



Old Palace Newsletter

March 2019

BOOK WEEK 2019

World Book Day celebrations started off with lots of galactic fun at Old Palace this year, with our theme being Science Fiction. Each year group had fun exploring a Sci-Fi story through drama, Art and English. Years 5 and 6, read *Rail-head* by Philip Reeve, Years 3 and 4 read *Mega Robo Rumble* by Neill Cameron, Years 1 and 2 read *The Way Back Home* by Oliver Jeffers, and finally Reception read *Aliens Love Underpants* by Claire Freedman.



In Reception and KS1, the children spent the day designing posters, creating outer space collages, and making alien costumes, masks and moving puppets. In addition to this, Reception also held a Teddy Bears' picnic in Bob's Park. In KS2, the children enjoyed the books and the suspense and action they contained, before re-enacting scenes and writing their own Sci-Fi stories.



After all that great fun, there was only one thing left to do... the Book Week assembly! Robots, aliens, space creatures... you name them, we had them! The hall was buzzing with Sci-Fi characters everywhere. It was great to share all the learning the children had been doing. We even had little robots from Reception join the assembly and share their amazing paintings.

If you missed the assembly, you can watch it on our website. Book Week also included a successful book fair where pupils were able to spend their book vouchers. Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Book Week so successful.



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 SPRING 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

PARENT CONSULTATIONS

Foundation Stage—Monday 25th March 2019
Year 1—Wednesday 3rd April 2019
Year 2—Thursday 28th March 2019
Year 3—Monday 1st April 2019
Year 4—Wednesday 27th March 2019
Year 5—Tuesday 26th March 2019
Year 6—Tuesday 2nd April 2019

Class teachers will be sending out appointment times soon. If you are unable to meet at that time, please arrange an alternative appointment. These meetings are very important in updating parents on their child/ren's progress and on ways to support learning at home.

OLD PALACE FOOTBALL TEAM

We would like to congratulate our football team for the improvement they have continued to make week by week. The first team played 15 games in the inter school tournament and despite it being a tough league, managed to win 9 of these games, which is fantastic! Old Palace finished 3rd in the football league (after being 2nd for the majority of the time). The team continue to develop their skills, passing the ball more effectively. They showed great character and demonstrated fair play throughout. Well done Old Palace!



PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

ORAL HEALTH

During our coffee morning on the 6th March, Thamina from the Health Watch Tower Hamlets, came and delivered a presentation to parents advising them how to look after their children's health- specifically their teeth. Parents suggested that they should try and raise awareness so that children are brushing their teeth from an earlier age to avoid bad health & teeth. Parents spoke about the daily difficulties with Oral health due to children refusing to brush their teeth and problems accessing the dental service. If parents would like further advice they can contact:

Thamina Begum, Health Watch Tower Hamlets, Mile End Hospital, 0208 223 8814



PARENTING COURSE



Thank you to our Parent Councillors & Volunteers Jalal & Emdadul for attending the Parent's Conference with Forida on the 7th March. The 13th annual conference was arranged by the Parental Engagement Team and focused on empowering and supporting our children to thrive. The dads found it to be useful and full of positive ideas that they could use.

ESOL

The feedback from parents attending the ESOL class has been very positive. In partnership with BBBC, the school has been facilitating ESOL class every Monday afternoon from 1.30-3.30pm and Tuesday mornings from 9-11am at Old Palace. These sessions will now continue to run until the end of the school year. For more information, please come and speak to Shelly or Forida.

CHANGES TO THE SRE CURRICULUM

There has been a lot in the media recently regarding changes to the SRE Curriculum. The Department for Education are planning changes to the curriculum from September 2019. When we know what these changes are we will be able to share these will parents.

In the meantime we would like to reassure parents that we will not be making any changes this academic year. We will continue to provide a one off lesson to Year 5 children in May on changes during puberty. As in previous years, we will hold a parents workshop beforehand to discuss the content of the lesson and how parents can withdraw their child.



KEEPING THE SCHOOL UPDATED

Please remember that it is YOUR responsibility as a parent to keep the school informed regarding changes to your contact details such as address, telephone number, emergency contact and collection details. The school will not be held responsible for inaccurate contact details provided by you. For more information, please visit oldpalaceprimary.co.uk/privacy-policy on how the school manages the data we hold.

Dates for Your Diary

- ◆ **Somalian Cultural Awareness Day**
We would like the Somalian mums to host the Cultural Awareness Day on Wednesday 27th March 2019, 9-12pm in the Community Room. All the parents are invited to this event to come and learn about different cultures, food, dance, music and poems. Please bring a dish to share.
- ◆ **Off-site Coffee Morning for Dads**
Wednesday 3rd April
9-11am at BBB café
Please book with Forida.
- ◆ **Lost Property**
Lost property will be out in the KS2 playground on Thursday 4th April at 3.15pm-3.45pm. Any items not collected will be given to charity.
- ◆ **Talking to Your Child Course for KS2 Families**
Friday 26th April-Friday 10th May
9-11.30am
Community Room
Book with Shelly or Forida
- ◆ **Outdoor Learning Course for KS1 families**
30th April -21st May 2019
Community Room
9-11.30am
Book with Shelly or Forida

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Each half term the children are set Research Homework. This is a very important part of the children's learning, as it allow the children to extend their understanding of the class Science, History and Geography topics with their family at home and results in some amazing creations, from model pyramids to Stonehenge to a Viking long boat. We expect all children to hand in their Research Project homework. If for any reason there is a difficulty with your child/ren handing in their research homework on time, please let their class teacher know in advance, as it may be possible to allow the children a little more time. If a child makes no attempt to hand in their homework, they will be asked to miss some of their golden time or lunch time to complete the work.

MASK MAKING WORKSHOP



On Wednesday 27th February, we invited parents to come and make masks for the World Book Day Celebration event. Mary, our school librarian spoke to parents about which books each class would be reading during Book Week. Parents had the opportunity to read the books with Mary and then made masks for the children to wear on the day. Parents really enjoyed the workshop as their creative skills came out. They found the workshop enjoyable and thanked the school for help in avoiding to have to buy expensive costumes.

OLD PALACE GOES INTERNATIONAL

As part of the School Council's work on community cohesion, two school councillors, Hatice and Iyana attended an international workshop on Community activism and Cohesion which included pupils from schools all around the world. Despite the language barriers, everyone worked together to investigate and present work on community activists, such as Malala Yousafzai and Greta Thunberg. Hatice and Iyana did the school proud, confidently presenting their poster and action plan to a panel of judges and an audience of over 50 people!



The following day, the School Council hosted a visit for a group of teachers and pupils from Finland. After meeting and greeting the visitors, school council took them on a tour of the school. The visitors were very impressed with the children's attitude to

learning. And especially with the writing and Maths in KS1, as in Finland children do not start school until you are 7 years old. After the tour, the Finnish pupils gave a presentation to the School Council about their school and country and taught them a traditional Finnish dance. Well done to the School Council for being such excellent hosts!



Y3 RECYCLING TRIP

As part of our topic on Recycling, Year 3 visited the local Bywaters Recycling Centre. Here, the children learned about how the Recycling Plant operates and how different materials are sorted, then turned back into usable materials. We also sorted various materials ourselves back at school, and decided which of

these could be reused to create our own toys. Next week the children will carry out fieldwork to identify litter and tipping in the local area. This will help them to find out about the harm this causes and the importance of always making sure that litter is put in the bin.

SPORTS PROJECT



The **Active Together** Programme is delivered by the Bromley by Bow Centre and is funded by Sports England. The programme works with families with children up to 11 years old, aiming to improve their lifestyle through

behaviour change and getting them more physically active. The programme started at Old Palace in February on Mondays and Thursdays and so far 21 families have registered and are regularly attending the sessions delivered at the school and at the Bromley by Bow Centre. Participating families have been provided with free fruit snacks, pedometers to measure their steps and a Family Action folder containing useful information about different aspects of the program and how to stay healthy. More taster sessions such as cricket, netball, hula-hooping and many more are planned for delivery in the coming weeks.

OLD PALACE ONLINE SAFETY

For our regular online safety article, we thought it would be useful to share these top tips on how to manage the children's screen time.

RULES Agree on a clear set of rules in your home about screen time

LEAD BY EXAMPLE Do as you say!!
Modelling behaviour is the most powerful way you can influence your child's behaviour

PHONE FREE ZONE Restrict the use of TV's, mobile phones and computers in the bedroom

CHARGING PHONES Buy an alarm clock for your child's room and charge mobile phones in your room!

DIGITAL DETOX One evening a week have a family digital detox and plan a family activity!

JOIN IN Play your child's favourite computer game and discover the online world together

CRICKET COACHING

Last term coaches from the Middlesex cricket club came to help support our Y4 and Y5 children in developing their cricket skills. During their weekly sessions the children were able to learn and enhance their hand eye co-ordination skills through bowling, fielding, as well as batting with accuracy. To end their sessions, an assembly was given to the children to help promote cricket clubs that are available locally, including WICKETZ which takes place from 5-7pm on Wednesdays at Stepney Green School and is free of charge. For more information, parents can contact Mahbulul Alam on 07507201531.

The children thoroughly enjoyed their time with the club and we want to say a huge thank you for their support.



EASTER RAFFLE

Egg-citing news— our annual Easter Egg Raffle will start from Monday 25th March

1 ticket = 50p
5 tickets = £1

Winning tickets will be drawn during the Year 5 Easter Assembly on Wed 3rd April

Tickets are available from the School Office
All funds raised will go towards School Fund

PAINTING WEEK

Last half term, the children took part in Painting Week. In Key Stage 1 and Lower Key Stage 2, the children researched a specific landscape artist. They used online and reading resources to find out about their given artists life and work, as well as evaluating and giving their opinions on the landscape paintings. Next, they explored colour mixing and using brush strokes to create different effects with watercolour and acrylic paints. Finally, the children planned and created their own landscape painting in the style of the famous artist. In Upper Key Stage 2, the children explored a range of different artists focusing on landscape in Year 5 and portraits in Year 6. They researched the lives and style of these different artists and then chose one to use as inspiration for their final painting. The children created some amazing work, including the examples below:



Y4 CELEBRATES NIRVANA DAY

Last half term year 4 went to visit the London Buddhist centre as part of their RE unit. The children had been learning about how Buddhists lead a good life. They looked at the teachings of Buddha and how Siddhartha Gautama became the Buddha through enlightenment.



At the Buddhist Centre they learnt how meditation helps clear the mind and make us feel calm and peaceful. The children then got to try some meditation while we were there. During the Year 4 festival assembly on Nirvana Day, we were able to share what we

had learnt assembly. The children retold the story of Siddhartha Gautama and explained how Buddhists celebrate this day all around the world. The children finished the assembly by getting everyone to meditate together, which left everyone feeling calm.

Y1 VISIT THE FARM

As part of their learning about farm animals and where our food comes from, Year 1 went on a visit to Surrey Docks farm. They took part in a workshop and had a tour which allowed them to explore the farm. They visited the different animals and looked at the plants and food that are grown there. They were very intrigued about where the different food comes from and had a great time petting and feeding the animals. The children also went on a farm trail, where they had to find specific places around the farm, which greatly reinforced their learning at school. Over the next few weeks, the children will be developing their gardening skills by planting vegetables. Hopefully these will grow well, so the children can then learn how to cook them in the summer.



Y2 TRIP TO THE HORNIMAN MUSEUM

Year 2 recently went to visit the Horniman Museum as part of their learning on Life in Africa. They attended a special workshop, where they were able to experiment with African instruments, dress up in special African attire and play with different African toys, made using recycled materials.



The children thoroughly enjoyed taking part and were excited to complete the special mission of finding different African artefacts throughout the museum during the self-guided tour.

Y6 VISIT TO SCIENCE MUSEUM

This half term as part of their unit 'Bright Sparks', the children in year 6 visited the Science Museum. They were able to freely explore an exhibition centred around mechanisms, forces and electricity. The children were able to build circuits for a range of different purposes, and learned all about how electricity is generated and sent to our homes. The children have also been learning about **Earth Hour**, which takes place at 8.30pm on Saturday 30th March. All around the world, businesses and homes will be turning off the lights to save energy. Please join in and turn off the lights in any rooms that you are not using.

