



Old Palace Newsletter

May 2017

Y4 GILWELL PARK RESIDENTIAL



Last week, 32 children left Old Palace School to attend a 3 day adventure at Gilwell Park, near Epping Forest. The children had a very busy few days, taking part in activities, such as kayaking, leap of faith, climbing, archery and go kart racing. During our evenings, the children roasted marshmallows on a camp fire while singing songs and took part in a variety of team games. The children represented

Old Palace extremely well during the trip and were praised by staff at the centre. Even at bedtime, the children were so exhausted, they headed straight to bed after a cup of hot chocolate. There was a positive and supportive atmosphere as they helped each other throughout the trip, shouting encouragement and many overcame their fears. All the children showed



great resilience and optimism throughout the different activities. We arrived back on Friday exhausted but all the children had an amazing time and created lots of memories. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff that accompanied them over the three days and the Worshipful Company of Needle-makers for helping to fund the trip. We are sure Year 5 are going to have just as much fun at Phasel's Wood in July.



IMPORTANT DATES



SUMMER HALF TERM

School finishes Friday 26th May at 3.30pm
Return to school Monday 5th June 2017

EID UL FITR

Eid closure Monday 26th June 2017

INSET TRAINING DAY

School closed Monday 10th July 2017

ANNUAL SUMMER FETE

Wednesday 19th July 2017

END OF SUMMER TERM

School finishes Friday 21st July at 2pm

SATs TIME AGAIN!

This half term children across the school have been busy completing the government's SATs tests. During the week beginning 8th May pupils in Year 6 completed tests in Reading, Grammar, Spelling, Arithmetic & Mathematical Reasoning. The children have worked incredibly hard to prepare for the tests and showed great concentration and resilience when completing them. The tests were sent off for marking and the school will receive the results in early July. The children continue to work hard on their writing, which will be assessed by their teachers in mid-June.

Meanwhile in Year 2 the children have also been completing tests. Unlike Year 6, all the results are based on teacher assessment, but the children complete tests to support the teacher's judgement. Again the children have been well prepared and tried very hard when completing tests in Reading, Arithmetic and Maths. Their teachers are now using the test results, along with work in the children's books, to judge the standard they have achieved. Their judgements will be checked by the local authority in June.

I hope that you will join with me in thanking all the teachers and support staff involved in the SATs for all their hard work in preparing the children and for helping to make this a calm and less stressful experience for the children. You may be interested to know that the government is presently consulting on whether testing should continue in primary schools. If parent would like to share their views they should visit <https://consult.education.gov.uk/assessment-policy-and-development/primary-assessment> by 22nd June.

Children in years 1,3, 4 & 5 will complete school tests in mid-June, so their progress can be recorded, with pupils in Year 1 also completing the Phonics Screening (which checks their ability to use phonics to read real and made up words). Children in the Foundation Stage will also be assessed using observations and samples of their work. All results will be shared with parents in each child's end of year report, which will be given out during Parent Evenings on 11th & 12th July.



Apple Tree House is a new children's series on CBEEBIES which started on Monday. You may recognise the setting as the programme was filmed in the local area including at Old Palace School over the Summer. See if you can spot 2M, 1B, the KS2 library and our entrance area. Fame at last!

PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

COFFEE MORNINGS

We hold Coffee Mornings each Wednesday from 9.15-10pm. These are some of the topics discussed this half term:

- **School trips**

On Wednesday 26th April Mrs. Rahman talked about school trips. During the meeting, she explained the health and safety procedures that the school follows and what is expected from parent volunteers when they accompany a trip. She reminded parents of the importance of keeping their word and coming alone once they had committed to do so. Taking support staff from other year groups means that the children they are timetabled to work with lose out. If the school is not able to get enough adults the trip will have to be cancelled which will be very disappointing for the class.

- **The Bromley by Bow Centre Unity Festival**

On Wednesday 3rd May, the school invited Simeon Tubi, an Events Fundraiser to join us from the Bromley by Bow Centre. This summer BBBC will be hosting their biggest ever community event, which will celebrate the diversity found in the local community on 27th July. Simeon explained the event and requested volunteers to help create a banner for the event. If you are able to help please speak to Shelly or Florida.

- **Bug Club login update**

Parent of Foundation Stage and KS1 children were recently provided with login details for the online reading site Bug Club. There are 100's of books to choose from which parents can use to support reading at home. If you have misplaced your child's login details please come and speak to Florida

- **No Place for Hate / Domestic violence**

On 17th May, Dawn McMaster from the Tower Hamlets Domestic Violence team spoke to parents about domestic violence and hate crime. Parents found it very informative and useful. Parents also shared stories or experiences at the session. Towards the end they were provided with leaflets. If anyone wanted to access the any domestic violence services please come and see Shelly or Florida, our Parent support workers.

- **Summer Fete planning**

Recently, Michele met with Parents to discuss the planning of our School Annual Summer Fete. This year the Summer Fete will be held on **Wednesday 19th July**. In previous years money raised from our Fete's has gone towards refurbishing our library with books, subsidising After School Clubs and other extra curricular activities such as school trips. This year all proceeds will go towards the Design and Technology Days which all the children thoroughly enjoyed back in March. This cost the school over £3000. We have rebooked to have some more D&T days next academic year. As always we are looking for donations of things such as: toys, toiletries, bric-a-brac, books, games. Unfortunately we are unable to accept clothes or any electrical items. We are also hoping to be able to have a food stall - if you are able to make any donations of food on the day please speak to Shelly or Florida.

STAYING SAFE IN THE SUN

As the weather heats up, please help us to keep the children healthy by:

- * Providing them with a bottle of water (not frozen) to bring to school each morning
- * Providing them with a sun hat and sun glasses
- * Applying sunscreen before they come to school
- * If parents are unsure about Summer school uniform, examples including photographs can be found at <http://www.oldpalaceprimary.co.uk/uniform.asp>

We understand that many children will prefer to wear sandals at this time, but remind parents that these should be **plain** and need to be **sturdy with a top and back strap** to avoid accidents caused by them breaking or slipping off. When wearing open sandals, ankle **socks must also be worn**, so the child's feet are not bare.



CONTAGIOUS DISEASES / ILLNESS

If your child suffers from any kind of contagious disease, please inform the school as soon as possible and keep them home until they are better. This also means they are NOT allowed in the school playground whilst they are ill.

Contagious diseases include illnesses, such as chicken pox, diarrhoea, vomiting and measles. A full list of conditions can be found at the back of the school's Attendance Policy, together with a list of how many days your child needs to remain off school. This can be found on the school website under policies. By choosing to bring your sick child onto school premises, you risk spreading the illness to other children and will place some of pupils who have rare medical needs in great danger. Please help us to keep all our pupils safe and well.

PARENT POTTERY CLASS

Recently, we have started a 6 week Pottery class, which is being delivered by The Parental Engagement Team. The sessions will explore how to use clay to make a variety of objects. If you are interested in joining the class, please speak to Shelly.



TIME 2 ENGAGE PROJECT

On Wednesday 3rd May, all the families that took part in our fourth and final workshop, which focussed on counting and measuring skills. Each family made quiche in the food Lab and at the end they shared their delicious wares.

On Wednesday 12th July all the participants have been invited to join the Time 2 Engage parents at Marner School to enjoy a shared meal to celebrate their learning experience. A big thank you to thank all the parents who have taken part in this project.

LEAFLETING OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL

We know that at times parents are handed leaflets outside the school gate. We are not able to control what happens outside school premises but wish to make it clear that the school **does not promote** the services or views being promoted in these leaflets. With the election approaching political parties are likely to hand out leaflets. They are not permitted to do so on school premises, so if you see anyone doing this in the playground please inform the school office, so we can report this to the council.

RAMADAN 2017

As Ramadan may begin on Friday, we would like to remind parents of the arrangements that the school puts into place during this period.

The **East London Mosque** has advised schools that children who have not reached puberty, do not need to fast. However the school understands that some children in Years 5 and 6, may wish to join in this important expression of their faith. In such cases, the guidance is that these children should only fast for a few days – perhaps on special days, at the weekend or for one day during the week. This will allow them to show their faith without harming their general health. Parents of children in Years 5 and 6, who wish their child to fast during the week, need to hand a note to the office saying on which days their child will fast. We will then make sure that the children do not go to the dining hall on these days. For health and safety reasons we ask that children do not fast on days when they have PE or have a day trip. Should parents wish their child to change to home dinners for this period, again this needs to be confirmed in writing and handed into the office by the parent/ carer so we know the child has their permission to leave school premises. On Friday 23rd June, our Year 6 pupils will perform the school's Eid festival assembly. The school will then be closed on Monday 26th June to allow the pupils and staff to celebrate Eid Ul Fitr with their families. Eid parties will be held on Tuesday 27th June.

LBTH MATHS LEAGUE



On Monday 22nd May, six of our Year 5 and 6 pupils, who have been representing Old Palace Primary School at the Maths League, went to Woolmore Primary School to take part in the third round of the competition.

The Maths League, which is for a group of able pupils in Years 5 and 6, encourages pupils to work together as a team to complete a series of complex Maths problems, whilst competing against other local schools. Our pupils did a fantastic job communicating their ideas with each other and really did themselves proud. In previous rounds, our pupils have either come first or second place, so still have a very good chance of winning the overall competition! They are now preparing for an exciting final round, which will take place at Lansbury Lawrence Primary School in June!

Y3 VISIT THE MUSEUM OF CHILDHOOD

Year 3 visited the V&A Museum of Childhood toys as part of their topic on moving toys. They took part in a workshop where the children were able to explore a range of moving toys and identified the forces acting upon them. They also spent some time looking at toys from the past which worked using various forces, such as a rocking horse and a spinning top.



YEAR 5 VISIT THE BANK OF ENGLAND

This half term, as an introduction to their Financial Literacy Project called Abacus, Year 5 pupils and parents visited the Bank of England. Children enjoyed watching a Pounds and Pence Presentation which included looking at the history and purpose of money, why prices change and how the Bank of England looks after its money. Using sheets of new banknotes worth thousands of pounds, children examined the security features on these notes, such as the see-through window on the note with a clearly defined portrait of the Queen. Afterwards, children had the opportunity to find out more by exploring the Bank of England Museum. They especially enjoyed being able to touch and feel a real gold bar on display, that weighed an impressive 13kg!



FRENCH INSTITUTE TRIP

On our recent visit to the French Institute, a group of Year 4 children explored the theme of super heroes. In the morning, we created our own individual adventure stories, using French vocabulary from a shared story, as well as words and phrases we had learned in the classroom. It was really interesting to listen to each other's ideas! This took place in



"la bibliothèque Quentin Blake" - the Quentin Blake Library. Quentin Blake, who illustrated many famous books by authors such as Roald Dahl and is also a patron of the French Institute. Later in the day, we watched Phantom Boy, a film about a boy suffering from cancer, who has a special super power and heroically saves the lives of many in his city. It was a mesmerising story, with heartfelt emotion as well as humour. Our visit gave the children a great opportunity to think about social and moral responsibilities, whilst immersing themselves in French culture.

CELEBRATING BOISSHAKI MELA

Children in Year 4 who did not go to Gilwell Park, had the chance to work along with some artists as part of a workshop in order to create art work for 'Boishshaki Mela'. The Boishshaki Mela is one of the largest cultural events in London. It is a celebration of the Bengali New Year and has been an important event to the Tower Hamlets community for almost 20 years. Using a variety of resources, children had to cut out, glue, design and decorate masks. They made good use of different art techniques as well as using their Maths knowledge to estimate and identify symmetry. The children were invited to take part in the Boishshaki Mela Procession which took place last Sunday starting at Buxton Park and finishing at Weavers Field, Bethnal Green.



RECEPTION TRIP TO HAINAULT FOREST



On Tuesday 16th May, as part of our growing topic, Reception went on a trip to Hainault Forest. We were very lucky as it was a beautiful sunny day!

The children were eager to explore the deep, dark

forest and they discovered lots of living things and habitats. The Children were fascinated with the different types of plants and trees that created the huge forest. During the trip children went on a nature trail where we collected lots of natural things found in the forest, such as twigs, berries, wild flowers, leaves. We even discovered mysterious footprints! We enjoyed a lovely picnic lunch under a clear blue sky, surrounded by nature. We ended the day with a short visit to the farm, where we saw Meerkats



and Peacocks amongst other farm animals. Thank you to all the parent volunteers who helped us on the day. The children had a fantastic time and were so exhausted after all that exploring; most fell asleep on the way back to school.

Y4 HORNIMAN MUSEUM

This half term in Year 4 we have been learning about Electricity and Sound. As part of our learning, we visited the Horniman Museum where the children attended a workshop about musical instruments from all around the world. The children looked at why certain instruments are classified as percussion, wind or string instruments and how changes to the instrument affected the pitch of the sound it made. These changes include the tightening or loosening of a part of the instrument, creating gaps in the instrument or changing the material of a section of the instrument. The children had

the opportunity to look around the museum where they came across large collections of instruments, which showed how instruments had changed over the centuries. The children were excited to have a go at using the various instruments and to experiment with the sound each of them created.



Y2 VISIT SOANES CENTRE

This half term we are learning about habitats. As part of our learning we went on a trip to the Soanes Centre. We were able to explore a variety of different microhabitats. First we went into the woodlands where we used bug jars and magnifying glasses to catch and identify mini beasts that live in woodland areas. We caught tree snails, spiders, woodlice and even a centipede. Next we moved onto a meadow where we used butterfly nets to catch lots of different creatures, such as lady birds, spiders, flies and even a few bumblebees. We made sure we looked carefully at the bees, but didn't disturb them! The last habitat that we explored was the pond. There were lots of new mini beasts here that we hadn't ever seen before. Here we used long pond nets to catch newts, bloodworms, mosquito larva, water skaters and even some dragonfly nymphs. Overall it was a really exciting afternoon which brought to life what the children had been taught in school.



Y1 LEARNING ABOUT LIFE CYCLE



Year 1 were very fortunate this term to house little chicks in the classroom for 2 weeks. We saw them as eggs and one by one they slowly hatched into tiny chicks. They were all different colours, some were brown with black stripes and others were yellow, we also had some spotty ones too. We learnt how to care for them by providing a safe and warm environment to live, we had to remember to try and be as quiet as we could so we didn't frighten the little chicks. They even went on a tour around some landmarks of London. Everyday, they would need fresh water and fresh food to eat. Their bedding needed changing too, because it gets dirty on a day to day basis. We were able to learn about the lifecycle of animals, but we drew and labelled lifecycle of a chick because they look very different from when they are babies and then they turn into adults. Some of us were brave enough to take turns to hold these little friends.

ROTHCHILD READING PARTNERS

As part of our end of year reading partners programme, 9 year 3 children were invited to meet with their reading buddies at Rothschild bank. Our visit began with some history about Rothschild and the surrounding buildings in the city. This was followed by an exquisite lunch with the partners where the children took part in a quiz and received a book and certificate for participating in the programme. Our visit ended with a tour and the children even got a chance to see the offices where some of their partners worked. The visit was enjoyed by the children, especially the experience and insight they got from the office tour.



STAR CITIZENS - SUMMER A 2017

We would like to congratulate the following pupils for achieving the star citizen award for last half term. Well Done and keep up the good work.

Rec	Taiba RD & Faria RM
Y1	Yasmeenah 1B & Myrah 1L
Y2	Hafeezah 2M Fayeezah 2K
Y3	Aasiya 3B & Abid 3G
Y4	Amira 4C & Tahir 4H
Y5	Maryam 5L & Najiba 5K
Y6	Anneekah 6B & Amran 6M