



# FLORENCE MELLY COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



DETERMINATION. RESILIENCE. EMPOWERMENT. APPRECIATION. MOTIVATION & SAFETY

**'IF YOU CAN DREAM IT, YOU CAN DO IT!'**

Friday 15th February

[www.florencemelly.org](http://www.florencemelly.org)

## A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD!

We have had a really busy February so far in school with so many exciting events and successful achievements. Congratulations to the 38 children who competed in Intra School Athletics on Wednesday and all did really well. On Wednesday our Early Years team shared with parents their curriculum plans. We promote and endorse from an early age the traditional values of hard-work, effort, self-discipline and good manners as the key to future success in school and in life. On Thursday, Year 1 hosted a love your book reading event that was a huge success and thank you to all of our parents who came into school to read with your children. It is fantastic, as always, to see so many of you supporting your children's learning. From everyone at Florence Melly Community Primary School may I take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support. As always it is very much appreciated by all of our staff team. I wish all pupils, staff and parents/carers a wonderful half term break.

### The Menorah Synagogue in Manchester

On Wednesday, some of our Year 3 children took a trip to the Menorah Synagogue in Manchester. They learnt all about the symbol of the Star of David and the Menorah candles. The children were shown some slides explaining about some parts of Judaism and shown a special area where the special Torah scrolls are kept. They had a close look at one of the scrolls: it takes 18 months to write out by hand using ink and a quill. There are so many activities that go on in the synagogue. Just before we finished our visit, our hosts shared some of their special Sabbath bread and grape juice with us. Everybody had a great time.

### Yummy Eaters

On Monday our Yummy Eaters from Reception class had a go at making some fish pate. The children discussed the benefits of eating fish and other healthy foods. There were a lot of grimaces as the children removed the skin off and then chopped up the mackerel. Almost all of the children were brave enough to try some pate on crackers. Some children didn't like it but they were given Dojos for trying! We now have quite a few mackerel fans though.

### Fall in Love with a Book - Year 1 Stay and Read

What an extra special Valentine's Day treat we had in Year 1 this week as the parents were invited into school as part of our 'Fall in Love with a Book' stay and read event. The children wrote special invitations inviting their parents into school and even sent them a video message via social media. The event was really well attended and the children had a great time celebrating Valentine's Day and reading for pleasure with their parents and carers. A big thank you to the Year 1 team for making the event so memorable! Lots more photographs are available on our social media feeds.

### Creating Memorable Experiences in the EYFS

What an action-packed and fun-filled week we've had in Early Years this week! In Reception, the children have been busy exploring measure and capacity, writing instructions and reading 'How to Fill a Bucket' in PSED. In Nursery, the children have tasted the Three Bear's porridge and discussed how the oats change when milk is added and explored colour mixing and painting with forks. What a brilliant week they have had!

### Leap Schools Gymnastics Competition

A huge thank you to Mrs Dentith our PE Subject Lead for organising a special gymnastics competition alongside Leap (a company who come into school and provide specialist gymnastic teaching). A team participated in a range of gymnastics events and eventually won the gold medal in the floor element. We are super proud of their achievement! Well done to all involved!

### In Other News...

Every day is always action-packed and fun-filled here at Florence Melly. That is what we are all about...creating memorable experiences for our pupils. If you don't already, please check out our school Twitter feed as it is packed full of the activities we have been up to this week. You can follow us at [@FloMellyNews](https://twitter.com/FloMellyNews). Here are just a few of the things we've been up to...



## KEY DATES

**25/02/19**  
Staff INSET Day - No school for the children!

**26/02/19**  
The children return to school after the half-term.

**05/04/19**  
School closes for Easter Holidays at 1:30pm

**23/04/19**  
The children return to school after the Easter break

## WEEKLY ATTENDANCE



## **We are Delighted to Introduce...Whisper**

Dear Parent/Carer

The safety and well-being of our pupils is something that our school strives hard to ensure and we continue to work hard to provide ways to help you tell us if you or your children have any problems or worries which the School needs to know about such as bullying. Reporting issues is a very effective way to enable us to deal with risks before they escalate into harm, and we already have several ways in which you can report to our school. That goes a long way in helping us create the safe and reliable environment for your children that you expect our school to be.

We understand too that sometimes, coming into school to tell us about these issues can not always be an easy thing to do. Time? Arranging an appointment? Speaking with staff? Sometimes it can be a subject that you need to bring to our attention without wanting to identify yourself, but that you feel we need to know, particularly if it involves children's safety. That's why we are launching **Whisper** on our school website, an anonymous reporting service for pupils, families and local community that allows you to send a message or text to a confidential school email account where staff experienced in responding to issues will receive it.

### **How does it work?**

Clicking on the **Whisper** button on our site will take you to an online form where you can leave your message. You can choose to send it anonymously or, if you want us to get back to you, you can leave your contact details. **Whisper** does not collect any information to identify a sender unless they choose to leave it. You can also send an anonymous text by following the SMS instructions on our school website.

### **Why do we think this is important?**

For a variety of reasons, such as being classed as a "grass", or mistrust of how their concerns will be handled, young people often find it very difficult to report issues at school. Offering an anonymous route may empower them to raise concerns they may not have felt able to raise before. We know that reporting can raise awareness of an issue across the school and things can change because of that, through discussion and education. Reporting someone who is bullying, for example, can very often focus attention on that person and is sometimes enough to change their behaviour. Whilst your report may not always get the solution you want to see, reporting bad behaviours can often stop them from happening to others. If people know their unacceptable behaviour will be reported they are less likely to do it and this can have a positive effect across the whole school.

### **What happens next?**

Over the next few weeks we will be discussing **Whisper** with the children as part of our wider safeguarding education programme: how, why and when to use it. How it can provide a useful route for them to help safeguard themselves, their friends or the wider school community. If you have any questions about the service then please contact Mr Leach our Designated Safeguarding Lead. We thank you for your continued support and comments. With that support, we are confident we can build a positive school community in which you, and your family play such an important and valuable role.

### **Report an Issue using Whisper!**

You can report an issue by clicking a link (like the one below) on our website. The link will take you to the SWGfL Whisper reporting window. The system does not collect any online information from you. You can choose to leave your name and contact details only if you want to.



**You can also anonymously report issues to us via SMS by texting: FLO + YOUR CONCERN to 07860021584**