



Old Palace Newsletter

September / October 2017

FEELINGS WEEK



At the end of September the school held 'Feelings Week'. Over the course of the week the children explored different feelings, how they made them feel and behave and ways they could manage them. Years 1 & 2 explored being happy, sad, worried and excited, while the older children looked at contrasting emotions: love/vengeance, amused/bored, proud/embarrassed and excited/feeling down.

On Friday all the children looked at anger and spent time looking at the fire work model; deciding on their triggers and what buckets they would use to calm themselves down. This year we also discussed with the children how anger cannot be used as an excuse and held a poster competition to reinforce this. Each classroom now has a feelings display containing work from Feelings Week, which will be used to help the children reflect on their feelings over the year.

To make the week even more creative we combined it with the teaching of painting skills across the school. Each year group looked at paintings and discussed the feelings they portrayed. They then developed their own skills in applying colour mixing and different painting techniques such as layering and creating texture. The children then planned their own composition in their sketch book before creating their final painting. We will be holding further creative weeks over the course of the year.



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IMPORTANT DATES



AUTUMN HALF TERM

School finishes Friday 20th October 2017
Return Monday 30th October 2017

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

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

SCHOOL COUNCIL 2017-18

On Wednesday 5th October children from year 2 up to year 6 had the opportunity to vote for their new school councillors 2017-2018. After listening to the different candidate speeches and posters, they then had to vote for one girl and one boy to represent their class. We had the real voting booths again this year but we also had the real ballot boxes the council use too! All the children took the process very seriously and understood the importance of democracy. The votes have been counted and the 2017-2018 school councillors for are:

- 2M: Sama & Nathan 2D: Natasha & Shabib**
- 3D: Hanifa & Yaqub 3B: Athik & Zaina**
- 4H: Yaseen & Taaiba 4C: Abid & Mahera**
- 5L: Ariyan H & Sadiyah 5H: Ishaq & Isha**
- 6G: Sumayyah S & Samith 6B: Intisar & Binyamin.**

The first meeting took place on Monday 16th October where the councilors signed a contract and created an action plan for the year.



PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

WELCOME/INFORMATION MEETINGS

At the beginning of each academic year, parents are invited to come along to our welcome meetings, these are designed to help parents understand what to expect during the course of the year. At the workshop parents are given important information about what the children will be taught, homework routines and tips on how to best support children at home. We are grateful to those parents who attended, but as you can see from the table attendance levels for some year groups was low. We hope to see as many parents as possible at the workshops we will be providing throughout the year. It takes a lot of time to prepare these, so we want as many families as possible to benefit from the support we provide.

Y6 SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATION PROCESS

On Wednesday 13th September, we held our annual Year 6 transition workshop to support applications for secondary school places. Representatives from several feeder schools came along, some accompanied by ex-pupils to parents about what their school's offered. We also explained the application process and handed out the Tower Hamlets brochure on starting secondary schools. A follow up session was delivered on Wednesday 11th October to support parents in completing their application online. The deadline for **online application is Tuesday 31st October 2017**. If you require help or support in completing the application please come and speak to Forida.

COFFEE MORNINGS

Every Wednesday, the school holds coffee mornings for parents between 9-10am, in the community room. All parents are welcome to join us. Some mornings are workshop based while others are informal. One of our meetings this half term focused on the LBTH **Early Help Hub**, which is designed to help parents who require help or guidance in areas such as parenting, housing, finance to name a few. The Early Help Hub can be contacted on **0207 364 5744**. Forida and Shelly can also provide more information on the services that they offer.

TRIPLE P

On the 3rd October, parents were invited to take part in our Triple P workshop, dealing with disobedience. This discussion based workshop offered suggestions and ideas on positive parenting to help deal with day to day challenges and promote child development. It was great to see how everyone shared and exchanged ideas and their experiences.

DIY HEALTH WORKSHOPS

Parents are invited to take part in the DIY Health Course. This is a 6 week programme which is being facilitated by Francesca and Dr Seema from St Andrews Health Centre. The course is to equip parents and careers with skills on how to manage their child's health at home. Other health topics that will be covered throughout the 6 weeks are fevers, eczema, asthma. Also, which illnesses children should be kept off school with.

LEAFLETING

Recently several tutoring and childcare companies have been leafleting outside the school gate. Please note that the school does not have any knowledge of the services they provide and cannot comment on the quality of provision that they provide. Some children may benefit from tutoring, whereas other children may get confused if the tutor uses different methods to those taught in school. We review each child's progress termly and where needed put in place extra adult support through interventions, usually run by our support staff. This together with the quality teaching we provide should allow all our children to succeed without the need for additional tutoring.

PARENT COUNCIL



On Friday 6th October we invited last year's Parent Council to a special assembly, where they were awarded a certificate and the children and staff thanked them for all their support last year. Following this refreshments

were provided in the Community Room. We are proud to announce the following parents have been elected as Parent Councillors for 2017-18:

Class	Name of Parent	Name of Child
RB	Abdul Rahim	Umair
	Jahanara Begum	Jumana
RD	Jalal Miah	Manha J
	Shazna Khatun	Tasnim
1L	Amina Begum Shamim Ali	Summayah Asma
1S	Yacine Dhabi Sahra Ahmed	Ahmed Omar
2M	Nazma Ali Ummer Pookkayil	Myrah Yasmin
2D	Nurun Nehar Parul	Natasha
	Gulshan Kurshid	Musa
3D	Jubeda Khatun	Muaz
	Nadia Mohamed	Abdiraazaq
3B	Siddique Ahmed	Saffiyah
	Mujahid Pinky Begum	Yunus
4C	Ruksana Begum	Mysha
	Maimuna Omar	Zahra
4H	Yashrun Nehar	Zayeed
	Abaigail Smith	Taya
5L	Abdul Wadud	Sajida
	Habiba Begum	Sadeka
5H	Syed Mostofa	Yoonus
	Naharun Nehar	Safa
6G	Amina Begum	Aminul
	Fatheha Begum	Moushin
6B	Rajna Begum	Tahiya
	Monwara Begum	Shahid

The Parent Council meetings usually take place in the morning between 9.15-10am, these are attended by each phase Councillor, Shelly, our Parent Support Worker and the Headteacher. If you have any suggestions on how we can



continue to improve the school, please forward these to the relevant parent councillor. We will provide a summary of the topics discussed this term in a later newsletter.

SAFEGUARDING

At the start of the new academic year, we wish to remind parents of our safeguarding procedures. The school follows the guidelines set down by the DfE and the London Safeguarding Children Board.

In the event of a child saying something that raises concerns about their safety or wellbeing, staff are trained to follow the steps below:

- ⇒ Listen to the child and let them know that you take what they are saying seriously.
- ⇒ Do not attempt to question or interview them.
- ⇒ Let them know that you will need to tell someone else in order to help them.
- ⇒ Do not promise to keep what they tell you secret.
- ⇒ Make a written record of the incident or events on the school's Record of Concern.
- ⇒ Inform your Designated Safeguarding Lead straight-away.

The school's **Designated Safeguarding Lead is Miss Kurup**. If she is not in school, the concern is passed to Mr Palmer.

They then telephone the Tower Hamlets Child Protect Advice Line, which is staffed by a team of social workers. They take down details of the concern and consider what needs to happen next. Once they have made a decision, they call back the school and tell us what to do next. In most cases they tell us to discuss the matter with the parents, however sometimes they may wish to send a social worker to interview the child and the parents. In these cases the school will supervise the child until the social worker arrives (depending on what other incidents the social workers are dealing with, this can take two or more hours). During this time, social services may advise us not to share any details of the concern with parents. We appreciate that this will be a distressing time for parents and will try to minimise this as much as possible. Such cases are rare—in the school year 2016-17, social workers were only sent to interview children on two occasions.

Having reported the concern the school has fulfilled its duty of care. From then on social services take over and decide on what further action, if any, to take.

If you would like more information on Child Protection our policy is on the school website and Miss Kurup is in the playground most mornings. It is important to understand the facts rather than listening to rumours.

Y4 BRITISH MUSEUM TRIP

This half term in Year 4, the children have been learning about Ancient Egypt and deserts. As part of their learning, they visited the British Museum, where they attended a workshop about the work of archaeologists, the tools they



use and how they ensure they protect the sites they are excavating. The children then went on to sort a number of artefacts themselves, using their knowledge of Ancient Egypt and chronology. The children really enjoyed walking around the different galleries where they were able to see Ancient Egyptian

artefacts such as sarcophaguses, canopic jars and the Rosetta stone engraved with hieroglyphs. The children were excited to see all their learning come to life at the museum and were eager to share their knowledge of the topic with the museum staff. Overall it was a very fun and exciting day in Year 4!

TIN CAN CHALLENGE

Old Palace took part in the Food Bank challenge again this year! We started off the challenge by inviting Debbie, from the Tower Hamlets Food bank, to an assembly to tell us all about what they do and why they need donations. The children were then asked to bring in cans of food throughout the week. All the classes did really well as we donated just over 1100 cans of food! This year a prize was offered to the KS1 and KS2 class who brought in the most. The winners this year were 2M with 182 cans and 6B with



97. Both classes will receive a golden time game of their choice. On Friday 13th October, Barney from the food bank, came to collect all the items and was overwhelmed by Old Palace's generosity! He said it was definitely the biggest collection so far this year. Thank you very much!

FUNDRAISING FOR ST JOSEPH'S HOSPICE

We would also like to say THANK YOU to our school community for taking part in our recent cake sales. With the support of the children, staff and parents we have raised a fantastic **£235**. We were so impressed by the fantastic range of delicious cakes that were donated from staff & parents. Ms. Davis also run half Marathon on 8th October 2017 in the Royal Parks. The money raised will be going to St Joseph's Hospice for terminally ill cancer patients. We would like to say a huge thank you for to all those who supported her and for the kind donations received.

Y1 VISIT NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

On Tuesday 17th October, Year 1 visited the National Portrait Gallery. We looked at a number of different pictures, ranging from old and traditional pictures to more recent and contemporary pictures. We also attended a workshop where we learned more about the people in the portraits. The children particularly liked the portrait of Henry VIII and enjoyed putting to good use their acting skills to recreate the painting!



FOUNDATION : STAY AND READ SESSIONS

In our Foundation Stage we have started an exciting 'Friday Read time'. The parents have been invited to a reading afternoon (From 3pm) every Friday – where they can enjoy a reading session in class with their child. The sessions are planned with the class topic and the story of the week in mind, but also having a wide selection of story



books, including non-fiction. Children have been enjoying their reading sessions, every child has been engaged with a story book of their choice. It would be great to have more parents to come along, you can bring your own books too! A big thank you to those parents who have been attending

since the start of the sessions.

SPORTS LEADERS & PREFECTS

Year 6 had to prove they had the right character traits to become a sports leader or prefect this year. During the application process, they had to explain why they would be good for the role and state any previous experience of having a responsibility. It was a hard job selecting from so many great applications, but after much deliberation we finally made our decision. The children were informed and started their duties immediately. **This years prefects are:**



Neo, Shahid, Ikran, Tahiya, Arifa, Aisha, Hazera, Taa'ibah, Salma, Farhana, Angelica, Mariam, Faseeha, Sifat, Hiba, Adam, Isha, Maryam, Intisar, Maisha, Rumaisha, Juhaina, Zaynab, Farhana, Summayah S, Zahrah K and Zack.

This years sports leaders are:



Ishaq, Zaid, Nayeem, Mouhsin, Musa, Habibur, Faseeha, Khadiija, Sumiya, Aminul, Samith, Rayan and Sadiqul. They have been given hi-vis jackets so they are easily recognisable when their help is needed. Congratulations to them and I'm sure they will contribute to making our school happy and safe.

FOOD TECHNOLOGY IN Y2



This half term in year 2 we are learning about healthy living. As part of our unit we have some visitors, chefs Jeremy Ford and Jason Nicholas They came to school to help with our learning, bringing a variety of different foods for us to investigate. Children used their 5 senses to experience different types of food and learn about what they were.

The chefs also talked to the children about why we must have a healthy diet and reminded children what this should include. The children loved taste testing different foods and found out how our taste buds taste different flavors like sweet, salty, bitter and sour. Some lucky children will be going to visit them at their kitchen in Canary Wharf after half term and then the chefs will be back in school in November to do some more healthy cooking lessons with us. We can't wait for their next visit.

SCHOOL TRIPS

As a school we value the learning that children gain from educational trips. To provide trips we depend on parent volunteers to help us to supervise groups of children. Before each trip the teacher will brief the parent volunteers on arrangement for the day and what is expected, however sometimes these briefings are not as effective as they should be, especially as sometimes parent volunteers arrive late. To address this we will be holding workshops for parents, during which we will explain the role and responsibilities of volunteering on a school trip. These will take place on:

- Y3 & 4 Friday 3rd Nov, 9-10am, Lower hall.
- Y1 & 2 Tuesday 7th Nov, 9-10am, Community room.
- Y5 & 6 Friday 10th Nov, 9-10am, Lower hall.

Although we do not wish to exclude any parents, we do need to ensure that the volunteers have the skills and understanding needed to help us keep the children safe. For this reason, will keep a record of the parents who have attended and in future, only parents who have completed one of these workshops will be chosen as volunteers on trips.



Y5 VISIT KENT

Earlier this term year 5 travelled To Eynsford, Kent to carry out fieldwork, and visit Lullingstone Villa, as part of their topic on Romans. The children visited the ancient ruins of the Villa, and learnt all about the history of its inhabitants, before setting off

around Eynsford town to carry out fieldwork research about the differences between village and city life. The children also visited the local school, Anthony Roper, to interview the pupils, and find out what life is like in a village school.

Y3 EXPLORE PRE HISTRIC FOSSILS

On Wednesday, 20th September the children in year 3 visited the Natural History Museum. During the visit they worked in groups to perform their own fossil dig, uncovering mystery specimens from excavation boxes. In the afternoon we observed and drew bone structures to interpret the species their fossil came from.



Y6 VISIT IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

Year 6 had the opportunity to visit the Imperial War Museum to find out more about World War 2. To begin with, they explored the museum and sought out key artefacts which were significant to the story My Friend The Enemy. Children

were excited to see life size models of jet planes which were used during the war: it was significant to our story which was based on a pilot who had crash landed in Germany. They attended a workshop where they got the opportunity to meet two evacuees from the war. The children were able to ask questions they had prepared at school helping them to develop a deeper understanding of what life was like at this time. 6B will be performing our Remembrance Assembly on Friday 10th November.