



Head's Blog

It's all about...**The Black Dot**

One day, a teacher entered his classroom and asked his students to prepare for a surprise test. They all waited anxiously at their desks for the exam to begin.

The teacher handed out the exams with the text facing down, as usual. Once he handed them all out, he asked the students to turn over the papers.

To everyone's surprise, there were no questions – just a black dot in the centre of the paper. The teacher, seeing the expression on everyone's faces, told them the following: "I want you to write about what you see there." The students, confused, got started on the inexplicable task.

At the end of the class, the teacher took all the exams, and started reading each one of them out loud in front of all the students.

All of them, with no exception, defined the black dot, trying to explain its position in the centre of the sheet. After all had been read, the classroom silent, the teacher started to explain:

"I'm not going to grade you on this, I just wanted to give you something to think about. No one wrote about the white part of the paper. Everyone focused on the black dot – and the same thing happens in our lives. However, we insist on focusing only on the black dot – the health issues that bother us, the lack of money, the complicated relationship with a family member, the disappointment with a friend. The dark spots are very small when compared to everything we have in our lives, but they are the ones that pollute our minds. Take your eyes away from the black dots in your lives. Enjoy each one of your blessings, each moment that life gives you. Be happy and live a life filled with love!"

We have joined a 3 year MEND in Schools programme. The aim of the programme is to achieve sustained changes in **healthy eating**, increase in **physical activity**, and good **oral health**, both at school and at home, resulting in children maintaining a healthy weight and lifestyle. Year 1 and Year 4 had their first sessions with the team this week. They really enjoyed it and they have learnt a lot already!

There are lots of links on our website for extra homework that your child can do online at home. Click on the link below:

<http://www.floragardens.lbhf.sch.uk/curriculum/homework/>

There are some really fantastic projects happening across the school through our partnership with Wigmore Hall and the Tri-Borough Music Hub. Have a look at the music page on our website where you can watch a video that captures some of the amazing provision. Click on the link below:

<http://www.floragardens.lbhf.sch.uk/curriculum/music/>

Attendance

Attendance is a vital part of being successful at school, both for academic and social reasons. Please do everything you can to make sure your child maintains a high level of attendance. Being late is just as bad.

If you were continually late for a job.....!

Last week: 9th – 13th January 2017

Class	Attendance	Minutes Late
Nursery	87.7%	15 minutes
Reception	79.2%	8 minutes
Year 1	96.5%	50 minutes
Year 2	94.9%	41 minutes
Year 3	99.0%	129 minutes
Year 4	93.1%	60 minutes
Year 5 Flora	99.5%	35 minutes
Year 5 Gardens	97.3%	64 minutes
Year 6	99.3%	35 minutes
Totals	93.9%	437 minutes = 7 hours & 27 minutes

Parent Workshop

All children in England will take a phonics-based check at the end of Year 1. Miss Earley is running a workshop for parents on Monday 23rd of January at 3.45pm in the Year 1 classroom. This workshop will include a breakdown of what the screening check entails, and also some useful hints on how you as parents and carers can help. All parents from Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are welcome to attend. Miss Kelly will supervise the children of those attending in the ICT suite.

Superstars!

Nursery – Nazim
 Reception – Cassie
 Year 1 – Odri
 Year 2 – Iman
 Year 3 – Gabi
 Year 4 – Joel
 Year 5F – Louis
 Year 5G – Aisha B
 Year 6 – Samaan