



# Old Palace Newsletter

April 2018

## THE ROYAL FAMILY & WEDDING

In year 1, we have been learning all about London and the Queen. As part of our learning, we had the opportunity to visit the Royal Mews and got to see the Queen's horses and royal carriages. The children were very excited to find out that the Queen's state coach



is over 300 years old and that she doesn't particularly like using it as, it makes her feel sea sick! Moreover, during our trip, we also had a walk through London and managed to spot lots of famous London landmarks; Buckingham Palace, the London Eye, Big Ben, Nelson's Column and Trafalgar Square. The children were surprised to see that the lion sculptures in Trafalgar Square didn't turn gold like in the story they have been reading, Katie in London.

The children were able to make links to their core text 'Katie in London' and were able to talk about the events of the story as they saw some of the iconic London Landmarks. The children made their way back to school feeling very happy and excited after a fun day out.



## Royal Wedding

To continue the learning journey on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May, Old Palace School will be having a picnic to celebrate the Royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle.

- ◆ Reception and KS1 will be celebrating at Bob's Park from 1:00pm until approximately 2:00pm.
- ◆ KS2 will be celebrating at Three Mills from 1:15pm until approximately 2:45pm.

We appreciate this is not the best timing as Ramadan is likely to have started, but to give the event meaning it needs to be close to the wedding date.

All the children will enjoy a packed lunch provided by the school and have an opportunity to play some games. You are more than welcome to join the Royal picnic! If you would like to come along, please meet KS1 at Bob's Park and KS2 at Three Mills. The children must return to school after the picnic. It is time to celebrate! Hip Hip Hooray! If you would prefer to provide a home packed lunch, please make sure they bring it to school on the day.



## IMPORTANT DATES



### SUMMER HALF TERM

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

### BANK HOLIDAY

Monday 7th May 2018

### EID CLOSURE

Friday 15th June 2018  
(to be confirmed)

### END OF SUMMER TERM

School finishes 2PM Friday 20th July 2018  
Return to School Tuesday 4th September 2018  
All other important dates will be available on our school website [www.oldpalaceprimary.co.uk](http://www.oldpalaceprimary.co.uk)

## Y6 VISIT PARIS

Last term saw another highly successful Year 6 visit to Paris. In total 22 children visited, accompanied by Mrs Hepworth, Mr Palmer and Jack. Despite some rain, the children thoroughly enjoyed exploring many of the city's most famous landmarks,



such as Notre Dame Cathedral, the Arc de Triomphe, and of course the magnificent Eiffel Tower! During the day the weather improved, which allowed us to experience beautiful views during our boat trip along the River Seine. The children noted many interesting similarities and differences between London and Paris, such as how busy both cities are, the differences in languages, and even some peculiarities of road traffic! They were also given a chance to practice their language skills - reading directions when travelling on the underground Metro system, as well as when shopping for souvenirs to take back for families and friends. It was a long but exciting day!



# PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

We have now completed the Parent Councillor meetings for the Spring term. Below is a summary of the topics raised.

Year	Issue raised	Action agreed to support parents/children
FS	Road Crossing	School to contact the Council to ask about a zebra crossing and an update on when the Lollipop Lady will return. PC to also advise parents to raise the issue with local councillors.
	Congestion outside school gates due to leafleting	It was agreed with the PC that the Premises Manager will request the leafleters do not stand directly in front of the school gates.
Year 1	Sports Relief clash	School to ensure trips don't clash with special events, whenever possible.
	After school provision until 5.30pm	School to consult with parents to find out the level of interest
	Snacks on trips and at break time	School to clarify what constitutes a healthy snack and to ensure teachers follow our policy.
	Headlice	The normal process is to take the child to the medical room, check the child and inform the parent about treatment options. As a precaution a text message is then sent to the whole class. Please remember as well as treating the infected child, it helps to treat siblings and wash all bedding and soft furnishings, such as pillows/cushions as eggs may attach to these and hatch.
Year 2	After school provision until 5.30pm	See article below
	Healthy snacks	The school provides fruit for morning play, however parents can supply a healthy snack for afternoon play.
	Selection of trip volunteers	Some parents' feel the same parents are going on all the trips. If parents have any concerns about the selection process, they should speak to Shelly/Forida. Names are drawn during a coffee morning to ensure the process is fair and transparent. Please refer to training dates below.
	Parent Councillor Roles	School to consider ways to support PC in communicating with a wider number of parents.
Year 3	Homework/ Reading Books	Miss Arnel will check homework is given out on Thursdays and that books are changed on a Friday afternoon.
	Toys/personal belongings	Parents are advised not to allow children to bring in toys/high value items from home as this causes unnecessary stress at break times and lunchtimes. Teachers will take these items from the children and they can be collected at 3.30pm from the office.
Year 4	After school provision until 5.30pm	See article below
	School dinners/Desserts	Parents are welcome to make unannounced visits to check the running of the dining hall. Please speak to Shelly who will escort parents to the dining hall. Staff will monitor the school kitchen.
	Research Project Awards	Two awards are given each half term, one for the best and one for most effort. Teachers keep a list to monitor winners over the year.
	Performance assemblies	Staff to be reminded that all pupils should be able to audition for key roles
	Selection of trip volunteers	See above
Year 5	Homework	Mr Manalo to check homework is given consistently for all sets.
	Continuing swimming in year 5	Children still swim for 3 terms, but this is now divided across Y3 and Y4 In July children in Y5 and Y6 who are not able to swim will be offered intensive swimming lessons over a two week period, using our Sports Funding.
	French lessons	French lessons take place on a Monday afternoon. One class has French while the other has Music and then the classes swap.
Year 6		Councillors did not add any items to the agenda so no meeting was held

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - COFFEE MORNING

- ◆ Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 9-10am, Community Room  
Sultana Begum (Healthy Lives Advisor from LBTH) will deliver the session on health effects of using smoking tobacco and shisha and chewing paan.
- ◆ Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2.30-3.15pm, Community Room and Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May 9.15-10am. Trip volunteering information sessions will take place. This will allow for those parents who did not attend previous session to come and find out about what their roles & responsibilities are as a volunteer on a trip.
- ◆ Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 9-10am, Community Room  
General Coffee Morning for all parents.

## TRIP COSTS

As most of the more expensive trips take place in between May-July, this can be a costly time, especially for parents with several children at the school. To try and reduce this financial burden, the school has discussed with Parent Councillors the possibility of introducing a termly charge. This is likely to be around £7 (£21 for the year) and would be payable at the start of each term. This would then cover the cost of all school trips, except for Gilwell Park, Phasels Wood and Paris. Parent Councillors are now seeking feedback from parents, so please share your thoughts with them before half term on whether you think this will help spread the cost and any issues you feel it may raise. If the feedback is positive we will introduce the charge from September, rather than collecting money for each trip.

## AFTER SCHOOL PROVISION TO 5.30PM

Parent Councillors have shared with us that some parents are interested in the school offering childcare until 5.30pm. When we asked parents about this two years ago there was little interest, but times change, so we would like to check whether this is still the case. Therefore if you would be interested in your child attending a daily childcare club up until 5pm, please inform the office by 11<sup>th</sup> May. If we have enough parents interested we can then research possible providers and their charges. The office staff will list the names of interested parents, but at this stage we are just finding possible numbers, so there is no commitment to attend until we are able to clarify prices.



## DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY WEEK



This half term's DT day focused on the use of textiles. First the children began looking at different textiles and what they can be used for. Then they looked at examples of the products they were going to make. During this part of their day, the children had to think about who would use their product, how it would be used, how much it may cost, how does it appeal to the user and also the finishing touches that make it attractive. After, the children then began designing their own products, making decisions on what colours they would like to use and how their product would be decorated. Once they were happy with their design they began making their product. The children thoroughly enjoyed this part and were able to use a range of skills such as: stitching, hole punching,



decorating and measuring. Year 2 in particular designed tote bags using coloured sections influenced by African prints. Year 4 scaled a basic draw string bag with stitching pockets and embellishing them with their initials. We would like to take this opportunity to thank David and his team at Design Education for once again helping us and the children on the day.

## LEARNING ABOUT JUDAISM



As part of our R.E. topic on Judaism, 3H were invited to visit Sandys Row Synagogue. Here, we learned about the history of this magnificent building and also how Jewish worshippers observe their religious rituals. We also explored and identified features of

the synagogue, such as the Torah, which is kept in a beautiful cupboard called the Ark, and the Eternal Light, which burns as a symbol of God's presence. This visit was fascinating for us, and we were able to include many of the facts we had learned in our Festival Assembly. Following our Synagogue visit, 3D visited Rimon School to learn more about Passover. We got to take part in a special Sedar meal and learnt all about the different food served and why it is significant. The children from Rimon School explained why Passover is important,



sang songs and told the story of Moses leading the slaves out of Israel. We found out lots of new and very interesting facts and traditions and even got to take part in some dancing too. A wonderful day was had by all!

## CELEBRATING EASTER



The end of Spring Term was marked with an Easter Bonnet Parade by our Reception children. The children paraded the school playground with their Easter bonnets. The playground was filled with lots of colourful bonnets! The children took part in an Easter Bonnet competition and this year we had some fantastic creative bonnets. Mr Palmer and Ms Millward were set the very difficult challenge to find our 2018 Easter Bonnet competition winners. The winners of the Easter Bonnet competition were Manha and Zain in RM and Afsana and Ishaq RB. Well Done.

## Y5 FESTIVAL ASSEMBLY

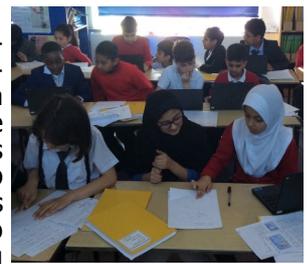
This half term, Year 5 visited St. Mary's church as part of their RE unit, in preparation for their Easter assembly. Dur-



ing the trip, the children learned a lot about the church itself and took part in some activities related to the Easter story. The children were also read the Easter story which they then made into a re-telling for their assembly. The assembly itself was a huge success, as 5H's performance and re-telling of the Easter story was exciting and the children did a great job acting out their parts. 5L's fantastic section on Easter around the world was also very entertaining and taught the audience lots about Easter in different cultures.

## YEAR 5 NEWSPAPER DAY

Being one of the biggest highlights of the Year 5 Spring calendar, Newspaper Day was a blast! Suited and ready to type away, our year 5 journalists researched, wrote and typed up their articles on different parts of the Easter story. They also came up with adverts using persuasive and emotive language to entice their readers.



## LONDONWIDE MATHS CHALLENGE

Congratulations to Tasnia, Tawheed and Aryan in year 5 who took part in the Mayor of London's Maths Challenge last half term. We were one of 115 schools to compete in this year's Maths challenge and due to Tasnia, Tawheed and Aryan's hard work we have made it into the second round of the competition. During the first round we were able to show our good tanagram and pentomino skills, decode secret messages and show how brilliant we are with our number facts. An extra special well done to Tasnia who had one of the highest scores in one of the challenges. We are looking forward to our next round of the competition in June. Wish us luck!

