



# Around Melcombe

EDITION DATE: MARCH 2013

In any school, change is always present and in this issue of **Around Melcombe** we are seeking to bring you up to date on some of the varied and interesting events that you may not always have heard or read about.



**Reflections** on page two, reviews differing aspects that make Melcombe school different from others, whilst on page three there is an introduction to the 'Melcombe University' and the 'Parent Association'



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

NEWS & REFLECTIONS	2
MELCOMBE UNIVERSITY	3
PARENTS ASSOCIATION	3
DANCE & DRAMA STUDIO EVENTS	4
CELEBRATION AWARDS & EXIT POINT	4



The Governing Body

Due to increasing personal commitments, *Lucy Richardson* retired in January, after a number of years as a Parent Governor. Along with her husband Mark, they won a substantial lottery grant for the school in 2010 to promote a highly successful twelve month programme of children and parents working together.

Lucy chaired the Governing Body Curriculum Committee. She was also highly active in many other areas of the school community and her enthusiasm and commitment will be very much missed. *Jan Goulstone* has been appointed to chair the Curriculum Committee in her place.

You will have already read in the weekly New Letter that we now have two Parent Governor vacancies and the response to this has been very good with a number of parents offering their services.

Elections for the two posts are currently taking place and the new governors will be announced during March.

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Melcombe in the top ten primary schools
- Welcome to new Parent Governors
- Melcombe University - a new initiative launched in January
- Year 5 pupils stage 'Romeo & Juliet' in March

## Another success



In December 2012 THE TIMES News Education published a listing of the top primary schools in England which showed that Melcombe was within the top ten for Hammersmith and Fulham

1. St Stephens (Church of England School)	6. Miles Coverdale (Community School)
2. The London Oratory School	7. All Saints (Church of England School)
3. Good Shepherd (Roman Catholic School)	8. Melcombe (Community School)
4. Pope John (Roman Catholic School)	9. St Augustine's (Roman Catholic School)
5. St Mary's (Roman Catholic School)	10. Fulham (Community School)

## REFLECTIONS



At a recent meeting of head teachers we were asked to discuss what made our various schools different. I realized that there are many parts to our school which are unique to Melcombe and of which we should be rightly proud.

by Wayne Leeming  
Head Teacher

The biggest difference is that Melcombe uses a learning and teaching model which we developed ourselves over a number of years. It is hinged on the latest thinking of how children best learn and has at its heart brain-based learning principles and ideas.

All lessons at Melcombe are taught using this model. The model ensures that lessons are taught to a very high standard and at our last Ofsted feedback meeting, the inspectors suggested that if this model is properly used, no lesson could ever be graded as less than "good". We have many head teachers and teachers from all over the country and internationally visiting the school to see our model in practice and looking to see what they can use from it to improve their own schools.

Our second difference is that we use the 'Maths Makes Sense' (MMS) approach to Numeracy. It is not a different type of Maths (as I often hear people talk about) but a different approach, which ensures children understand what they are doing rather than just having to do it. We introduced MMS quite a few years ago and it is now a firm part of Melcombe. It has had a huge impact on our school. In 2000 only 50% of children in Year 6 got Level 4 in Maths, last year we had almost every child getting Level 4 and 66% achieved Level 5.



The Student Voice at Melcombe is also an aspect of our school of which we should be proud. We have six committees which run throughout the year. At the beginning of the school year the children vote a representative from each class on to every committee and they meet once every half term.



THE ECO WARRIORS encourage the school community to be more eco-friendly.



THE FAIRTRADERS ensure the school community is aware of fair-trade as an issue and that we use fair-trade products at every opportunity.



INTERNATIONAL AMBASSADORS: seek to develop links with international schools.



THE JUNIOR ROAD SAFETY OFFICERS: encourage more children to walk or cycle to school.



THE RIGHTS RESPECTING GROUP: developed a school charter of children's rights and are very proactive in ensuring that the charter is supported across the school community. The school was awarded 'Rights Respecting Status' by UNICEF in 2011.



ENTERPRISERS: encourage better financial capability and economic and business understanding.

## International Week

Melcombe Primary has a diverse population as can be seen by the number of children born outside the UK or who are the first generation to be born here. We know that we are in a very fortunate position and we take advantage of this. The school held a very successful International Week in January with children learning about different countries and being involved in playing instruments and learning dances from other countries. This has become a popular event and is now part of our regular calendar. We feel it is a very important week as it allows the children to discuss cultural similarities and differences, and children are given the platform to be proud of who they are and where they come from. On the Thursday evening of the week, we hold the International Evening where children put on a show and perform in front of the parents, and the parents make traditional foods and bring these to the school to share with the other children and their parents. Both shows were sold out this year. On the last day of International Week the children wear their traditional clothes to school. This day is always a highlight of the week.





In January 2013, we launched a new initiative called 'Melcombe University' that is designed to encourage children to build on their existing skills and to try new activities through a range of workshops delivered by staff and volunteers at the school.

The aim is to allow the children of all ages to receive a rich and varied experience that goes beyond the current National Curriculum. The workshop sessions are held on Friday afternoons and are intended to be not only inspirational for both the staff and children but also seek to make learning motivational and successful for all involved.

Highlighted within the planning of each workshop are the key skills to be delivered. The children's progress will be tracked using simple assessment formats. At the end of each term children receive a diploma relevant to the progress they have made in the workshop of their choice and new workshops will be developed for the following term based on past experience.

A random sample of workshops currently in progress include Craft Club, Watercolour painting, Film Club, Caring for the environment, Website building and Yoga.



Over the last few months our parent governors, led by Josefina Garcia-Mitchell and the parent class representatives have been particularly active in promoting events to support different aspects of the school. The plan now is to re-establish a Melcombe Parents' Association (or MPA) with all parents, guardians, teachers and members of staff being regarded as members unless they indicate otherwise.

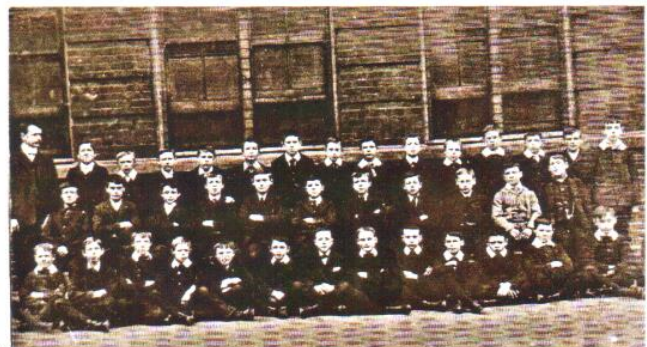
**The object of the Association is to :**

- advance the education of the pupils at Melcombe Primary School by providing and assisting with the provision of facilities for education at the School, not normally provided by the Local Authority.
- act as a forum for parents' views and a medium for liaison and discussion between parents and the Governing Body, Head Teacher and staff of Melcombe Primary School.
- provide and/or co-ordinate practical support for the School's activities;
- arrange and/or co-ordinate social events;
- promote and foster good relations between parents; parents and staff; and parents and the School;
- do all such other things as are incidental to the above aims and objectives which enhance the good image and reputation of the School.

## From the Archives

When the school was built in 1901 it was known as the Fulham Palace Road School and designed to house an infant school in the lower half of the building and a junior school in the upper half, each with its own Head Teacher. This picture was taken in 1905 and shows pupils from the junior school.

The school was subsequently renamed Melcombe Primary when the government decided to merge 'infants' and 'juniors' to create 'primary' schools operating under one Head Teacher



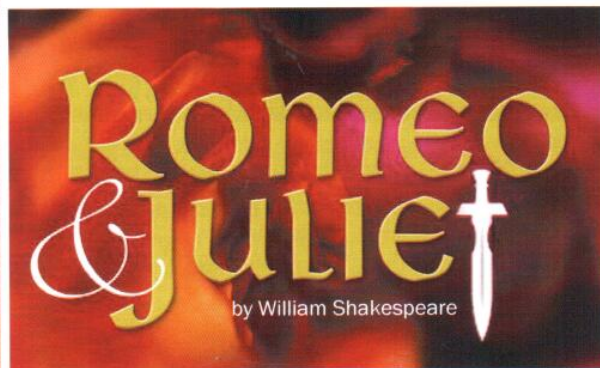


## Forthcoming productions and events in the Studio

March 26th & 27th at 6 pm

### Melcombe Premier Production of the academic year

Year 5 pupils in an adaptation of



A Melcombe Dance & Drama Studio production  
in association with **Reflect Productions**

July 22nd at 2 pm and 5 pm



Year 6 pupils  
present their  
farewell  
production



A Melcombe Dance & Drama Studio production  
in association with **Reflect Productions**

March 21st

### Celebration Awards



A recognition of the academic  
achievements of pupils from across  
the school

March 28th



### EXIT POINTS

Featuring differing projects  
undertaken by pupils



### Dance & Drama Studio Box Office

Admission to all theatrical  
performances is by ticket only, purchased in  
advance from the School Office between the hours  
of 2 pm to 4 pm.

Seats for other events are on a first come first served  
basis subject to the capacity of the Studio. Standing is not  
permitted in any part of the Studio during an event.