



## PARIS IN THE SPRING TIME

On the 2nd April, 23 Year 6 children visited Paris. They had a busy morning, visiting sights, such as Notre Dame, Arc de Triomphe & the Champs Elyse, before enjoying a sit down on the Seine boat trip; sailing past magnificent buildings and bridges including the Eiffle Tower. Later in the day, they visited Sacre Coeur, from where they enjoyed fantastic views of the city, while eating croissant and pain aux chocolate. Next they got to visit Place du Tertre, to see the artists sketching portraits, before shopping for souvenirs, which caused great excitement! The children were a credit to the school and were able to spot similarities and differences between the streets and subways in London and Paris. Throughout the day, they had opportunities to practice their French skills and were able to experience first hand the things they had learned about in school. It was a very long day for Mrs Hepworth, James, Ms Kurup and Mr Palmer, but well worth it to provide the children with such a great learning experience.



## CHALLENGE PARTNERS

As Old Palace was graded as OUTSTANDING in 2009, we are exempt from Ofsted Inspections, unless there is a drop in our results. As results remain strong, last year the school became part of Challenge Partners, as this allows the school to have a three day review, when the quality of teaching and learning is checked by senior leaders from other schools to make sure standards do not slip. This year, our review was led by an education consultant (and current Ofsted Inspector) who advises schools in Dubai, a headteacher from West Norwood and two Assistant Headteachers, from Portsmouth and Manchester. The team were highly complementary of the school and commented on how... 'adults and children respond extremely well to the oasis of calm that permeates the environment'. Leaders at all levels were congratulated for the role they play in sustaining high standards. The team praised how quickly the school had increased standards in presentation, an area identified in last year's review, by introducing high quality work books and making sure high standards are demonstrated in classroom and corridor displays. The school's curriculum was identified as a major strength and the report stated:

*"We leave no stone unturned," was one leader's response when asked how, despite the potential barriers to learning, the school achieves outstanding outcomes. This unwavering commitment to ensuring all pupils do as well as they can is evident at every turn.*"

A copy of the full report can be seen on the school website.

## IMPORTANT DATES

### END OF SPRING TERM

School finishes **2PM Friday 5th April 2019**  
Return to School **Tuesday 23rd April 2019**

### SUMMER HALF TERM

School finishes **Friday 24th May 2019**  
Return to School **Monday 3rd June 2019**

### END OF SUMMER TERM

School finishes **2PM Friday 19th July 2019**  
Return to School **Tuesday 3rd September 2019**

All other important dates and performance videos please visit our school website

[www.oldpalaceprimary.co.uk](http://www.oldpalaceprimary.co.uk)



As part of our membership of Challenge Partners, leaders from the school also take part in the reviews of other schools. Mr Palmer went to Folkestone, Miss Millward to Luton, Miss Binnie to Lewisham and Miss Begum to West Norwood. As well as helping the schools they visited to improve, this also allowed them to check their judgements against those of other school leaders and to pick up examples of good practice that we can use in our school. Old Palace is also part of the Challenge Partners Inspire Hub, which allows us to work closely with schools in Woolwich and the Medway. Last week we hosted a hub meeting, welcoming headteachers from the other schools to Old Palace. This allowed us to share a presentation on our curriculum and the work of our subject leaders, which had been recommended as potential areas of excellence during our review. Veronica Kennard, Chair of Governors, was delighted with the report. She said:

*'Old Palace is lucky to have such a dedicated team of teachers and support staff, who work tirelessly to ensure all pupils achieve their full potential. It is excellent that this has been recognised by Challenge Partners and that Old Palace is able to share its strengths to help other schools to improve. I am particularly pleased that the report recognised the increase in standards of presentation which the staff have worked so hard to achieve. On behalf of the governors, I would like to thank the staff and the children for all their hard work and achievements. Everyone should be feeling very proud!'*

# PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

## PARENT COUNCIL

Thank you to all our Parent Councillors for meeting with Mr Palmer over the past few weeks. Below is a summary of the issues discussed:

Year	Issues raised	Action agreed to support parents/children
FS	Concerns around changes to relationship lessons (SRE)	School awaiting guidance from Tower Hamlets. Once received content can be shared with parents. Changes not due until September 2020. Sex education only to be compulsory in secondary schools. No specific lessons are delivered on LGBT issues but the school has a duty to record and challenge homophobic language, as this is covered under equalities legislation. School will look into providing Equality Workshops next year, to support parents in addressing this at home.
	Playground screening	More shrubs will be planted around the perimeter of the playground over Easter, but these will take time to grow. School will trial adding screening in one area.
	World Book Day	Agreed to have general theme for next year, as Sci Fi was difficult for some families
	Trip Volunteers expectations	An additional trip volunteer training session to be held after Easter Break
	Tasting samples for Reception	Tower Hamlets Catering to be asked if they will provide samples of new dishes on the menu to encourage more Reception children to eat school lunch.
	Attendance	Look at the idea of a termly tea party to reward most improved attendance next year.
	Partnership with local schools	Marner to be contacted to see if there is a possibility to use their indoor climbing and St Agnes to see if we can use their Forest School area.
Year 1	Playground screening	See above
	Concerns around SRE	See above.
	Packed Lunch	School will contact Tower Hamlets Catering to if alternatives to apples can be provided.
	World Book Day	See above
	Positive feedback	Teachers are approachable and now communicate more effectively with parents.
Year 2	SATs workshop	Workshop was provided and homework given to support the children to prepare for SATs.
	Homework	Teacher will be asked to make the text/ spaces bigger.
	Reading	Idea of introducing reading bands was discussed. This would only work if parents are willing to complete and sign a reading record. Use of Bug Club is inconsistent. Miss Begum to ensure a list of Bug Club books goes out at the start of term.
	Text message	Parent who do not receive text messages should check with the office that we have the correct number. Sometimes unknown texts are blocked by the service provider.
	Parent Volunteers	Event to be provided to thank trip volunteers at the end of the year.
Year 3	No issues or concerns raised	No agenda items so meeting not held.
Year 4	World Book Day	See above.
	Book Sale	All the money is sent to Scholastic and they set the prices. The school does get some commission, which is used to buy £5 book vouchers for the 100% attendance prizes. Next year we will run the sale on two evenings.
	Assembly	No filming or photos to be taken during assemblies. Time for photos will be provided at the end of the performance, once the other classes have left the hall.
	Research projects	All children are expected to complete these. If parents have any difficulties, please speak to the class teacher before the project is due to be handed in.
	Parent Volunteers	See above.
Year 5	Concerns around SRE	See above.
Year 6	Booster classes for all pupils	A range of strategies are used to provide additional support when this is needed. Children also benefit from teaching in smaller sets.
	Leavers Assembly	Parents will be given time to take photos after the other classes have left the hall.
	Trip reminders	Please check newsletters for dates & details.
	Leavers Memorabilia	Parents will be asked to express interest in the next Year 6 newsletter. If there is enough interest in Hoodies, the school can facilitate ordering these.
	Homework	Additional SATs homework will be provided for the children to complete during the Easter Break.

## AFTERNOON TEA AT THE RADISSON HOTEL



On Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, seven pupils from Y4 were invited by the Docklands DLR Ambassadors to a Community Easter Afternoon Tea. The children were chosen due to their excellent learning behaviour this academic year. They had a fabulous time celebrating Easter with the community. After a sumptuous afternoon tea they had the opportunity to have their face painted and play games. As they left each child was given an Easter egg and hat to take home. What a grand day out!

## TIME 2 ENGAGE PROJECT



This half term, our Time to Engage workshops focused on Reading comprehension. A series of 3 workshops culminated in a Saturday trip to the Idea Store on Roman Road, led by Mrs Naeem and Shelly. The parents attended the Family Learning Workshop there and got time to read the books to their children in the cosy area. It also provided an opportunity for some parents to join the library, which as well as giving access to the books, also gives discounts within Tower Hamlets.



## LEARNING ABOUT EASTER

With Easter approaching the children have been learning all about the importance of this event to Christians. In Year 5, the children learned the Easter story as part of their English unit on Newspaper Reports. The Easter story helped the children understand the significance of Jesus and what he did for his people. It also taught the children that not all sacrifices are sad and that his resurrection was a happy day for Christians.



Then, in preparation for their Easter assembly, the children visited St Mary's Church, where they explored the various features of the building. Finally on 3rd April, the children combined all their learning in a fantastic Easter Assembly, which helped everyone understand the significance and traditions of Holy week. Well done Year 5.

Meanwhile in Reception the children have also been learning about Easter and other celebrations. The children (and parents!) worked very hard to create some amazing Easter Bonnets, which the children loved showing off in their Easter bonnet parade.



The children also learned about the Sikh festival of Vaisakhi. In preparation, the children visited the Harley Grove Gudwara Temple to learn more about Sikhs and Vaisakhi. The children spotted the big orange flag in the distance, before taking off their shoes and putting on a hat (to show respect) before entering. The children went upstairs and saw the Guru waving his feather wand (Chaur Sahib) to keep the holy book clean and also saw a kirpan (special sword) and other special items around



the altar. They learnt that Vaisakhi is the most special celebration for Sikhs and that a lot of Sikhs came to celebrate at the Gudwara at the weekend. Afterwards, they enjoyed a snack in the Langar. Sikhs believe that we should treat all people equally and that is why everyone is allowed free food!

Once back at school, the children continued rehearsing for their first ever festival assembly. They did an amazing job, re-enacting the story of Guru Gobind Singh and sharing what they had found out about the festival. The children looked very colourful in their festival clothes and wowed with their rendition of 'Celebration'. Well done Reception!

## PLAYGROUND SAFETY

Some parents have asked if we can send a reminder about not congregating in the playground once children have been collected at the end of the day. This makes it difficult for teachers to safeguard the children, as it blocks them for seeing all areas of the playground clearly. Thank you for your co-operation in leaving the school site promptly.

# DT WOOD DAY

Our Design Technology Creative Days this term focused on using wood. Each year group designed and made a different product: Reception made wooden blocks with numbers on them; they sanded the edges to make them smooth using abranet and then decorated them. Year 1 made picture frames and decorated them using printing techniques to give them a really decorative finish. Year 2 designed and made wooden picture frames; these were decorated using paint. Year 3 made tangram trays and decorated them using geometric patterns. Year 4 made desk tidies that involved lots of sawing and drilling holes. Year 5 made a money box that combined an acetate front with MDF and wood to hold it in place. Year 6 made Memento boxes from MDF using washer tapes to secure the joints. The children enjoyed the days, which brought out their creative side, as well as allowing them to apply their maths skills such as measuring, calculating angles and looking for geometric patterns. A big thank you to Miss Binnie & Mr Manalo for organising the project and to Mr Palmer for spending a Sunday sawing over 400 pieces of wood! We greatly appreciate the donations we have received towards the cost of buying the wood, as this helps to ensure we can continue to provide these days in the future. Well done to all the children for working together to create and decorate their products!

