



# Old Palace Newsletter

December 2018

## CELEBRATING THE FESTIVE SEASON



Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December was a day filled with fun and festivity. The day began with Year 1 performing our annual Christmas festival assembly. Through great acting and singing, the children told the story of the star that couldn't shine. As the children have been learning about Christianity they also shared what they had learnt about Christmas celebrations around the world and shared photos from their visit to All Hallows Church in Bow, where they took a tour around the Church and saw different artefacts, including a manger. It was fantastic to see so many parents at the assembly—thank you for supporting the children's performance. Following the assembly, Christmas dinner was served. Grace and her team did a fantastic job cooking up a yuletide feast, including turkey, stuffing, carrots, parsnips, roast potatoes and snowman ice cream. The Chair, Vice chair of Governors, staff and children ate together, surrounded by festive music and the wonderful Christmas decorations created by the children.



We continue with the festive theme, on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup>, when the children dressed up in their party outfits ready for the afternoon parties. Parents of our younger children were invited to join their children for the fun and games which started at 2pm. It didn't stop there though! Much to the children's delight, they had a surprise visit from Santa Clause. He went from class to class in Reception & Key Stage 1 and handed out treats to the children. Meanwhile in the dining hall, parents pulled crackers, played musical chairs and danced to festive music. There was a wide variety of food available and every-one left feeling very full! We would like to thank the Parent Councillors who helped plan the party and all the families who kindly brought along delicious food to share. A big thank you to our enthusiastic group of dads who enjoyed helping by serving food, clearing, washing and supporting the party in every possible way.



## IMPORTANT DATES



### END OF AUTUMN TERM

School finishes **2PM Friday 21st December 2018**  
Return to School **Tuesday 8th January 2019**

### SPRING HALF TERM

School finishes **Friday 15th February 2019**  
Return to School **Monday 25th February 2019**

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

## CHRISTMAS CAROLS



On Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December, Old Palace School Choir were invited to sing a few Christmas carols at Tesco in Bromley by Bow. The children had spent lots of time rehearsing and sang a wide variety of Christmas classics such as 'Rocking around the Christmas tree' and 'Jingle Bells'. The children sang beautifully with lots of shoppers watching and applauding. The Tesco staff said that they were one of the best choirs they had ever had at the store! The children also managed to raise £55 for their Christmas parties! A big well done to all the children who performed and all the staff who helped prepare the children for the performance!

**UPCOMING RESIDENTIAL TRIPS for Y3, 4 & 5**



Every year, the school arranges residential trips for children in KS2 and this academic year we will be introducing two new experiences. We will be holding parent workshops in January, but to help parents budget we have indicated the likely costs below:

**Year 3: 1 nights, 2 days at Thriftwood (Brentwood)**

**Date: June 2019, Cost £30**

Activities include: Zipline, Laser tag, Camp fire, Maze, Cresta run and Bushcraft.

**Year 4: 2 nights, 3 days at Gilwell Park**

**Date: May 2019, Cost £80**

Activities include: Archery, Raft Building, 3D swing, Leap of Faith, Camp fire, Crate Staking and Climbing Wall.

**Year 5: 2 nights 3 days at Mersea Island**

**Date: July 2019, Cost £85**

Activities include: Bushcraft, Assault Course, Caving, Aerial trekking, Kit Karts, Biking and Scavenge Hunt.

**Year 6: Day trip : France, Paris**

**Date: April 2019, Cost £100**

Activities include: Sightseeing & Seine boat trip.

**TIME 2 ENGAGE PROJECT**



On Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December, Mrs Naeem and Shelly accompanied our pupil premium parents with their children from Foundation

stage and KS1 to watch a theatre production, funded by Pupil Premium Grant of Julia Donaldson's hugely popular children's story 'Stick Man'. This was to mark the end of our Autumn 2 Time 2 Engage workshops. The venue was in Leicester Square and the children were enthralled by the show as they watched the actors perform on stage. Parents and children both loved their trip to the theatre! Time to Engage continues next term, this time with a focus on Maths.



**STAR CITIZENS - AUTUMN 2018**

We would like to congratulate the following pupils for achieving the star citizen award this term. Well Done and keep up the good work.

- Reception** Mikail RM & Nabila RB
- Year One** Benyamin 1S & Ayana 1L
- Year Two** Yaqub 2D & Sahil 2M
- Year Three** Safiyah 3H & Elizah 3L
- Year Four** Jenifa 4C & Abdala 4T
- Year Five** Samina 5A & Ashrak 5D
- Year Six** Sami 6H & Sama 6G

**ONLINE SAFETY- ROBLOX**

Roblox is a gaming platform where multiple players interact and play together online. The site has a collection of games aimed at 8-18 year olds, however players of all ages can use the site. Every game on Roblox is created by users. These can vary from delivering pizzas, to roaming a kingdom as a medieval knight, to even starring in a fashion show.



**Key things to be Aware of:**

There are no age restrictions. This means both adults and young people can play and communicate with each other on the platform. All games include a written chat feature. Users can also make and receive friend requests during gameplay and this means that they can chat to each other outside of the game. Because content is user-generated it can mean that some games might not be appropriate for young children.

**The Safety Features Available Block and report:**

Make sure your child knows how to find and use the report and block functions. <https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/203312410>

**Safety settings:**

Set up the parental controls that are right for your family. You can also disable chat, set up the Parent PIN and use the Account Restrictions within Roblox. <https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/203313120-Safety-Features-Chat-Privacy-Filtering>

**Settings for under 13s:**

There are additional safety features for under-13s, so it's worth checking your child's account is registered with the correct age. Players under the age of 13 have a <13 symbol next to their username on the game at all times, however this is not displayed to other players.



**Congratulations to all the following children for Achieving 100% Attendance Autumn Term 2018 (4th September to 19th December 2018)**

- ★ **Reception** Ihsan, Irfan, Nabila, Musab, Maryam K, Maryam A, Ahianul & Nasif.
- ★ **Year One:** Sufian, Mahirul, Kaysah, Aria, Ismah, Sanjarah, Tamim, Afsana, Raheel, Umair, Sulaiman & Khadijah.
- ★ **Year Two:** Ayana, Rabiul, Yameen, Mahibah, Hamza, Aanisah, Taiba, Ismail, Ayesha, Safa, Faria, Isma'il, Madeeha, Hanzlah, Ayaan, Maryam, Isra & Nabila.
- ★ **Year Three:** Amaan, Myrah, Prohor, Eiliyah, Liyana, Sifat, Ihsan, Isa, Zaynab, Shabib, Sahla, Dawud, Zaim & Ummi.
- ★ **Year Four** Wassim, Kaif, Ayo, Orpona, Firdoos, Deena, Rumaysa, Muntaz, Farhan, Rawhiyah, Hafeezah, Tayiba, Ihsan, Zayna, Usha, Yusuf, Muhsin, Muna, Ismail, Mahdi, Fayeezah, Mansoor & Tamanna.
- ★ **Year Five:** Nusaiba, Zahir, Mohammed, Baraka, Zayeed, Jamie, Maryam, Farhaduz, Amaan, Imtiyaz, Gbolahan, Ambar, Abu, Ikhwan, Samia, Maniha, Rakin, Steven, Tamim & Usman.
- ★ **Year Six:** Umar, Younis, Adnan, Amaanul, Jayed, Victoria, Tahir, Safia, Al Hadi, Sajida, Safa, Alamin, Aryan, Zainab, Isha, Amana, Mariya & Hamza.



## Y5 ROYAL OBSERVATORY VISIT



Year 5 travelled to Greenwich to visit the Royal observatory as part of their Space and Forces topic. It was a fantastic trip, in which all the children took part in various interactive activities involving a computer generated launch control mission. This was followed by a 'Meet the Neighbours' workshop which involved sitting back and observing a computer generated imitation of space. This was led by an astronomer, who guided the children on a tour of our Solar System.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- ◆ **Welcome Back Coffee Morning**  
Wednesday 9th January for all parents.  
9-10am Community Room
- ◆ **Time 2 Engage Project workshops**  
Wednesday 9th January - 3.30-4.30pm  
Wednesday 23rd January - 3.30-4.30pm  
Wednesday 6th February - 3.30-4.30pm
- ◆ **ESOL class**  
Monday 14th January  
1.40-3.30pm Community Room
- ◆ **Mum's Zumba & Keep Fit sessions**  
Friday 25th January - limited places  
9.15-10.15am Lower Hall
- ◆ Family Trip (for the project families only) to the Science Museum, Maths exhibition, Winton Gallery is booked for Saturday 9th February. Further details will be provided near the time by Shelly.
- ◆ **Keep Talking for KS2 families**  
Start Tuesday 5th March  
9-11.30 Community Room
- ◆ **Outdoor Learning for parents**  
Starts Tuesday 30th April  
9-11.30 Community Room

All parents are welcome to attend these workshops. If you would like further information please come and speak to Forida or Shelly, our Parent Support Workers.

### LOST PROPERTY

Lost property will be available for you to check in the KS2 Playground tomorrow, Friday 21st December from 1.45pm. All uncollected items will be disposed of given to the recycling centre.

Please note the school will be closing at **2pm** for the Christmas Holiday. We will reopen as normal on Tuesday 8th January 2019.

## Y6 INTENSIVE SWIMMING

As part of our drive to ensure all pupils can swim 5m before they leave Old Palace, 21 pupils from Year 6 took part in daily swimming lessons over a two week period. The course involved getting the children initially more confident about being in the water, by taking part in confidence exercises, swimming lengths and putting their heads under water. As the weeks progressed, the children grew in confidence and the teachers were very pleased with their progress. All children passed the course and are now much more confident swimmers! Well done year 6!



Don't forget all Tower Hamlets residents can **swim for free** at the borough's pools on Fridays from 9am until close. On Saturdays families can also swim for free before midday.

## Y1 AT THE SCIENCE MUSEUM

This half term, the children have been exploring materials and their properties. They conducted a science experiment where they tested different materials to find the best one to use to build a strong, water proof house for the three little pigs. Following all this learning, the children visited the Science Museum. The children were amazed when they explored the different exhibitions. The children engaged in an interactive Three Little Pig's workshop where they learnt more about different materials. The children enjoyed exploring the different materials and further deepened their understanding.



## G&T FRENCH TRIP

As part of learning more about French culture, a group of Year 5 and 6 children recently visited the French Institute. In the morning, we participated in a variety of seasonal activities. Here, we explored in greater detail, the vocabulary of Christmas, discussing various French traditions and preparing our letters to Père Noël (Santa). The children showed great interest, concentration and perseverance when learning new grammatical points, such as the masculine, feminine and plural forms of adjectives, as well as different sentence structures. After lunch, we attended a cinema screening of "Ernest et Célestine en hiver", a series of four short films following the adventures of a bear and a mouse in the wintry French countryside. It was a fun day and the children made us very proud, showing consideration and courtesy towards other passengers on the crowded, tube journey back to school



# PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

Here's a summary of the topics discussed by the Parents Councillors for each year group and agreed with our Headteacher.

Year	Issues raised	Action agreed to support parents/children
FS	Toilets	Posters to be added to brighten the place, flooring replaced and new toilet roll holders sourced.
	Lunch option for children with allergies	Special menus are now in place for pupils with allergies and these are displayed on the school website.
	Physical Education (PE)	P.E will be introduced in the outdoor area in Spring term, and then in the hall from summer term. One of the TAs is a gymnastic coach and so will be able to support these lessons.
	Daily blog	Twitter is being trialled in Year 3 and if successful will be extended to other year groups in the summer.
	Notices for parents	Notice board will be put outside the Foundation Stage doors.
	Reading	Parents stated Bug Club is excellent for children to read online. Level books will also be sent home from Spring term.
	Handwriting	Homework in cursive script had been sent out in error and the Head explained what would be put in place to better support new parents in 2019. Pre-cursive letters to be given to parents so that children can practice at home. All children will be expected to use pre-cursive letter by the start of the Summer term.
	Positive feedback	Excellent workshops run by school for parents, well informative and full of positive ideas.
Y1	Communication	Teachers to appear more friendly at the end of the school day.
	Collection List	Teachers to wait for parents to come to the door before dismissing children.
	Homework	Children to complete homework during golden time. Speak to Shelly/Forida if parents need support.
	Physical Education	Parents to practice getting the children to change in and out of their clothes at home, this will build confidence and speed when they are in school.
	Positive feedback	Good communication with school & home. Issues get dealt with promptly.
Y2	Communication	Teachers to speak slowly, and smile more when interacting with parents.
	Bug Club	Children who do not read at home use golden time to read their bug club books.
	Lunch time club	Some pupils take part in sports club. There is also a Maths club for children who need additional support.
	Trips	Please make sure you read the newsletter for trip dates .
	Homework	Children peer mark when in their sets. Teachers overlook this and go over the ques-
Y3	Lunchtime play	Staff on duty to pay particular attention to area around the school fence.
	Cutlery	More cutlery has been provided by Tower Hamlets ( as they manage the kitchen).
	Twitter	A trial of class Twitter pages is underway.
Y4	Spelling	Check spelling words before being sent out.
	Christmas Jumpers	School asked not to hold a Christmas Jumper day, but to allow children to dress
	Young Voices	Banner to be made before the 4th February Young Voices concert. Shelly to organise in spring term.
Y5	Football at lunchtimes	Different year groups play football on different days. Sport leaders manage this. If children do not follow instructions-they are sent to the 'safe zone' to cool down. The safe zone is supervised by the Head, Deputy or Assistant Heads.
	School football team	A general Y5/6 football club will be provided later in the year, which children who have not been selected for the school team will be able to attend.
	Test	At parent consultations teachers will share the children's results and what support would be helpful at home.
	Somali families	Somali Parent Coffee mornings will run once a term in the community Room.
Y6	Paris Trip	Will be in April. A meeting will be held for year 6 parents in January.
	Trip Calendar	Half termly will be provided in the year group newsletters. Booking process makes it impossible to share dates for the year.
	Trip reminders	Please check newsletters for dates & details.
	Lunchtime supervision	Children who need time out are sent to the 'safe zone' where the head or Assistant head teachers are on duty every day. Safe zone is working really well.
	Booster Classes	Booster classes will be taught at lunchtimes in the Spring term as early morning classes have not worked in the past due to punctuality.

# CREATIVE ART WEEK



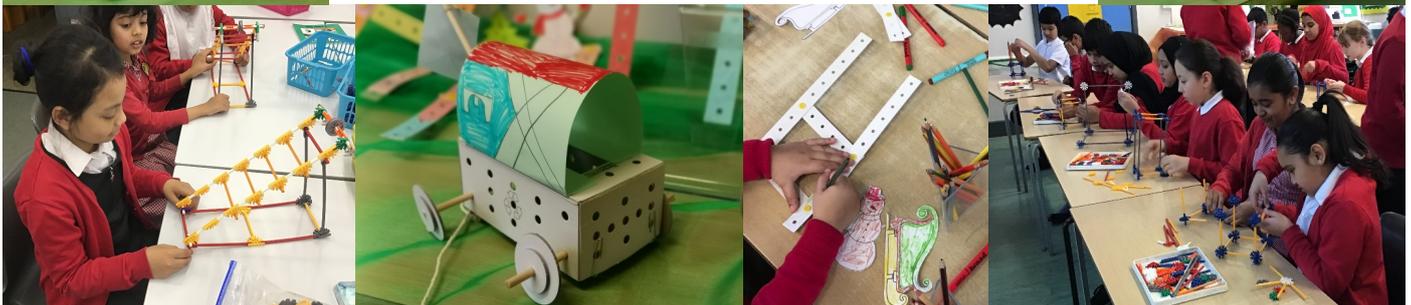
During week 7, the children took part in a Creative Week with a printing theme. In Reception and Year 1, the children explored the effects made by printing with different fruits and vegetables. The Year 2 children made relief printing blocks by carving into polystyrene sheets to create a landscape print. In Year 3, the children created printing blocks using string, taking inspiration from their, How Does Your Garden Grow? The children in Year 4 cut shapes out of foam to create printing blocks and designed prints based on the healthy lives part of their topic. In Year 5, the children used their knowledge of space to create mono prints, using ink on top of acetate sheets. Finally Year 6, used lino cutting tools to create relief printing blocks, designing their prints around the animals that they have been learning about as part of their topic Life Stories.



# CREATIVE WEEK OT DAYS



This half term the children learnt about different mechanisms during our Design Technology creative week. The children used tech card (KS1 + Y3) and K'nex construction kits (Y4 - Y6) to gain a better understanding of simple and complex mechanisms. They added an element of design by including their own finishing touches linked to their topic from this half term. David and his team, once again, came to assist us on the two days and the children were very keen to show off their talents. Year 1 made Christmas cards using linkages, Year 2 made vehicles using axles and wheels, Year 3 made spinning flowers using cams, Year 4 made inclined planes using K'nex, Year 5 made space buggies using axles and wheels and finally Year 6 added an electrical component to their fairground rides using K'nex. Not only was the day fun, it also enabled them to show off their artistic and creative skills. Thank you again to David and his team for helping us provide such a fun and valuable experience for the children.



## BUG CLUB READING WORKSHOP



On Friday 23rd November a workshop was held for Reception explaining how to access Bug Club. The workshop explained to parents what Bug Club is, how to access it with their child and how to support them with using Bug Club at home. They were also given some resources to take home to support children with their reading. It was great to see Reception parents turn up, keen to know how else they can support their children with their reading.

## MATHS WORKSHOP

This half term year 1-4 parents were invited to join the Maths team for a bar modelling workshop. There was a good turn out, with over 30 parents attending! At the workshop parents looked at ways that they could support their children in using the bar model to problem solve. A bar model is a strategy to help children visualize a problem and can be used for all four operations. Parents looked at examples of children's work where they used the bar model to help them, this included examples for solving problems about perimeter, area, money and for calculations and word problems. The session ended with parents having the opportunity to ask the Maths team any further questions they had about how best to support their children at home. Thank you to all who attended.



*Get ready... Get set... Calculate!*

Here at Old Palace we will be running a mental maths challenge to see how well the children you can calculate.

These challenges will take place in two parts. During the first week back after the holiday there will be a class competition held to find one extraordinary mathematician from each class.

**Round 1:** Everyone will get a chance to participate in some fun maths challenge rounds answering questions on the key stage's topic listed below. The top mathematician from each class will proceed to round 2.

**Round 2:** The top mathematician from each class will compete in a challenge round answering questions within their key stages and the winner of the key stage round will win a special Maths Prize!

The key stage competitions will take place in week 2.

### Topics

KS1 (years 1 and 2) number bonds to ten and doubling (2x table)!

LKS2 (years 3 and 4) times tables from 1 to 10 and maybe even 0!

UKS2 (years 5 and 6) mental arithmetic – addition, subtraction, multiplication and division!

### What you can do!

Practice, practice, practice...

Over the holiday we encourage you to practice your mental maths. If you are in KS1 practice your number bonds and doubling. If you are in LKS2 practice those times tables and... If you are in UKS2 practice your mental arithmetic.

## GOVERNORS MESSAGE

The Chair of Governors Veronica Kennard would like to thank all the pupils, parents and staff for all their hard work and achievements this term.

For those celebrating Christmas, on behalf of the board of Governors at Old Palace we wish you all a good Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## TOWER HAMLETS BOOK AWARD SCHEME



The Year 6 book club has been meeting this term to read and discuss the six books selected for the Tower Hamlets Book Award. The books covered a range of themes and experiences such as: monsters, sudden loss and journeys. Each week the pupils would meet to review the books they had read, they would discuss what they found interesting or didn't like. The children enjoyed designing book marks, pictures and posters about the books they have read. They were also fortunate to meet the authors of two of the novels at the finale of the Book Award scheme in Canary Wharf on the 25<sup>th</sup> November. At that event they took part in a vote, along with other schools, to decide what the most popular book of 2018 would be. The winner was 'Mego Robo Rumble' by Neill Cameron. We will be creating a display of all of our work in the Junior Library. Please do come and have a look at it.



## BREAKFAST CLUB

As you already know, the school operates a Healthy Breakfast Club for children everyday between 8-9am in the Community Room.

**Spaces are now available from January 2019.**

If you would like your child to attend, please speak to a member of the office staff. Cost per child is £1.50 per day, reduced to 80p for families in receipt of Free School Meals. There are further discounts available for families with 3 or more children. All fees to breakfast club must be paid in advance. To check your eligibility for Free School Meals please visit <https://pps.lgfl.org.uk>.



## KEEPING THE SCHOOL UPDATED

Please remember that it is YOUR responsibility as a parent to keep the school well informed regarding changes to your contact details. You MUST NOTIFY us of any changes to 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](http://oldpalaceprimary.co.uk/privacy-policy) on how the school manages the data we hold.