

MOSSY LEA MESSENGER

29th March 2019 XXIX· III · MMXIX

Isn't it nice to be able to talk about the future at Mossy Lea with certainty? That's not to say it's going to be easy, especially for those parents who have been at the school now for many years, I know that. I also know change can be tough for you, as what we had was super wasn't it? It all went wrong when Anne (remember her) took that part time job at Burscough...

Tempora mutantur, nos et mutamur in illis—times change, and we must change with them.

Let's lookback at the school 10 years ago...Blackboards—no white boards, no hall, no new kitchen, no gorgeous grounds that bring so much pleasure to the kids today. Things we now take for granted, and would be desperate for should we not have them. These changes would have been hard at the time for the then parents, but what a legacy they have left us. Now you – the current parents of Mossy Lea, are in that position where we must change, not because of desire, but because, sadly of necessity. Change can be hard—I know that, and I also know it's not always for the better, but we don't always know that at the time. I love our school. I hope you do to. But we have to make further changes to secure the school, both educationally and financially, before, hopefully in 12 to 18 months time slowing down a little, and polishing what we have. Change at Mossy Lea is made all the more difficult because of the turbulent few years it has, and lack of trust some of you may have in the leadership of the school, granted this is me not Iain! From September Iain will have returned to his substantive school, and you will have a "part time head" which you didn't really want, and which you have bad memories of. But St George's is now in the same boat – they have a part time head as well, but they have an advantage over you – they've known me now for 11 or so years. They'll tell you I'm not perfect – I don't claim to be, nor do I try to be.... but they will also tell you they trust me, that I have integrity, and that I am a man of my word. I've yet to build my reputation and trust with you, yet I have to lead the school through change. Not because I want to, but because I have to. Lest we forget the school is still not judged by OFSTED as 'Good' at the moment. Under my leadership, and with your support, Mossy Lea will thrive. I promise you that. But I understand you won't necessarily believe me at this point. Change, and communication is made all the more difficult because of the pace of it at the moment, and because I'm only at Mossy Lea a day a week at the moment... so there will be breakdown of communication as news comes from me, to Iain, to you. We've messed up over after school clubs. I get that. We have to change after school clubs, we have to offer more wrap around care, we have to charge for it. But by the time the decision had been made by all concerned, by the time we'd set the budget for the next 3 years, by the time I'd told Iain, by the time Iain had got it on his newsletter.... It was too late to implement the change before September, plus the decision had gotten confused. You need more notice to plan for the change, of course you do, and any 'negative changes' to the provision will only come into force from September.... Iain will clarify this further for you.

Further changes have to come into play from September. Kirsty will sadly be leaving us. Jo, Gill and John are staying, and I will write to you about Antonella shortly. The school will run as one class... almost.... Over the coming weeks I will be appointing a head of school, who will be in charge on a day to day basis, and a reliable point of contact for you every day. We will be running as 1 class from September, which on the face of it, may sound scary, but after a few breaths it sounds lovely, exciting and innovative. An opportunity to offer a bespoke, brilliant curriculum that allow all to thrive and reach, or exceed their potential. Give me time to plan it... and all will not only be fine, all will be good. I promise. It will work. I promise. The quality of education will be as stimulating, challenging and relevant as it is at St George's. I promise you that as well. How will it work? Let me appoint a head of school, get the kids SATs out the way, then turn to it, then let you know.... In the meantime I will also be offering a meeting with you all.... and I have asked a parent, whose name escapes me sadly, to begin to organise this. We'll grab a costa, and I'll answer all your questions.... Currently I've only been at the school 4 days I think!

With change, remember parents of kids who are joining us in September. It will be them , or some of them, who will resist future change, and asking why it's necessary....but the changes we're implementing now will all be taken for granted. A strange cycle change isn't it?... we often benefit from it, yet seldom want it to happen...

All I ask at this stage is that you bear with me, and keep an open mind... and trust me, if not yet... soon.

All the best,

Andy



This afternoon we were joined by Bradley a young man who writes stories and illustrates them. The children enjoyed the story about Braxton and will write their own stories based on the character. Thank you to Bradley and Caroline Lamb (Yes, that Ms Lamb) and Wendy from MyLife for organising the event. More information can be found at <https://my-life.org.uk/>

After school care plans for the summer term and new academic year

Along with most schools, Mossy Lea will be offering wrap around care for those parents that require additional child care for their children.

Breakfast care 8.00 am – 8.50 am cost £3.50 per session

After school care 3.30 pm – 5.00pm cost £5.00 per session

The cost of this additional care has been kept as low as possible.

This can be booked on a flexible approach.

After school clubs

We will be still offering after school clubs for the summer term every day. These are **not** chargeable and are covered by the goodwill of our teaching staff or external coaches, paid for through the school's sports grant. These will finish at 4.30 pm. Clarification of the clubs will be sent out in next week's newsletter.

Your child can then access the after school care until 5.00pm for the reduced cost of £2.00 if required.

This weeks Dojo winners are:

Acorn— Brooke Elms, Layla Evans

Oak— Harley Bolton

Congratulations to Layla and Shea who have joined the 200 points club.

