



Old Palace Newsletter

May 2019

FOUNDATION STAGE SEALIFE ADVENTURE



Reception went on a trip this half-term to the Sea Life London Aquarium. We saw many sea creatures and learnt so much about them including their habitats, what they eat and key characteristics of different sea creatures.

Some of the sea creatures we saw included turtles, swordfish, sharks, angel fish, sting ray's as well as, clown fish that look just like 'Nemo'! All our learning in class helped us in the aquarium as we told our adults facts that we had learnt.

We also did lots of activities, in school, after our trip in relation to sea creatures and sea life. For example, we carried out observational drawing of a fish, we wrote fact files about different sea creatures such as sharks, we labelled key characteristics of fish, etc.

Not only did we explore the Sea aquarium and learn about sea creatures, we also got to touch a star fish. In addition, for lunch we all had a lovely picnic near the London Eye and played many games.



Y5 VISIT ORGANIC FARM

On Thursday, 23rd May Year 5 visited an natural organic farm, Bore Farm in Kent to consolidate their understanding of where our food comes from. The children thoroughly enjoyed exploring the vegetable garden where they looked at a range of plants and tried to identify examples of sustainable practice.

They learnt about the various vegetables grown there organically, as well as parts of the plant which were edible and parts that were not.

The children also took part in more hands-on learning activities which enabled them to develop their critical thinking skills in a small workshop. This included using newspaper to make their very own plant pot and then planting a seeds of their choice. The children will now use all they have learned to support their own planting and writing of a garden manual back at school.



IMPORTANT DATES



SUMMER HALF TERM

School finishes 3.30pm Friday 24th May 2019
Return to School Monday 3rd June 2019

POSSIBLE EID CLOSURE

Tuesday 4th June 2019

END OF SUMMER TERM

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

For all other important dates, correspondence and performance videos and please visit our school website www.oldpalaceprimary.co.uk

YEAR 1 VISIT THE ROYAL MEWS



In year 1, the children have been learning all about Kings and Queens. To support this the children visited 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 the trip, the children 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.



PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

COFFEE MORNINGS

Gangs in Tower Hamlets

On Wednesday 24th April, St Giles Trust (SOS) was invited to speak to parents regarding gangs and drugs in the local community. It was a sensitive session, but parents who attended found it very useful. They were taught the early signs that show children may be getting involved in gangs and were told about agencies that can provide support should this happen. Parents seeking more information on this topic can call Tyron Baylis, lead Project facilitator, on 020 7708 8000.

Sure Steps Support Programme

Thank you to all the parents who attended the Coffee Morning on Wednesday 1st May with Joanna Pink. Sure Steps are looking for interested parents to apply to be support workers for vulnerable families. The training starts after Eid, week beginning 10th June. This would suit parents who are looking to get back into work. The application form can be found on their Sure Steps website <http://www.toyhouse.org.uk/news/>. For further information please call Sure Steps on 0207 987 7399.

Women's Health

On Wednesday 8th May, Thamina Begum from Health Watch delivered a small session on women's health services in Tower Hamlets. The women who attended shared their views, experiences and stories about their health and any associated issues. It gave a valuable insight into where services in Tower Hamlets need to be improved and which services were not being accessed. The health team left with a better understanding of the current issues women faced regarding post-natal depression and sexual health. A follow up session will be confirmed.

PARENT COURSES



Outdoor Learning

Thank you to all the parents who completed the Outdoor Learning course delivered by the Parental Engagement Team. The parents were joined by children during the second part of the session over two weeks. The aim of the course was to build on skills, such as communication, language development,

physical, personal, social and emotional development. Activities were planned by parents for outdoors that were suited to their child's needs and unique to their interests. Parents really enjoyed the learning experience themselves, and realised how easy it can be for children to learn by playing, exploring and being active both indoors and outdoors. Parents were presented with their certificates in Bobs Park.



ESOL Class

On Monday 29th April, the ESOL learners went to the Idea Store at Canary Wharf. The purpose of the visit was to show that they can use any Idea Store in Tower Hamlets with their children. The group then visited the beautiful Roof Gardens followed by a short visit to The Docklands Museum. The learners will be busy from now on preparing

for their exam in mid-June followed by an end of year celebration trip to Margate on Thursday 27th June.

Keep Talking

Thank you to all the parents who have been attending the 'Keep Talking to your Child' course. The course was delivered by Nazia & Peter from the Parental Engagement Team. 'Keep Talking' is a three part interactive workshop that explores ways parents can support their child to become more confident about expressing feelings. Through hands on activities and group discussions, the parents were able to develop their active-listening skills and discover strategies to build their child's resilience and confidence.

Parent Volunteer Workshop

Recently, we organized a refresher Parent volunteer workshop, led by Mrs Rahman. The workshop was primarily to go through the role and responsibility of a volunteer and the key principles of planning an educational school visit. Thank you to all the volunteers who attended the workshop and continue to support us on school trips.

Dates for your diary

- **Parents EID Party** Wednesday 5th June
- **Meet the School Social Worker** Thursday 6th June, 9-10am, Community Room
- **Time 2 Engage Project Trip, Queen Elizabeth Park Tumbling Bay**, Saturday 8th June, 10-3pm
- **Dads Maths Workshop** Tuesday 11th June, 9-11am, Community Room
- **Parent Council: Summer Fete Planning Meeting** Wednesday 12th June, 9-10.00am, Community Room
- **Dads Coffee Morning off site** Wednesday 19th June, 9-11.30am
- **Somali Coffee Morning** Wednesday 26th June, 9-10am, Community Room
- **Picnic in the Park for Parents** Wednesday 3rd July, 9-11.30am
- **Thames Barrier Park/Greenwich trip** Wednesday 10th July



CELEBRATING EID

At present, it is predicted that Eid-Al-Fitr will be on Tuesday 4th June. Should this be the case, the school will be closed on that day. As the timing of the celebration relies on the moon, we will not be able to confirm until the day before. As soon as we know, a text will be sent to all families to confirm when the school will close. The Eid assembly, performed by Year 6, will take place the day after Eid-Al-Fitr and the children will have Eid parties during the afternoon. Parents are welcome to visit the Reception & KS1 parties from 2.15-2.45pm, but no siblings please. We will provide food, but as always we are very grateful for any food donations. If you send in any home cooked food, please add a list of ingredients, so that we can make sure children with allergies are kept safe.

We recommend that children bring their party clothes in and change at lunchtime, so these do not get damaged or dirty at playtimes. If this is not possible, children can wear party clothes for the whole day, as long as they do not pose a safe risk (such as long dresses and flimsy shoes which could cause an accident if the children run). Pupils are **not allowed** to wear jewellery or make up at anytime.

The Parent Council are also arranging a Parents' Party that will take place in the dining hall from 2-3.30pm. We look forward to seeing you there and would like to wish all those celebrating a very happy Eid-Al-Fitr.

Online Safety : Parental Controls

Parental Controls are used to block upsetting or harmful content, control online purchases or even can be used to manage how long your child spends online! There are four main places you can find parental controls:

- **Internet provider:** you can set up filters to help block access to inappropriate content on any device that connects to your home WiFi.
- **Mobile operator:** filters are often automatically set up on mobile contracts, but you can double-check with your provider.
- **Devices:** many devices have parental control settings, for example, to help restrict spending in apps.
- **Online services:** sites like BBC iPlayer and YouTube have parental control settings to help restrict access to inappropriate content.

Have a look at the manual that came with the device as these normally contain some information and a step by step guide on how to install parental controls. You could also type the name of the device plus the words 'parental controls' into a search engine eg. 'Nintendo 2DS + parental controls'. This can help you to find how-to guides and useful video clips.

It is worth being aware that no parental controls or filtering options are 100% effective. For this reason, it is important to educate your child about the potential risks online, and to establish rules concerning the sites that are suitable, or inappropriate, to visit.

In Summer 2 we will be offering time slots to visit our IT Engineer who can help with parental control settings. Dates coming soon!

Below are two useful websites that give advice on setting up parental controls:

- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>
- <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/parents-guide-technology>

Y5 & Y6 EQUALITEACH WORKSHOP



Year 5/6 took part in an excellent workshop last half term focusing on equality. The workshop centred around activities that the children took part in to strengthen their awareness toward

stereotyping and cultural criticism. The workshop highlighted the importance of equality across a range of settings, and the children were able to role play a range of scenarios. For example, one of the activities was to choose 6 people to invite to a party. They were given lots of different guests with varying backgrounds, for example, a famous British singer with 2 awards for their music, or a Bosnian refugee who fled their country to start a new life in the UK. The children had to use their understanding of equality to be fair in which guests they invited. The members of Equaliteach that led the session made sure it was very engaging and fun for the children, and year 5/6 were able to take home activity packs to further their learning at home.

SUMMER FETE

This year our annual Summer Fete will be held on **Wednesday 17th July until 5pm**. Donations of Re-saleable toys, DVDs and Brick-a-Brack needed (Please No Electricals or Clothes). If you are able to help on the day please come and speak to Shelly or Forida. Thank you for your support.

SATs TIME AGAIN

This half term children across the UK have been busy completing the government's SATs tests. During the week beginning 13th 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.

As a thank you for all their hard work, the Year 6 children were taken bowling on Friday 17th May. The children had a great time and were able to relax and enjoy the bowling. It was a fun filled day, with a trip to the park followed by bowling and lunch at the diner. As always our children set a fantastic example with excellent behaviour and good manners.

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 judgements. Again, the children have been well prepared and tried very hard when completing the tests in Reading, Arithmetic and Maths.



I hope that you will join me in thanking all the teachers and support staff involved in SATs for all their hard work in preparing the children and for helping to make the process as less stressful as possible. Children in years 1,3, 4 & 5 will complete school tests in mid-June, so their progress can be recorded. Pupils in Year 1 will also be completing the Phonics Screening (which checks their ability to use phonics to read real and made up words). Children in Reception will be assessed using observations and samples of their work. All results will be shared with parents in their child's end of year report. These will be given out at the Parent Evenings on 9th & 10^h July.

SEND NATIONAL CRISIS

This is a parent led campaign to raise awareness of how cuts in funding SEND pupils is affecting schools. Money that should be spent on all children is now having to be used to cover the additional staffing costs for SEND children. On Thursday 30th May, SEND National Crisis is holding a march in London to raise awareness of this issue and to try and get the government to provide more SEND funding.

Y6 ISLAMIC GOLDEN AGE

This half term, Year 6 have been looking at the Islamic golden age, and how great thinkers of that time have influenced the world we live in today. A key focus has been Islamic art, and Year 6 were lucky enough to go on a trip to the V & A gallery to view some incredible works from all over the



middle east. They were able to learn about how the enormous mosaics and murals were painted in mosques in Baghdad, how stone windows were carved in India, and how these patterns and designs were created. The children will now use some of the ideas they have seen to design their own Islamic tile.

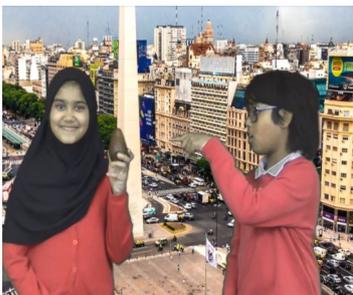
ART EXHIBITION

A group of KS2 children recently had the opportunity to take part in a special project with the Whitechapel Gallery and Architects from Goldsmiths University. The focus of this was to explore different learning environments and how we feel in different spaces. The children had the opportunity to explore a range of different materials, including bamboo, wood, and a wide range of different fabrics, strings and tapes. In the first session, the group made a large scale collaborative structure in the playground. We then visited an exhibition in the Whitechapel Gallery and took part in a workshop to use smaller materials and different joining techniques to make hats and head dresses. Over the next few sessions, the children began working with timber to design and make their own chairs, they even had individual tool boxes with their own tools to do so. Once completed, these personalised chairs were used to further help the children to explore different spaces in the school and supported the children to discuss how they felt in each area. To finish the project, the children exhibited their chairs in the Whitechapel Gallery and hosted a workshop session in which they taught parents and teachers how to use the materials that they have been exploring throughout the different sessions. We wish to thank all those involved in the project for their hard work—the children gained so much from the project and what a thrill to have their work exhibited in a real art gallery! *Photo credits: Learning Environments, Whitechapel Gallery Creative Learning Programme Residency with Old Palace Primary School, 2019. Photo Rob Harris*



Y3 FESTIVAL ASSEMBLY—PASSOVER

Towards the start of term, Year 3 performed our Passover Festival Assembly as part of their RE work about Judaism. The assembly included a retelling of the story of Moses and the Hebrew Exodus from Egypt. As well as the performance, there were video segments explaining what is included in a Seder Plate, the traditional meal of Passover. The children also included their learning about how Passover is celebrated around the world, for example, in Chile avocados are added to the Seder Plate. Thank you, Year 3 for such an entertaining and informative performance.



Y4 STRANGER BY DESIGN

This half term Year 4 went to the new Design Museum in South Kensington, European Museum of the Year 2018. Linking to the children's learning on DT on product purpose and aesthetic, they took part in a workshop where they interacted with key designs through experiential learning. The stranger than design workshop allowed the pupils to find out about the world of unconventional design. The hour long workshop supported the children to gain new perspectives on the role of designers and the impact of design in everyday life. After the workshop year 4 explored the Designer Maker User exhibition where they enjoyed thinking about the purpose of different objects in the galleries and seeing the evolution of products they know. They saw first hand everyday objects, such as tennis balls as well as notable designs including the London 2012 Olympic Torch which were presented at different stages of production. The exhibition included a vinyl player from Dieter Rams, landmark pieces from Sony, including the Walkman and the Minidisc, the Apple iPhone and the Olivetti Valentine typewriter; all demonstrating how design has changed how we communicate.



Y3 INVESTIGATE FORCES

Recently, Year 3 visited the Science Museum as part of their unit on Forces. At a workshop, they investigated various types of forces, such as buoyancy, aerodynamics, friction, magnetism and gravity. The children discovered how submarines use positive buoyancy in order to travel underwater at the right depth, and how aerodynamics help rockets to fly higher and further into space. It was also exciting to see Safiyah and Mr Argent demonstrate how gravity and air resistance are used to throw a heavy ball further! Later in the day, we became scientists in the Wonderlab, exploring a variety of interesting and unusual experiments. These included using pulleys and ropes to lift ourselves up to the ceiling, using water drops to take photographs and even discovering the speed at which the Earth rotates around the Sun. It was a fascinating day, which everyone enjoyed thoroughly.



Y2 EXPLORING HABITATS

Year 2 went to visit the Soanes Centre for their Habitats topic this half term. They got to explore three different habitats: the woodlands, the meadow and the pond. They were fascinated with how many plants were flowering and non flowering and even impressed the tour guide with how much they knew about pollination! They really enjoyed using the nets in the ponds to find different mini beasts that live there and used magnifying glasses to take a closer look.

