



## MECHANISMS DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY DAY



This half term the children learnt about different mechanisms. As part of our creative curriculum, the children used tech card to create and get a better understanding of simple and complex mechanisms. Before making their products, the children conducted a 'product analysis' where they looked at existing mechanical toys to see who the product is made for, what materials were used and estimate the cost. Having completed this, they were also taught how their toy uses simple mechanisms to work. Once this was completed, the children then began designing their toy. This gave the children an opportunity to show their originality and show off their creative design skills. After making their toy they were then given the opportunity to evaluate their work, which enabled them to reflect on what they had produced. They added an element of design by adding their own finishing touches.



The children were very keen to show off their design and technology talents and impressed their teachers. Year 1 made Cards using linkages, Year 2 made vehicles using axles and wheels, Year 3 made spinning figures using cams, Year 4 made a fairground ride using pulleys and cams, Year 5 made rotating figures using pulleys, axles and cams. Finally Year 6 added an electrical component to their snapping crabs. Not only was the day fun, it also enabled the children to develop their understanding of a range of mechanisms that we use in daily life.



## IMPORTANT DATES



### CHRISTMAS ASSEMBLY

Wednesday 18th December 2019 @ 10am

### END OF AUTUMN TERM

School finishes 2PM Friday 20th December 2019

### SPRING TERM 1

Return to School Tuesday 7th January 2020

School finishes Friday 14th February 2020

### END OF SPRING TERM

Return to School Monday 24th February 2020

School finishes Friday 3rd April 2020

For all other important dates, updates, correspondence, text messages and performance videos, please visit our school website [www.oldpalaceprimary.co.uk](http://www.oldpalaceprimary.co.uk)

## CHRISTMAS EVENTS

### Wednesday 18th December

- Y1 Christmas Festival assembly—10am
- Christmas School Dinner

### Thursday 19th December

- Parents Christmas Party 2pm in the Dining Hall
- Reception Christmas Party 2pm in Top Hall
- Y1-6 Children Parties in classrooms

We recommend that children come into school wearing school uniform and change at lunchtime to prevent party clothes becoming dirty or damaged. If you are sending children to school in party clothes please think carefully about safety, as running in long dresses and flimsy shoes is highly likely to result in an accident. Pupils are **not allowed** to wear jewellery or make up at any time.

Parents of Reception Children are invited to join their children in the Top Hall. Parents of children in Year 1 & 2 may drop into classrooms before attending the Parents Party. Due to the limited space we cannot accommodate younger siblings.

The Parents Christmas Party will commence from 2pm and take place in the Dining Hall. As always any food contribution towards the Christmas parties will be greatly appreciated, but please remember to label your dishes clearly with the ingredients.

We look forward to seeing you all at the parents' party!

# PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

## PARENT COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

Below is a summary of issues discussed with the Headteacher during Parent Council Meetings this term.

Year	Issues raised	Action agreed to support parents/children
FS	Homework Feedback	Teachers to provide verbal feedback on the half term activities sent home
	Reading at Home	Second workshop to be held on Reading expectations in January. Ms Gomez available in the mornings to help with Bug Club log-ins
	Pre cursive Handwriting	Handwriting workshop to be held in January. Next year this to happen in Autumn 1
	Trip late return	Lack of signal prevented message being sent. School to investigate Wi-Fi option on the tube.
	Open car park gate	Health & Safety prevents children using the same entrance as vehicles
	Milk	Free Milk available for Nursery Schools. School to look into possibility of milk being available at lunchtime next year.
	Morning Welcome	Headteacher to divide time between KS1 & KS2 playgrounds in the morning.
	Breakfast Club	Look into possibility of holding some reserved places that can be booked the Friday before.
	Clothes	Headteacher asked Councillors to remind parents to label clothes clearly & send spare clothes to school in case of accidents.
	Swimming	School to arrange meeting time/ place to support parents taking their child to swim at Poplar Baths. Sessions run from 4-7pm on Mondays, Tuesdays & Fridays and no booking is required.
Y1	Medical treatment	From January text to be sent before bedtime to the parents of children who have received a green slip.
	Swimming	As above
	Lanyard	Parents of children with allergies meet with the school nurse so a care plan can be completed. Lanyard are taken to KS1 classrooms and put on before the children go to the dining hall.
	Safeguarding	Parent Councillors stated that some schools do not allow under 16's to collect siblings and suggested that Old Palace implements this. This will be done from the start of next term
	Head lice	Information on head lice to be included in the October/November newsletter.
	Working in partnership	Effective home-school partnerships are based on trust. Teachers are thankful for the support of parents and the impact this has on their teaching and the children's learning.
Y2	Heating	Temperatures to be monitored. New digital thermostats installed and may need adjusting.
	Lost books/charges	Miss Begum is aware of the issue. Teachers to remind children that returned books need to be placed in the library box and not anywhere else.
Y3	PE	Boys & girls to change at opposite sides of the classroom from January.
	Swimming	Presently swimming takes up one lesson. Moving it to the afternoon would mean it takes up two lessons, resulting in less teaching of other subjects. Councillors suggested it stay as it is because they did not want the children to miss out on learning.
	Parenting course	Parenting courses are delivered every half term in school. Forida is a trained facilitator. School has developed its own shorter courses following from parents that it was difficult to commit for 13 weeks.
	Councillors	Text message to be sent to parents at the start of Spring 2 to remind them to speak to their Parent Councillors.
	Research Project	Headteacher clarified that certificates are given for best overall and best effort
Y4	Parent Consultation	Helpful if dates could be sent out earlier. School to action this.
	Research Projects	Some parents suggested that certificates be withdrawn as it demoralised children who did not win. Head explained that photos of research projects are included on the class pages on the website to celebrate everyone's achievements. Year leaders would monitor impact of certificates alongside work on resilience.
	Communication	Calendar on school website lists workshops to inform parents. School aims to send a text 1 week before and then a reminder 2 days before
	Homework	School provides workshop to support families. KS2 children can access a Friday lunchtime homework club run by older children. It is important that children complete homework independently, so teachers can assess their understanding.
	Toilets	Bars of soap are used in toilets as some children empty the liquid soap containers. Liquid soap is available in each classroom.
	World Book Week	There will not be a theme this year as requested by last year's Parent Council. Dressing-up day will be Friday 6th March.
Y5	Trip charges	Children can travel for free on TLF but venues charge for workshops. The school subsidises costs.
	Football	Children are hurting themselves due to the ground. Turf would not be suitable, as the area is used for a range of sports. School will explore the feasibility of other surfaces.
	Communication	See above
Y6	Red Cards	Parents asked for clarification on the use of warnings. Warnings are not given in the case of the children running in designated areas in the playground. All children are aware of this and reminders are given at the start of each term.
	Paris Trip	This is planned to take place in March before the Easter break, dependent on travel arrangements following a possible Brexit.
	Smoking	Councillor raised the issue of some parents smoking in the area directly outside the school gate. Year 6 children will be working on health in January and so will design posters to discourage this
	Car engines running	Headteacher explained that he had been successful in securing funding as part of the School Street project, which would allow ivy screening to be extended to the school perimeter as requested by the Parent Council last year. Tower Hamlets are also considering a scheme to limit access to Bruce Road & St Leonard's Street to residents only at the start and end of the school day.

**SRE Update :** Tower Hamlets Healthy Lives Team will be providing training to Headteachers in the borough in February. Following this the school plans to hold information workshops for parents.

## TIME 2 ENGAGE PROJECT



This half term we organised a series of 'Time to Engage' Reading workshops from Years 1 to 4, for pupil premium parents with their children. Led by Mrs Naeem, the aim was to support parents in further developing their children's story-telling, reading and comprehension skills. The parents' enthusiastic participation made this an extremely successful project and to further support the learning we arranged a visit to the Bridge Theatre on 27th November to see the matinee performance of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Parents' feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with everyone loving the performance.

A big thank you to Mrs Naeem and Shelly, (our parent support worker) for planning the trip and ensuring the journey went so smoothly.

## CULTURAL FOOD FAIR

As a way of celebrating the many different cultures at Old Palace we held a cultural food fair. We had a lovely spread of food representing many different countries, including Ethiopia, Canada, Jamaica, Ghana, Somalia, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Vietnamese, Algeria, Palestine, Tunisia and Italy. Everyone commented on how lovely it was to taste lots of different traditional dishes from around the world. We had couscous cooked in an authentic tagine pot, sweet coconut rice, jerk chicken, oriental spring rolls, halwa, Tunisian biscuits, tofu noodles, chot poti and lots more. We thank all the parents and staff for their food donations. The event raised an additional **£211** for the Children in Need appeal. A big thank you to all those who kindly donated dishes.



### END OF DAY COLLECTION

From the start of next term (7th January) children will no longer be able to be collected by anyone under the age of 16.

If at present you have someone on the Collection List who is under 16, please speak to the Office before the end of term so that their name can be removed and another adult added. John will not allow secondary school children to enter the premises when we return in January.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause, but the safety of our pupils has to be our priority.

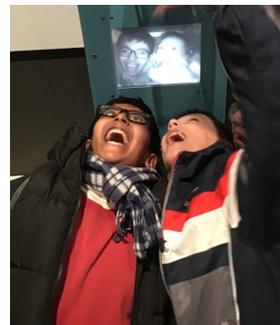
If parents have trouble nominating a replacement, please discuss this with the Office.

## Y4 VISIT MINISTRY OF STORIES



Some children in Year 4 attended a monster story writing workshop on the 21st November at the Ministry of Stories. Here, the children worked as authors to create a story that would be good enough to be published by the fearsome Chief! The children had an opportunity to explore and showcase their creative writing skills. At the end, the children were given their very own published book, which was a perfect end to an amazing trip. We plan to arrange a similar trip for the other Year 4 children later in the year.

## Y5 VISIT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY VISIT



Year 5 travelled to Greenwich to visit the Royal Observatory as part of their Space and Forces topic. The children took part in the 'Meet the Neighbours' workshop at the Planetarium, which involved sitting back and observing a computer generated animation of our Solar System narrated by an astronomer, who shared fascinating facts about each of the planets. This was then followed by some self-study,

where the children explored the planetarium and astronomy centre identifying the topics they had covered in class, such as the Space Race, phases of the Moon and longitude and latitude. It was a great trip, thoroughly enjoyed by all.

## Y6 CITIZENSHIP

Year 6 recently took part in a citizenship course. The children attended a range of workshops delivered by the police, fire service and TFL to help them learn how to stay safe and be a good citizens. The children had a great time and learned lots which will support them when they make the transition to secondary school next year.



### CORE VALUE AWARD - NOVEMBER 2019

The value of the month for November was **COURAGE**. Winners were announced in assembly and the display board in the main reception has been updated with the children's photos. Congratulations to:

**Reception: RB Shyreen & RW Intaj**  
**Year 1: 1B Humza & 1D Farhan**  
**Year 2: 2A Layla & 2H Tayeaba**  
**Year 3: 3L Ayan & 3S Aanisah**  
**Year 4: 4H Sulayman & 4M Aisha A**  
**Year 5: 5A Aysha & 5C Wafi**  
**Year 6: 6G Maniha & 6H Ikra**



### Y2 VISIT THE TOWER OF LONDON

As part of their learning about Stuarts and the Great Fire of London, Year 2 visited the Tower of London. Once there, they attended a workshop called 'Fire!Fire!' where they role played different scenes that helped them understand how the fire started and the main events. The White Tower, built in the 11th century, along with The Crown Jewels were some of the main attractions. The Royal Beast exhibition and the Fuselier Museum caught their interest too. Additionally, children had the chance to meet the Beefeaters who famously guard the castle and asked them questions about the ravens that live there and about some of the Towers most infamous prisoners, including Guy Fawkes.



### YEAR 2 SCOOTER TRAINING

Earlier this half term, the children in Year 2 had scooter lessons delivered by For2Feet. They started off by playing games in the playground to help with control and speed. The children then scooted around cones and concentrated on keeping balance and traveling at a safe speed. They then learnt how to stop and cross the road safely with a scooter. The children had great fun and we hope that they will continue to remember the important safety rules they need to follow when using their scooter.

### Y1 MAPPING AND ROAD SAFETY

This half term, Y1 have been learning about the local area and the history of Old Palace. To support this, the children went on a walk along the streets surrounding the school to spot local landmarks for their maps. They also looked out for safe places to cross the road in preparation for their Make it Real project which they will present to Y1 parents tomorrow. Please join us at 3pm to share what the children have learned about the Green Cross Code and where to cross the local road safely.

### Y6 VISIT THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Year 6 visited the Natural History Museum as part of their topic on 'Life Stories'. During their workshop, the children explored the evolution and adaptation of sea creatures, animals and plants over millions of years. Furthermore, they were able to look at the different types of adaptation within an environment. The children asked some fantastic questions to deepen their learning and back at school they are planning to fundraise to help save Pandas and Tigers which are endangered in the wild.



### TOWER HAMLETS BOOK AWARD SCHEME

Throughout the Autumn term six Year 6 pupils have been meeting as part of a book club to read and discuss the six books selected for the Tower Hamlets Book Award. They covered a range of themes and experiences such as: monsters, sudden loss and journeys to help save people. Each week the pupils met to review the books they had read and discussed what they found interesting or didn't like.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> November, the children were fortunate to meet the authors of two of the novels at the finale of the Book Award scheme in Canary Wharf. At this event, they took part in a vote, along with other schools, to decide what the most popular book of 2019 would be. The winner was 'The Boy at the Back of the Class' by Onjali Rauf. We will be creating a display of all of our work in the Key Stage 2 Library.

### Y3 VISIT HORNIMAN MUSEUM

This half term, Year 3 visited the Horniman Museum as part of their topic on Prehistoric Britain. They completed a treasure hunt looking for where prehistoric artefacts were kept around the museum. They then participated in a workshop where they got to handle some Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age artefacts, including tools and weapons such as a flint arrowhead, a bronze pickaxe and stone spear-head. They also had the opportunity to look at some natural artefacts including an enormous tooth from a woolly mammoth and the teeth and skull of a cow.

