there have been delays to the installation** over summer, but we now have a confirmed date for the works for the 14 September. The works should take a week, so we anticipate a limited level of disruption. We will of course update you further once we return and have had a final site meeting.

## Forthcoming dates for online 'Meet the Teacher' meetings

Tuesday 8 September – **Year 5** at 3.55pm and **Year 4** at 4.25pm

Wednesday 9 September – **Year 6** at 3.55pm and **Year 1** at 4.25pm

Thursday 10 September – **Year 2** at 3.55pm and **Year 3** at 4.35pm

Tuesday 22 September – **Reception (YR)** at 3.55pm

**Zoom links will be sent out by the teachers from Monday 7 September.**

**This is an opportunity to hear what the children will be learning this year.**

## MASC & After-school activities

MASC (Muswell Hill After-School Club) will start on the **4 September**. After-school clubs and activities **will start the week beginning the 14 September**. All the school-led clubs are now full, but it might be worth following up with Camilla **after the 7 September** to see if any spaces have become available. You may also find that outside providers still have spaces, but you need to contact them directly.

[https://www.muswellhillprimary.co.uk/docs/Community\\_and\\_Parents/Clubs\\_AUTUMN\\_26\\_for\\_Community.pdf](https://www.muswellhillprimary.co.uk/docs/Community_and_Parents/Clubs_AUTUMN_26_for_Community.pdf)

## Head Lice

Ahead of returning to school, **PLEASE** could everyone check their child's hair and treat appropriately if you find any lice or their eggs. If everyone does this and then continues to check and treat their child's hair regularly, we might contain their spread. The NHS has useful information on this issue. Tedious though this is, one of the most effective ways of getting rid of lice is a thorough nit comb at every shampoo with loads of conditioner. Tying your child's hair back will also help.

## Acronyms

The national curriculum is organised into blocks of years called 'key stages' (KS).

At school when we refer to Key Stage 1 (KS1) we are referring to Year 1 and Y2 classes. When we refer to Key Stage 2 (KS2) we are talking about Years 3 to 6. EYFS means Early Years Foundation Stage and refers to the Reception Classes. You will often see references to these in newsletters and other school documentation. For ease of reference, we also refer to the KS1 and KS2 playgrounds.

## Annette & Graham's Retirement

A last-minute reminder to those leaving the school: if you would like to leave a message of thanks, share a favourite memory, or contribute towards a retirement gift for Annette and Graham, please use the link below. The collection will remain open until the end of **September 2026**, giving everyone plenty of time to take part.

<https://app.collectionpot.com/pot/3524692>

## Term dates for the new academic year 2026–27

Children will return to school from the summer holidays on **Friday 4th September 2026**.

**There will be five TAD days in the 2026-27 academic year.** The confirmed dates are below. Please ensure you avoid taking holidays during the school term.

### **Autumn Term 1**

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September & Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September Staff training days – no children

Friday 4 September 2026 – Friday 23 October 2026

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October Staff training day – no children

**Autumn Half Term Holiday - Monday 26 October – Friday 30 October 2026**

### **Autumn Term 2**

Monday 2 November – Friday 18 December 2026

**School Holiday – Monday 21 December 2026 – Monday 4 January 2027**

### **Spring Term 1**

Monday 4 January 2027 – Friday 12 February 2027

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 27 Staff training day – no children

**Spring Half-Term Holiday - Monday 15 February 2027 – Friday 19 February 2027**

### **Spring Term 2**

Monday 22 February – Thursday 25 March 2027

**School Holiday – Friday 26 March 2027 – Friday 9 April 2027**

### **Summer Term 1**

Monday 12 April 2027 – Friday 28 May 2027 (NB: Monday 3 May is a Bank Holiday)

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 27 Staff training day – no children

**Summer Half-Term Holiday – Monday 31 May 2027 – Friday 4 June 2027**

### **Summer Term 2**

Monday 7 June 2027 – Thursday 22 July 2027

[https://haringey.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-04/school\\_term\\_and\\_holiday\\_dates\\_for\\_2026-27\\_academic\\_year.pdf](https://haringey.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-04/school_term_and_holiday_dates_for_2026-27_academic_year.pdf)

## **Autumn term dates & events for your diaries**

The dates below are listed in chronological order. Items highlighted in colour are especially important for parents and carers to note.

**Friday 4 September to Monday 7 September – Reception parent meetings – email the office to arrange an appointment if you didn't get the chance to in July**

Tuesday 8 September – **Year 5** at 3.55pm and **Year 4** at 4.25pm – Meet the teacher online

Wednesday 9 September – **Year 6** at 3.55pm and **Year 1** at 4.25pm - Meet the teacher online

Thursday 10 September – **Year 2** at 3.55pm and **Year 3** at 4.35pm - Meet the teacher online

**Thursday 10 September – Year 5 trip to Celtic Harmony**

Friday 11 September – Year 5 start swimming lessons – classes will attend alternate weeks

**Friday 11 September – Year 6 Parent Meeting for School Journey 3.30pm – STEAM building**

Friday 18 September – Year 4 - whole year guitars lessons start (Year 5 and Year 6 who wish to continue will be collected by the team on this date)

**Tuesday 22 September – Reception (YR) at 3.55pm Meet the Teacher online**

Wednesday 23 September – Full Governing Body meeting

**Friday 25 September – Individual School Photo Day**

Monday 28 September – Friday 2 October – Year 6 Trip to IOW

Monday 28 September - Reception children start MASC

**Monday 28 September - Early Reading and Phonics Parent Workshop – 2.30pm STEAM building – Reception and Year 1 parents/carers with Suzy**

Thursday 1 October – Black History Month begins – ‘honouring our community’

Thursday 1 October – National Poetry Day

Thursday 1 October – National Census Day/**Favourites Day special lunch for children**

**Monday 5 October – Nasal flu vaccinations – Reception to Year 6 children**

**Monday 12 – 15 Thursday October – Year 6 Parent/Teacher consultations – individual consultations 3.40 to 6.30pm**

**Friday 16 October – Year 6 Sharing Assembly – 9.05am – Year 6 parents and carers invited**

**Friday 16 October – Show Racism the Red Card – children invited to wear red on this day**

**Tuesday 20 October – Individual in-person parent consultations, 3.40–6.30pm. Please note that teachers are generally available for two of these dates; exact dates for each teacher are yet to be confirmed. This will not include Year 6, as they have already had consultations.**

**Wednesday 21 October – Individual in-person parent consultations, 3.40–6.30pm. Please note that teachers are generally available for two of these dates; exact dates for each teacher are yet to be confirmed. This will not include Year 6, as they have already had consultations.**

**Thursday 22 October – Individual in-person parent consultations, 3.40–6.30pm. Please note that teachers are generally available for two of these dates; exact dates for each**

teacher are yet to be confirmed. This will not include Year 6, as they have already had consultations.

**Thursday 22 October – Break up for half term at the end of the school day 3.25pm**

**Friday 23 October – Staff Training Day - no children**

**Monday 2 November – Back to school after half term**

Monday 2 November – children submit application forms for RRS council

**Thursday 5 November – Nasal flu catch up– Reception to Year 6 children**

Sunday 8 November - Diwali

**Week beginning 9 November– Amethyst Class – Bikeability all week**

Wednesday 11 November – Armistice Day

**Week beginning Monday 16 November – Violet Class – Bikeability all week**

Week beginning Monday 16 November - Anti-Bullying Week – ‘Break the Silence’

Friday 20 November – World Children’s Day – School Council Elections

**Week beginning Monday 23 November – Y5 – Bikeability all week 20 places tbc**

Wednesday 25 November – Full Governing Body meeting

**Friday 4 December – All extended clubs end (MASC continues)**

**Friday 4 December – Y4-Y6 Guitar Concert for Y5/6 continuers @ 2.00pm/Y4 @ 2.30pm**

Friday 11 December – Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch

**Tuesday 15/Wednesday 16 December – Christmas concerts – exact dates to be confirmed**

Thursday 17 December – **MASC finishes**

Friday 18 December – **Autumn Term finishes at 1.00pm**

**Monday 4 January 2027 - Staff Training Day - no children**

**Tuesday 5 January 2027 – Children return to school**

**NB: We will add all these dates to the website on return.**

**Please remember you can download the dates from the school website calendar to your phones. <https://www.muswellhillprimary.co.uk/Calendar/>**

**Dates to confirm on return to school:**

- PSA year group bake sale, Fireworks Night, Winter Fair & AGM
- Headteacher/Governor parent rep meet and greet & class trips