



Old Palace Newsletter

January / February 2017

THE BIG PERFORMANCE AT THE O2



At the beginning of the year, the Old Palace school choir set themselves the incredible task of performing in front of thousands and thousands of people at the O2 Arena for the annual Young Voices concert. After

months of hard work, practice and such amazing enthusiasm from the children, they were ready for the night. On Tuesday 7th February. The arena was packed to the brim with superb school choirs, and enthusiastic parents, with the Old Palace school choir at the heart of it all. Performing with



celebrities, world renowned dancers and famous musicians, the children sang their hearts out on a night to truly remember. The concert was a huge success, and the children showed patience throughout a 3 hour rehearsal, and remained professional, making Mr. Heighington, their school, and their parents incredibly



proud. As well as thanking the children, we would also like to thank the parent volunteers and staff who stayed so late to make sure the children returned safely, and a special thank you to Mr Heighington, for all his hard work to make sure the night was a such a success.

PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTIONS

Yesterday the school held parent governor elections. The three candidates with the highest number of votes were **Waiseul Islam, Shakotul Ambia and Yarun Nehar**. We welcome them to our Governing Body.

Prior to the election all the candidates were invited into school on Wednesday 8th February to meet with parents. All attended, except for Mrs Asma Islam. They faced a range of questions from the audience about how they would support and challenge the school and about whether they would use the position as a political platform, to which they all replied they were doing it for the school.

We would like to thank all the candidates who stood for election, as well as all the parents who took the time to come and vote.



IMPORTANT DATES



SPRING HALF TERM

Monday 13th Feb—Friday 17th Feb 2017

END OF SPRING TERM (EASTER HOLIDAY)

Monday 10th April - Monday 24th April 2017

Return to school 25th April 2017

SUMMER HALF TERM

Monday 19th May— Friday 2nd June 2017

END OF SUMMER TERM (SUMMER HOLIDAY)

Monday 24th July—4th September 2017

Return to school 5th September 2017

All other important dates will be available on our school website www.oldpalaceprimary.co.uk

MEET OUR RECEPTION SUPERHEROES

On Thursday 26th January Reception went on a trip to visit the Discovery Story Centre in Stratford. When the children arrived they were taken upstairs to the Story World room where they got to use their imagination by pretending they were on a special mission. To finish off the visit, they took their adventures outside to the Story



Garden. This was very exciting; containing a monster's tongue slide, a space craft and a pirate ship. The children had an amazing time and came back to school with fantastic ideas to use in their stories.

To support this the children also got to dress up as superheroes (as did some teachers too!) The children made masks and went on mini missions in the classroom, showing off their super powers as they acted out their superhero stories. Thank you to the parents for helping to transform the pupils with such amazing costumes.

PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

ASTHMA AWARENESS & ADVICE

Children who are asthmatic should have in school their blue asthma inhaler (and spacer if in KS1) and a completed asthma card. Parents should be aware that if your child suffers from asthma they must take their preventer inhaler (brown inhaler) daily, before they come into school. This inhaler does not need to be in school. The preventer inhaler contains a low dose of steroid medicine called corticosteroids. This medicine works over time to help prevent asthma symptoms by reducing sensitivity, swelling and inflammation in the airways. It helps reduce the onset of any triggers.

The reliever inhaler (blue inhaler) provides on-the-spot relief from asthma symptoms and asthma attacks, relaxing the airways very quickly. The reliever inhaler must be kept in school at all times.

The school ensures that every child has access to their reliever inhaler and they can use it as and when required. However, they should use this sparingly, so if they are taking it frequently we will contact you to discuss this. It could be that the child needs to be seen by a GP. The school is only permitted to give children a maximum of 10 puffs in duration of the school day.



FS PHONICS WORKSHOP

On Wednesday 1st February Ms. Begum delivered a Phonics Workshop to Foundation Stage families. Ms. Begum explained what phonics is and why is it important. Parents had the opportunity to work alongside their child with practical activities. Parents who attended also took a resources pack home.

MATHS VOLUNTEER TRAINING



On Friday 20th January, Ms. Kamali, one of our Maths leaders delivered a training session for our parent volunteers. The parents were shown the different techniques we use in school, which games to play and how the games can help develop the children's

maths skills and learning. Following the training session 5 parents committed to volunteering with children in Year 3. We are always looking for parent volunteers, so if you can help, please come and speak to Shelly.

SUPPORTING Y6 PARENTS WITH SATS



On Wednesday 25th January, parents from year 6 were invited to attend our Grammar Workshop. At the workshop Ms. Dias-Patel went through what to expect in the SPAG test, looked at the types of questions the children will be answering as well as giving helpful tips and resources to

use at home. Unfortunately only 10 parents joined us at the workshop.

On Friday 3rd February, Mrs Naeem presented a workshop on Maths, where parents looked at example questions and were shown how long multiplication & division is taught. Following both workshops parents were given an opportunity to order CPG Revision guides.

TIME TO ENGAGE – READING WORKSHOP



We held our second Time to Engage project workshop on 18th January. This built on from the Gruffalo theater trip last term, and brought the story to life through enthusiastic readings from the children and their parents. The workshop focused

on promoting ways to support and engage children in reading. There was a range of activities for the families to do including, book making, story puppets and a comprehension quiz. Thank you to all who came and made this workshop a success. Mrs Rahman and Shelly are looking to enroll further Foundation Stage families on the project, as there are a few more spaces available. Please speak to either of them if you are interested.

PARENTS COFFEE MORNINGS

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome all the new families who have recently joined Old Palace. Once every week on a Wednesday we hold Coffee Mornings for parents in the Community Room from 9-10am; some mornings have a theme/topic with a guest speaker and other mornings are general. Dates of upcoming events/themes are available on our school website and the notice board.

At the end of each term we arrange an off-site Coffee Morning; the venue is chosen by the parents who have attended. Recently, a group of 20 mums went to the Canary Wharf Roof Top Gardens followed by a hot breakfast. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Neherun, our Year 1B parent councilor for recently facilitating two coffee mornings on Healthy Lifestyle. Parents found it very informative. She was able to share her professional experiences from her dentistry background. Thank you.

EARLY INTERVENTION IN FS



On Wednesday 25th January we opened the reception classrooms to our parents. The parents were given the opportunity to see how mathematics is taught in FS. Parents went around a carousel of activities with their child. We planned a wide range of cross curricular maths activities from

counting and ordering numbers, problem solving puzzles to baking superhero biscuits! The activities enabled the parents to explore the knowledge and skills children are expected to learn and allowed parents to take away ideas that they could use in the home to support their child's maths development. Children, staff and parents had an enjoyable morning being mathematicians!

SPEAKING ENGLISH WITH CONFIDENCE

At Old Palace we are currently running a 'Speaking English with Confidence' club for parents with low level or limited English. This is an excellent programme for parent who want to learn English quickly. The club is only conversation based and does not require you to read or write. If you would like to join us, please register your interest with Shelly. We meet every Tuesday 9-10am in the Community Room.



SAFER INTERNET DAY 2017

Old Palace Primary School is supporting Safer Internet Day 2017 by joining the global campaign to promote the safe and sensible use of technology. Coordinated in the UK by the UK Safer Internet Centre, Safer

Internet Day took place on Tuesday 7th February 2017 with the theme 'Be the change: Unite for a better internet'. Activities took place throughout the week to promote e-safety. These included:

Looking at personal photos which contain personal information and deciding whether it is suitable for online use. Children also took part in a SID play which focused on how much information is shared on social networking sites and who has access to these pictures online.



Parent workshops were also provided for each year group. During the workshops the parents were able to share their own experiences of using social networking sites and they understood the importance of making sure privacy settings and filtering systems were in place. They also discussed the idea that not all photos may appear to be what they seem and to have open dialogues with their children about what kind of information is suitable to share and not. The parents were the opportunity to join their children in their classes and take part in their activities.

Useful websites for parents include:

Kidsmart.org.uk

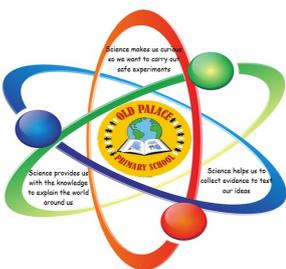
educateagainsthate.com

vodafone.digitalparenting.co.uk

timetokens.com

SCIENCE QUALITY AWARD

Old Palace takes pride in teaching and learning Science and to show our commitment, we have decided to go for the Primary Science Quality Mark Silver Award! To help us do this, we ask that parents and children to familiarise themselves with our three science principles, which are displayed in school. These are:



1. School council: Science makes us curious so we want to carry out safe experiments.

2. Staff: Science provides us with the knowledge to explain the world around us.

3. Staff: Science helps us to collect evidence to test our ideas.

Please discuss these with your child so that they can share with you all the fun Science activities they do at school and maybe help them try out some more at home.

SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATE

School council have been meeting up weekly to discuss various things related to the school. Recently, they have been discussing new ideas for wet play. They decided on a few ideas and then also asked their classes for feedback. The councillors and classes ideas were shared with Mr Palmer who agreed to go-head with the changes.



At the start of the New Year the councillors democratically decide on a 'Chair' who will lead the meetings and a 'secretary' who will keep track of the minutes. Currently, the councillors are deciding on a Go Givers project to raise awareness either locally, nationally or globally. In March, they have their first trip planned to the City Hall in London and then in June they will be heading to the Houses of Parliament. With Comic Relief also coming up in March, the councillors are going to be very busy!

PANTOMINE TIME AT THE PEACOCK THEATRE



On Monday 23rd January, thanks to the generosity of Price Water House Coopers, Year 4 and 5 went to the Peacock Theatre in London's West End

to watch a performance of 'Hansel and Gretel'. They were provided with free snacks and got to experience the theatre with other schools from around London. The children thoroughly enjoyed the pantomime, as they got the chance to join in the fun by singing along and shouting out. It was great to see all the children really embrace the pantomime experience! Thank you to the parent volunteers who came along and helped.

LOCAL AREA DISCOVERIES

As part of their topic work this term, Year 1 have been focusing on our local area. We took a trip to Bob's Park to observe plants and animals in our local area to help the children distinguish between physical and human features in our surroundings. We



used magnifying glasses and wore gardening gloves to take a closer look, we found some interesting living creatures, such as snails, slugs and pigeons. We also identified plants and vegetables around the park and in the allotments. We recorded these on our clipboards to help us carry on with our learning back in the classroom



MAGIC ROAD SAFETY

On Friday 20th January the children took part in a Road Safety workshop where they were treated to some magic tricks from Magic Pete whilst learning the important lesson of how to stay safe on the road. They learnt about wearing bright clothes so that they can be seen on roads, especially in the

dark nights that we have at the moment. They also learnt how to cross the road safely and the importance of using safety crossings.

LEARNING ABOUT DIFFERENT FAITHS



As part of their RE unit on Buddhism, Year 4 visited the London Buddhist Centre in Bethnal Green. They were greeted by an ordained minister who held a question and

answer session. In the next part of the workshop, the children were led into a second room, which was specifically designed for meditating. The minister introduced and explained the significance of various objects in the room, with particular emphasis on the statue of Buddha. Sitting on traditional cushions, children were taught how to meditate effectively, focusing first on their breathing and then their surroundings. The minister also demonstrated how music can be used to achieve inner peace. Furthermore, the children used their learning to perform the story of Buddha as part of their Festival Assembly about Nirvana.

The children included songs, a meditating session and a short presentation about how people around the world celebrate Nirvana.



YEAR 6 AT THE BLIZARD INSTITUTE

Year 6 have been investigating the human body in Science. They have learned about the major body organs and the circulatory and respiratory systems. To support this learning the children visited the Blizzard Institute, to find out more about the heart and how to keep it healthy. This included interviewing a student scientist, learning how to

check their blood pressure and finding out what the two numbers mean. The children have learned the importance of an active lifestyle and so will hopefully avoid the couch and make sure they continue get lots of exercise over the half term break.

OPPS SPORTS UPDATE

On Tuesday 10th January the Year 6 mixed cricket team took part in a cricket tournament at Play On Sport in Whitechapel. Led by the captain, Amran, the team had clearly been practicing over the Christmas holidays. They displayed superb skills in bowling, batting and fielding, as well as great team spirit and wonderful sportsmanship. Overall, the children finished joint 2nd a great achievement! Congratulations to: Amran, Maryam, Safia, Sullaiman, Aneekah, Ameera, Mohammad, Muad and Azizur.



Y4 LEARN ABOUT ANCIENT GREECE



In order to extend their learning, Year 4 visited the Sir John Soane's Museum in Holborn. The museum was once a home to the great architect who lived and worked in London some centuries ago. The visit consisted of a guided tour where the children were

able to explore the artefacts and paintings Sir John Soane had collected throughout the years from different parts of the world, all of which influenced his studies and designs. His collection included the sarcophagus of a pharaoh, statues of Greek gods and goddesses and an impressive collection of books. The children also attended a workshop where they looked further into Ancient Greek gods and goddesses as well as the temples that were made for them. Overall, the children enjoyed a day exploring the past and the various ways of life that came with it!

Y3 LEARN ABOUT PREHISTORIC BRITAIN



Year 3 have been learning all about Prehistoric Britain, and visited the Horniman Museum to support this. The children first walked around the gallery to see the many prehistoric animals. It was interesting looking at the skeletons of land and sea animals. Then they had a workshop where

they created a timeline of the different prehistoric times and had a chance to touch real artefacts from the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age, some of which were 1000s of years old.

MUSEUM OF LONDON TRIP

This half term, Year 5 have been learning all about the Vikings and Anglo-Saxons! We visited the Museum of London where children then had the opportunity to explore real artefacts from the Viking and Anglo – Saxon era. Children discussed what each object could have been used for and this supported the children's understanding of the level of skill and craft work that was needed for the Vikings to produce such beautiful objects. Children were especially excited about being given the opportunity to explore a Saxon house replica. To our amazement, these were a lot smaller than we had thought.



SCHOOL FUNDING CRISIS

School unions, such as NUT, NAHT & GMB have joined together to create a website schoolcuts.org.uk which shows how much London schools will lose when the government introduces the National Funding Formula. The site predicts that **Old Palace will receive £260,000 less each year by 2019, which may mean 6 less teachers** and so an end to teaching in smaller sets. The site includes a petition that parents can sign against the cuts and provides help to write to your local MP if you would like to express your concerns.