



Stormont House School Matters

Our vision

Achievement for all in a unique world-class school

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Welcome to Mount Pleasant Lane

Thank you to all Parents and Carers for your patience and understanding during our move to Mount Pleasant Lane. Pupils have settled in amazingly well into a very different building. Where we once had one staircase, one very short corridor and two classrooms upstairs, we now have 3 staircases, long corridors and over half of our classrooms upstairs. Harrington Hill Primary School have become more than just new neighbours as two of their classes also use the site and have their morning playtime just after ours.

Staff worked very hard to make the school ready on time and there is a very positive atmosphere among staff and pupils. There are inevitably a few teething problems and unexpected challenges to solve. There have been a few casualties; our goalposts didn't survive the move and so we have ordered replacements. Our dome wasn't up to moving here and then on to the new school, so we are using a new greenhouse as a 'stand-in' before getting a new dome. We will soon announce some open day visits for parents/carers so that you can see our new (temporary) home. Watch this space!

The School Council asked us to find a way for pupils not to wait so long for their lunches in the dining hall. Our new lunchtime arrangements give Years 10 and 11 some extra playtime outside before coming in for their lunch, which is served in two sittings. Everyone I have spoken to prefers the new arrangements, so thanks to the School Council (and the kitchen staff, Ms Weston, Ms McNamara and Ms Elford) we have made another improvement to the school.

Even though it was hard to say goodbye to Downs Park Road, Mount Pleasant Lane does have some advantages. We now have more classrooms than before, so we now have two maths rooms' two art rooms and a double-sized Work-Related Learning classroom. We also have two halls, so PE and assemblies take place in the upstairs hall rather than sharing the dining room.

If you have any queries at all about the new building or any of the new arrangements, please do not hesitate to contact your child's form tutor on the usual school number!

Stormont House School Website

Stay up to date with important news and announcements visit our school website at:

www.stormonthouse.hackney.sch.uk

The website contains news about school events, and a showcase of curriculum works as well as our weekly newsletters, so if you think you may have missed an issue you can look it up on our website!



We Need Your Contact Details

For most of our parents and carers, we have a range of contact numbers, which becomes very important if there is an emergency. However, in some cases we have out of date numbers, or only one emergency contact. It is too late to sort this out when an emergency or urgent situation involving children has happened. We must have at least TWO people named as emergency contact in case your child has an accident or there is another unforeseen emergency at school. We will continue to use our text messaging service, as so many parents and carers have told us they like this service, so it is vital that we have the correct numbers for you at all times.

Thank you to all parent/carers who have already provided details of any changes of address or telephone numbers. Please contact reception on (020) 8985 4245 if we do not have updated details for your child.

Free School Meals – We can help Make sure you claim!

As you know all pupils at Stormont House have a school dinner. Dinner money is £1.70 per day or £8.50 per week. Dinner money is payable on a Monday morning at reception. Please clearly mark your child's name on an envelope with the correct money if possible inside.

You can apply for free school meals if you receive one the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-based Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit, provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and your income is £16,190 or less (this figure changes each April).
- Working Tax Credit for four weeks after your employment finishes
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Support from the National Asylum Support Service (NASS)

If you receive any of the above and are not currently claiming free school meals please speak to Monica (Receptionist) who will be able to provide an application form and help you to complete it. Alternatively you can download a form from www.learningtrust.co.uk or pick one up from The Learning Trust offices at 1 Reading Lane, E8 1GQ.

How much money could I save?

If your child is entitled to free school meals, you could save on average £10 per week or £390 per year.

If you complete a free schools meal application the school will also benefit by receiving additional funding. Please let us know if you need any assistance with your application.

If you are entitled to free school meals but do not apply, you must pay for school meals.

Dates for your Diary 2012/13

Wednesday 26 September	Year 7 Parent/carers Evening 3.45 – 5.30pm
Mon 29 October–Fri 2 November	Half term
Thursday 8 November	Parent Carer Consultation Evening (scheduled appointments 4-8pm)
Friday 9 November	Parent Carer Consultation Day (scheduled appointments for parents/carers with pupils)
Mon 12–Fri 23 November	Work Experience (Year 11)
Monday 17 December	Christmas Performances
Wednesday 19 December	Pupils Christmas Dinner
Thursday 20 December	School Closes for Christmas Holidays at 1.15pm
Monday 7 January 2013	Spring term begins pupils return to school
Tuesday 15 January	Careers Evening Years 10 & 11 (6 – 8pm)
Friday 15 February	Staff Training Day School CLOSED to pupils
Mon 18 February–Fri 22 Feb	Half term
Tuesday 5 March	Year 7 Parent/carers evening 3.45-6.00pm
Tuesday 12 March	Years 8 & 9 Parent/carers evening 3.45-6.30pm
Friday 22 March	School closes at 1.15pm for staff training
Thursday 28 March	School closes for Easter Holidays at 1.15pm
Monday 15 April	Summer term begins pupils return to school
Friday 3 May	Staff training day school CLOSED to pupils
Mon 27 May–Fri 31 May	Half term
Friday 5 July	Staff training day school CLOSED to pupils
Tuesday 16 July	Parent/carers report evening 3.45-6.30pm
Wednesday 24 July	School Closes for Summer Holidays at 1.15pm