

CHRISTMAS COMES TO OLD PALACE



Friday 15th December was especially festive this year. The day began with Year 1 performing our annual Christmas festival assembly. The children told the story of the star that couldn't shine, providing excellent acting, singing and actions along the way. The children have been learning about Christianity this term and as part of their learning,

they recently visited Our Lady and St Catherine of Siena Church. The Vicar talked to the children about the birth of Jesus and explained some rituals that Christians take part in, such as baptism, before answering the children's questions. The festival assembly allowed the children to show what they had learnt about the nativity and it was great to see so many parents there to share in the children's performance. Following the assembly, Christmas dinner was served at lunchtime. Grace and her team did a fantastic job cooking up a yuletide feast, including turkey, stuffing, carrots, parsnips, roast potatoes and snowman ice cream. Staff and children ate together, surrounded by festive decorations and sensational snowman centre pieces.



After lunch, the fun continued for 24 lucky KS1 children whose names had been pulled out following excellent behaviour. The hall was transformed into a Winter Wonderland and the children played games along side volunteers from Rothschild and got to eat even more party food! The children decorated their own Christmas stockings, before receiving a surprise visit from Santa who magically filled the children's stockings with presents! The children had an amazing time so a big thank to Rothschild for providing the party and gifts.



May we wish all those celebrating a very happy Christmas and send all our families best wishes for a very happy 2018!

IMPORTANT DATES



END OF AUTUMN TERM

School finishes **2PM** Tuesday 19th December 2017
Return Wednesday 3rd January 2018

SPRING HALF TERM

School finishes Friday 9th February 2018
Return Monday 19th February 2018

END OF SPRING TERM

School finishes **2PM** Thursday 29th March 2018
Return Tuesday 17th April 2018

SUMMER HALF TERM

School finishes Friday 25th May 2018
Return Monday 4th June 2018

END OF SUMMER TERM

School finishes **2PM** Friday 20th July 2018

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

To continue with the festive theme, on Monday 19th all the children dressed up in their party outfits ready for the afternoon parties. Parents of our younger children were invited to join their children for the fun and games which started at 2pm. The children also had a special visitor— Santa Clause himself, who made a surprise visit. He went from class to class in Reception & Key Stage 1, much to the children's delight! Meanwhile in the dining hall parents pulled crackers, played musical chairs and danced to festive music.

There was a wide variety of food available and everyone left feeling very full! We would like to thank the Parent Councilors who helped plan the party and all the families who kindly brought along delicious food to share.

May we wish all those celebrating a very happy Christmas and send all our families best wishes for a very happy 2018!

PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

Here's a summary of the topics discussed by the Parents Councillors for each year group and agreed with our Headteacher.

Year	Issues raised	Action agreed to support parents/children
FS	None	Councilors did not add any items to the agenda so no meeting was held
Year 1	Homework	Assistant head teacher to check class teachers are following procedure. Homework is given out on a Thursday and returned back Wednesday.
	Books/Book bags	Books were not changed as the Librarian was away for two weeks. She is back, so children should be taking 2 library books of their choice plus a levelled book given by the TA.
	Dressing up days/Events	The new Student Council selects theme for 'Children in Need' dress up. School to consider electing them earlier so parents can be given more notice next year.
	Playground safety	Parents worried about too many children falling in the playground. Mr Palmer reported that annual independent safety checks are carried out by qualified inspectors. PC offered to raise funds for having more soft surface installed.
	RE lessons	Mr Palmer explained the new Tower Hamlets Agreed Syllabus which sets out what has to be taught. This has a more Christian focus than previously.
Year 2	Trip cost	The school request parents to pay a subsidized cost towards trips /workshops. The travel is free when using the public transport. PC were happy with the cost breakdown.
	PE	Parents feel it's too cold to do PE outdoors in November. As it hasn't been raining children have been outdoors, from December they will be doing PE indoors. PC are happy with that.
	School Dinner	Parents are welcome to email the school admin with any complaints, this will be forwarded to the borough. The kitchen is managed by Tower Hamlets Catering not the school. Parents are welcome to make unannounced visits to check the running of the dining hall. Speak to Shelly who will escort them to the dining hall.
	Welcome meeting	Ms Duong should have attended the Welcome Meeting. School unclear why this did not happen. Ms Duong will introduce herself before the school day to parents to address this.
	Marking homework	Children self mark homework. This allows them to ask questions as the teachers go through the answers with them. PC happy with homework policy.
	Events	PC were happy that the 'Children in Need' event details were given in good time allowing for families to organize and plan. PC would like newsletter put up outside their child's classroom as a reminder.
	Free school meals	Parents were not too sure what to do regarding registering for free school meals. They requested a workshop to support parents. Two have been provided
Year 3	Homework	Assistant Head teacher to check class teachers are following procedure. Homework is given out on a Thursday and returned back Wednesday. Children will bring homework and leave on the table on Wednesdays. The TA will mark off their English & Maths work.
	Book Bag	Books were not changed as the Librarian was away for two weeks. She is back, so children should be taking 2 library books of their choice and a levelled book given by the TA.
	Different teachers in 3B	NQT teachers need training time out of class, experienced teachers then cover the class. Ms Begum is out of class Wednesday morning and Friday afternoon.
	Another Trips Workshop	Some parents were not able to attend one of the 4 morning Trip Volunteering Workshops. At the request of the Parent Council an afternoon workshop will be arrange in January.
	PE Kits	Parents not sure which weeks children should wear their PE kit for fitness, as this happens fortnightly. PC suggested a text message be sent to the class the night before as a reminder.
	Year 3 lines	School request that parents stand in the garden area in the morning so they don't block the class line entering the school
Year 4	Home time arrangements	PC requested that parents with buggies wait in the garden area and signal to the teacher, who will then send the child to them . This will help reduce congestion.
	Swimming	Governors decision to move to Poplar pool was explained. PC understand that the timetable is set by the pool ,but Mr Palmer agreed to try and move swimming to a Friday, should a slot become available at the pool.
Year 5	Maths Homework	Assistant head teacher to check class teachers are following procedure. Homework is given out on a Thursday and returned back Wednesday.
	Maths Testing	It is not possible to cover all areas o the test in one term. Scores go up as the children cover more of the Maths topics. Assistant Head to talk with team about how, if at all, scores are shared with pupils to avoid damaging their self confidence.
	School Dinners	See Year 2 comment above
	Lunch facilities on winter trips	Dining Area is booked for full day trips. This was a half day trip. The children should have returned to school for lunch. This will be discussed with the team.
	Central Foundation	Offers of tickets are sometimes taken up when this does not impact on learning. Issues are that often only a limited number of tickets are usually available and times often clash with lessons. School to request meeting with Mr Catherine to see if these issues can be resolved
	Events/dressing up	For next year look at earlier date to elect Student Council to allow time with arranging and planning for 'Children in Need'. PC suggesting 2-3 weeks' notice.
	Display work	Work from Creative Weeks and any future Bow Art projects will be used to update displays over the course of the year.
Year 6	None	Councilors did not add any items to the agenda so no meeting was held

Y1 VISIT SCIENCE MUSEUM



This half term, the children have been learning all about materials and their properties. They did a science investigation where they had to make a strong and waterproof house for the three little pigs. Following all this learning, they visited the Science museum. From the moment they walked in, they were in awe. the children were treated to an interactive

Three Little Pig's workshop where they learnt more information about materials. The children had fun exploring with a range of materials and were particularly fascinated by the glass bridge.

ROTHSCHILD CARD COMPETITION 2017



We are pleased to announce that 4 very talented children recently won prizes in a competition run by Rothschild to design a card on the theme: 'Perspectives on the Season'. The runners up were Habibah, Ibrahim in 2M and Maidah 3B and received wonderful arts and craft sets and pens. The winner Saffiyah from 3B who received all

these gifts and additional prizes worth £50. Thank you Rothschild for such generous gifts that children really enjoyed them.

Y5 TOWER VOICES PROJECT

The children spent all of Autumn practicing and rehearsing for their concert as part of the 'Tower Voices' project. The concert was held at St Pauls Way Trust school, where we were joined by another class of year 5 children from St Lukes. The concert was incredibly successful and the children sang fantastically. Becky (who runs the project) said that the year 5's were the best she had heard in all the years she had run the project. Well done!



EXCELLENT BEHAVIOUR WINNERS

While KS1 pupils got to enjoy their very own winter wonderland, the 24 KS2 children whose names were drawn got to go skating at Somerset House along with lots of enthusiastic volunteers from Rothschild. The children had a fantastic time and arrived back at school very tired and wet!



DEPUTY HEADTEACHER

Last week, Mr Palmer and a panel of governors held interviews for our new Deputy Headteacher. The successful candidate was Miss Millward, who gave a very strong interview, even compared to a candidate who was already a Deputy Head at another school. We would like to congratulate Miss Millward on her appointment. We know she has done a fantastic job as an Assistant Head and are confident that she will make an excellent Deputy Head teacher.



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY WEEK



Last week we held the first of our three DT days for this academic year. The theme was mechanisms. On Monday 11th December, parents were invited to attend an information session, where they were able to meet the DT specialists and find out about the week, and what the children will be learning in each phase group.

Those parents who did attend

found the session very informative, but sadly only 8 parents attended, so it will not be feasible for us to repeat this before each DT day as we had planned. The children used tech card to produce high quality products which each involved a type of mechanism. These ranged from cams, to levers linkages to pulleys.



Year 6:

made snapping crabs incorporating electrical components.

Year 5:

made flying astronauts using pulley and cams.

Year 4:

made spinning tops using cams.

Year 3:

made fair ground rides using pulleys.

Year 2:

made various vehicles using wheels and axels.

Year 1:

made Christmas cards using linkage.

The children really enjoyed being creative and were able to use their numeracy and literacy skills to follow instructions and measure out their resources. They were also able to communicate their learning by presenting how the mechanism worked in their toy.

A big thank you to David and the Design Education team for supporting us during the two days. Parents are welcome to come and see our DT Exhibition on Monday, 18th December 2.45-3.30pm and Tuesday 19th December 8.45-9.30pm which will be displayed along the corridor, adjacent to the Lower Hall.

David and his team commented on how impressed he was with the children designing and making skills as well as showing of their community spirit through the way they helped each other. They have worked with many different schools in London but mentioned Old Palace is one of the favourite school.

