



## KS2 VISIT THRIFTWOOD ACTIVITY CENTRE



As an end of term reward for all their hard work, children in KS2 children visited the Thriftwood Scouts Activity Centre in Brentwood. Each year group got to take part in a different range of activities, including rock climbing, bouldering, Cresta-run, High Ropes, Water-roller and the Leap of Faith. Over the course of the day, the children showed many of our core values, including collaboration and resilience. They worked well in groups, helping each other at every obstacle and encouraging their classmates to persevere with their activities. Not even the showers dampened their spirits as their confidence grew during the day. After such a hard year for everyone, it was such a pleasure to see the smiles on the children's faces. We very much hope that we will be able to resume our Year 3 residential trip to Thriftwood next year, along with our usual residential trips to Gilwell Park for Year 4 and Mersea Island for Year 5.



## MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNORS

The School Governors wish all pupils and staff a very good summer holiday and for those who celebrate Eid, Eid Mubarak! A special mention to the Year 6 children who have worked so hard this year despite the challenges; we know that they will leave with good memories of their time at Old Palace.



The Governors would like to thank everyone who works at the school for their very hard work all year. We are sad to say goodbye to Mrs Naeem and wish her a very happy retirement. We look forward to having all the staff and children back safe and well in September. Take care of each other this summer.

## IMPORTANT DATES



**LAST DAY FOR CHILDREN**  
School finishes Monday 19th July 2021

**EID CLOSURE**  
Tuesday 20th July 2021

**INSET DAYS**  
Wednesday 21st & Thursday 22nd July 2021

**AUTUMN TERM 1**  
Return to School Thursday 2nd September 2021  
School finishes Friday 22nd October 2021

Please visit our school website for a full list of term dates for 2021-22 [www.oldpalaceprimary.co.uk](http://www.oldpalaceprimary.co.uk)

## ANNUAL SUMMER FETE

This year our annual Summer Fete was held on Thursday 15th July. The day was packed full of fun activities, such as the bouncy castle, basketball shot, face painting, nail and henna stalls, hook-a-duck, guessing games and the toy stall. The fete also included two stalls created by pupils from year 6, who earned their place at the Summer Fete following a Dragon Den's style competition to find the best future entrepreneurs.

Everyone came together in the sunshine and had a wonderful day at the end of what has been a difficult year for everyone! This year the Summer Fete had to be scaled down due to COVID-19 restrictions and sadly we were unable to invite parents to join us at the end of the day. All the money raised will go into our School Fund Account and will be put towards future events in school.

The Summer fete is not possible without the help from staff and the support of our parents. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped throughout the day, including the staff and children who made the day so enjoyable. And finally, we would also like to say a special thank you to the following local businesses, who donated wonderful prizes and gifts to be sold or to be used as part of our children's raffles and competitions: **Rahim Brothers Vision Teaching, Clarus Education & Career Teachers.**



We would also like to thank the parents who donated food which we sold at the parents consultations over the last 2 evenings—this was very much appreciated and allowed us to offer parents the opportunity to be involved in our end of term celebrations in some small way, to make up for the fact that they were unable to be part of our Summer Fete.

# PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

## VIRTUAL COFFEE MONRINGS

Our coffee mornings this half term have covered a range of topics including:

- **Summer Fete Planning**
- **Attendance** (with the school's Attendance & Welfare Advisor)
- **The school's Equality Policy**
- **Online Safety**
- **Dads coffee morning**

We also delivered a range of virtual workshops including:

- **Year 5 Transition meeting**

This virtual session was led by Gillian Archer, Transition Support Officer from the Parent and Family Support Service, helped parents to find out more about the secondary transfer process and important deadlines. Thank you to those who joined the meeting. Another session will be held in September which we hope will also be attended by representatives from local secondary schools

- **Reception to Year 1 Transition meeting**

This week Mrs Rahman and Miss Begum held a virtual transition meeting to support parents who have children moving into Year 1. The session outlined the routines, curriculum, assessments and homework expectation for Year 1 Parents were also given guidance on how to best support their child at home to help with the smooth transition. The session also shared with parents the resources and vocabulary that will be used to teach about families and body parts.

The Parental Engagement team have been actively providing virtual sessions to all our parents. Parents were signposted to join the following sessions which were available during the Summer term 2:

- Bikeability for families
- 'Shaping up for Summer' in partnership with Bromley by Bow Centre (walking group every Tuesday & Thursday between 10-12pm)
- Debt Advice at Toynbee Hall 020 7392 2953
- Changing the Story for year 1 families (postponed until September 2021) - More information to follow.

## PARENT COURSES

- **Speaking English with confidence (SPEC)**

We have been continuing with our virtual Speaking English with Confidence (Spec) class every Monday, which provides an informal, safe space for parents to come together, share their experiences and practice speaking in English.

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all the mums that have participated each week. It's amazing how much the mums have grown in confidence with their English

We are very pleased, that following the course, some parents have also enrolled onto ESOL classes delivered by New City College at the Bow Hub, near Bromley By Bow station. The college provides a range of courses to support speaking English, reading, writing and digital skills. Please see this link for further details: <https://www.ncclondon.ac.uk/esol>

- **Dads Parenting sessions**

Florida has been facilitating a 3 week virtual parenting course for dads. The topics we delivered were daily routines, boundaries, discipline and promoting positive behaviour. Those who attended found the course helpful, so we hope to have an even bigger turn out of dads when we re-run the course next year. Many thanks to those dads who made time to join the sessions.

- **The Somali Parents and Carers Network**

Parent were invited to a session which promoted the work of the Somali Parents and Carers Network. This meets virtually to provide a forum where Somali parents can share experiences relating to education, parenting and safeguarding. For more information, please email [parentalengagement@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:parentalengagement@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

## SUMMER OF ACTIVITIES AND PLAY 2021

The council has put together a booklet of Summer Activities for families which can be found here: [summer information](#) (TH council website). Why not also try the **DLR Treasure Hunt** this summer: All you need is an adventurous spirit and a valid ticket/smart card for the DLR. Travel along the DLR and take in the history of London's Docklands, discover fun facts and have the chance to win bountiful prizes. To find out more, please visit <https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/dlr/> or email [ambassadors@keolisameydlr.co.uk](mailto:ambassadors@keolisameydlr.co.uk)

## CHANGES TO COVID-19 RESTRICTION

The government has announced the end to restrictions on Monday 19th July, however in the interests of the safety of our pupils and staff, we will continue with the current arrangements on Monday, which is the children's last day.

Preliminary guidance from the Department for Education suggests that we will not be required to continue with year group bubbles in September. This will mean that we no longer need to have staggered start/ finish times and that all the children can eat lunch in the dining hall. Some of the current precautions will remain, such as washing/sanitising hands before entering the building, additional cleaning throughout the school day, good ventilation, wearing of masks by staff in busy indoor areas (though not in classrooms) and minimising contacts by having onsite visits by appointment only. We are yet to receive the final details on self-isolation, so will provide more information on this topic before September.

When the children return in September, all pupils will enter through the two gates in St Leonard's Street and temperatures will no longer be checked. Staff collecting the children directly from the gate has had a very positive impact on the children's learning, allowing them to settle much more quickly - therefore we will continue this approach. Children will be able to arrive from 8.50-9.00am. Children in years 3 to 6, will go straight to class, after sanitising their hands, where the class teacher will be waiting for them with early work to complete. For younger children in Reception, year 1 & 2, staff will be waiting by the gate. Once a group of children has arrived, the TA will walk them round to the KS1 toilets, where they will wash their hands before entering the classroom. From 1st - 10th September parents of children in Reception will be able to come on site with their child at 9.15am to settle them during this transition period. The gates will be locked after 9am, so please ensure that your child arrives on time. At the end of the day children in Reception, year 1 & 2 can be collected from the KS2 playground at 3.20pm. The children in KS2 will then be dismissed at 3.30pm

## COVID-19 TESTING & VACCINATIONS

Covid-19 infections are rising fast in Tower Hamlets and the rest of the country, so please please protect yourself and your loved ones. The council is holding a series of vaccine clinics at Weavers Field to help residents to easily get their Covid-19 jab. The events are **open on:**

- Sunday 18 July – 10am to 6pm
- Monday 19 July 10am to 4pm
- Tuesday 20 July 10am 4pm

These are for anyone aged 18 or over who is due their first Covid-19 vaccine - or anyone who had their first Pfizer jab 8 weeks ago and who now needs their second dose.

Anyone eligible can just turn up; or an appointment can be made by calling the council helpline on 020 7364 3030.

The local authority continue to offer a range of testing sites. Please call 119 if you have symptoms or [book a test online through the national system](#) Tower Hamlets residents are likely to be offered an appointment at one of the following sites:

**Idea Store Watney Market, E1 2FB**  
**Jack Dash House, 2 Lawn House Close, E14 9YQ**  
**Ecology Pavilion, Grove Rd, Bow, London E3 5TW**

Tower Hamlets will continue to provide support for families over the summer. All the latest information from the council can be found by using this link, which also includes a weekly update from the Director of Public Health [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/coronavirus).

Those in need of emergency help can call 020 7364 3030 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) or visit [this page](#) for a list of emergency contacts.

Please keep yourself, your family and your friends safe this summer.

## MATHS SUMMER ADVENTURE



The Maths Factor and Pearson Education are offering free daily maths activities to help children to continue their Maths learning over the summer. You can register your child to take part by following this link:

<https://pearson.tfaforms.net/2049>

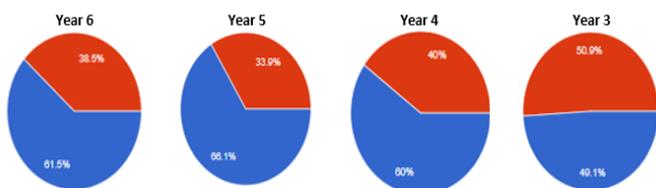
Once registered, children will have access each day to new games and activities to support them in what they have been learning in Maths throughout the year. The children can choose to practice things they have learnt this past year by selecting the year they have just finished, or they can challenge themselves by selecting the year they will be going into. Learning is supported by short video lessons, fun warm-ups activities and practice questions to check learning.

The 6-week course aims to give each child the opportunity to rebuild any lost confidence in Maths, which may have resulted from school closures and will help to accelerate their learning in preparation for the year ahead! There are daily quests which help the children to develop their understanding, and weekly wellbeing sessions, which focuses on different positive character strengths. We hope all parents will sign up their child/ren so they can benefit for this excellent **free** learning resource.

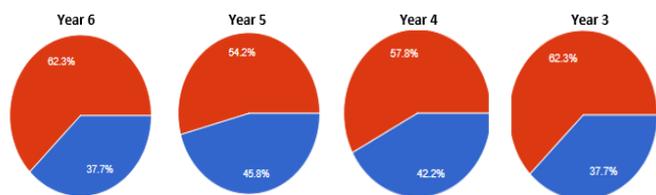
## ONLINE SAFETY

In our KS2 pupil survey we asked the children about how they go online at home. We were worried by some of the children's responses.

**At home does an adult stay with you (supervise you) when you are online? YES / NO**



**At home when playing online games (with chat features), is there an adult present with you? YES / NO**

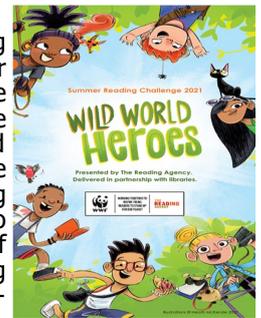


We teach the children a range of strategies to help them stay safe online, however we strongly recommend that parents supervise their child's online activity, whether this is on a smart phone, tablet, gaming device or laptop. Many online games have a chat function, which allows strangers to interact with children. It is often possible to disable this feature, which will further protect your child. We recently provided a workshop on online dangers and the content of games currently popular with the children. If you missed the workshop, you can access the slides here:

<https://oldpalaceprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Online-Safety-Refresher.pdf>

## SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

At Old Palace we are encouraging children to take part in the Summer Reading Scheme which is run by the Idea Stores. For 2021 the theme 'Wild World Heroes' is based around ideas and inspiration to help save our planet. The Summer Reading Challenge encourages children into their local libraries. At the heart of the challenge is children choosing and sharing books - in any format - that they like.: novels, fact books, picture books, graphic novels, joke books, e-books and audiobooks all count, as long as they are borrowed from the library. Throughout the Summer Reading Challenge, library staff help children to discover new authors and explore a wide range of books. There are also lots of online zoom activities you can join in with too.



It is easy to take part:

- Children sign up at their local library now or you can also sign up online- <https://www.ideastore.co.uk/src>
- They borrow and read at least **SIX** books during the summer, collecting special stickers and rewards along the way
- They receive a medal when they finish

## Reading Planet

We are hoping to also be able to offer a new online reading platform, which the children can use to access a variety of online books over the summer. Once this is finalized, we will text out the usernames and passwords to families.

## MEDICATION

We will be sending home any medication that has expired or has less than 2 months from the expiry date. Please ensure that the medication is disposed of appropriately - it can be taken into any pharmacy. Medication, that is still in date, will remain in school and asthma pumps will be sent to your child's new class at the start of the Autumn term. If your child has a medical condition which requires them to take medication during school hours, it is the parent's responsibility to ensure that the school is provided with the child's medication and relevant permission when school reopens on **Thursday 2nd September**. This should be handed to the staff member at the school gate in the original box with the child's name and dosage stated. The office staff will then ask parents to complete a medication consent form. If your child does not have their prescribed medication in school, this will put them at risk. The DfE 'Medication at School' guidance, states schools are not permitted to allow children to be in attendance without their prescribed medication, as this places them at unnecessary risk to health. Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

## YEAR 5 CAREERS FAIR



This year, our annual Careers Fair was held virtually. The children sent their questions to workers from a range of professions including a tree surgeon, doctor, product designer, accountant, fitness instructor and TV news journalist...just to name a few.

The professionals then sent back video replies, which allowed the children to learn a lot about these different careers. We would like to say a huge thank you to all those who gave up their time to contribute. This work was part of the children's topic on Money and Trade, which has also allowed them to develop their understanding of saving, debt, budgeting and the difference between need and want.

## YEAR 6 VISIT FAIRLOP WATERS



This half term, year 6 travelled to Fairlop Waters to take part in raft building and orienteering activities. The children first worked in groups to build a raft from barrels and wood, before pushing it out and testing it on the water. After lunch the children were given maps and compasses, and sent off with their guides to find their way around the vast country park. The children showed great team working skills throughout the day and were able to put their map reading skills to good use. A thoroughly enjoyable experience was had by all!

## YEAR 4 GILWELL PARK SCOUT DAY

This half term the year 4 children got to work with the Scouts Green Champion program to learn about what it means to be green and how they can help the environment. The Scouts came to Old Palace to deliver a workshop called 'grow or not to grow'. During the workshop children learnt about how different parts of nature are linked in an ecosystem. They looked at what



happens when one part of an ecosystem is lost or damaged. They used their learning from the summer term to help them look at and classify plants using common features. The children did an excellent job of spotting common features and using these features to work out what types of plants they were looking at. Finally, they were given a chance to plant flowers in planters which they will be able to take home and look after. The children particularly enjoyed planting the plants and are excited to see what flowers they will grow into!

## RECEPTION VISIT HAINAULT COUNTRY PARK



On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July, Reception adventured out to Hainault Forest Country Park. The day started with the excitement of traveling on a coach. The children got the opportunity to be close to nature and explore the surroundings. They went on a nature trail, going deep into the forest and discovered lots of fascinating things, including wildlife, such as wild geese, foxes, squirrels and mini beasts. There was further excitement when they got to play on an obstacle course, which allowed them to climb between the trees. They also got to enjoy spectacular views while eating a lovely picnic lunch. An amazing time was had by all!

## YEAR 2 VISIT CHALKWELL BEACH



This half term, the children in year 2 have been learning about the seaside and coastal habitats. To consolidate their understanding, the children got to visit Chalkwell Beach. It was a sunny day and they had the chance to spot birds, such as seagulls and oystercatchers. The children also had great fun building sandcastles, burying shells in the sand and paddling in the water. Along the way, they created a sketch map, identifying different types of buildings and comparing them to the ones in London. It was a exciting and memorable day for all.

## Y2 SCOOTER TRAINING

Children in year 2 had scooter lessons delivered by For2Feet. The focus was helping them to understand how to scoot safely and how to stop and control a scooter. They started off by playing games in the KS1 playground to help with control and speed. They scooted around the running track, then scooted around cones and obstacles. Great effort was shown by the children as they concen-



trated on keeping balance and travelling at a safe speed. They then got to go onto the local roads around the school, where children practised stopping and crossing the road safely. We would like to thank For2Feet for providing this opportunity, which will help to keep our children safe in the future.

## Y1 VISIT HAMPTON COURT PALACE

Following their great learning about royal life during the Tudor times, Year 1 visited Hampton Court Palace this half term. The children enjoyed seeing the different royal rooms, the Great Hall and the Tudor kitchen. We were all very impressed by how much they remembered from their topic lessons; they were able to name some of the tools in the Tudor kitchen, such as bread oven, stove and spit. They even spotted the larder! Along their tour of the Palace, they spotted many portraits of King Henry VIII and had fun sharing the facts they remembered about him. Other visitors in the Palace commented on how impressed they were with the children's knowledge! After lunch, the children thoroughly enjoyed walking the same walk King Henry VIII himself did many, many years ago in his beautiful gardens. It was a happy, peaceful end to an exciting day!



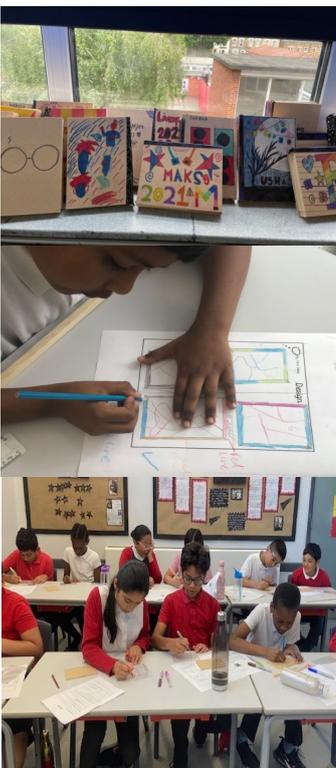
## SPORTS MORNING



Last week we held our annual Sports Mornings at Bob's Park. This year things were slightly different as the children had to be kept in year group bubbles. The children enjoyed taking part in a range of sports and games such as: egg and spoon, javelin, hockey dribble, relay and many more. The children were excited to wear their team colours and showed great sportsmanship as they competed to obtain points for their team. This year the winning team was **YELLOW**—so big congratulations to them! Thank you to all the parents who came to support the children and who were brilliant in adhered to the COVID restrictions. We hope that the children will continue to enjoy sport and to stay active over the summer break, as this is so important for both physical and mental health. Please visit [Activities for Kids | Kids' Activities | Change4Life](#) for ideas on activities.



## DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY DAY



The children completed their final DT day for this academic year. The day's theme was on wood. During their sessions, they recapped information about wood, in particular the different types (such as softwood and hard wood) where they comes from, their different properties and how these make them suitable for different products. The following products were made: Reception: a marble maze; Year 1: mirror frames; Year 2: photo frames; Year 3 tangram trays; Year 4: desk tidies; Year 5: money boxes and Year 6: Memento boxes. The children were able to research existing products – thinking about the user and how the product is made to suit their needs and tastes. It also provided them an opportunity to mark accurately, use a saw safely and to add aesthetic finishes to their product. Again, the children showcased their design skills, producing products of a high quality. They relished the opportunity to be creative and really enjoyed the making process. We hope you like your child's work and would like to thank parents for the £1 contribution, which has helped to cover the cost of the wood.



## GOODBYE YEAR 6



It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to our pupils in Year 6. We are exceptionally proud of the resilience that these children have shown over the past 18 months. Although SATs did not go ahead, we tested the children using the 2019 papers. In Reading, Writing & Maths, 91% of pupils achieving Expected; 51% achieving Above in Reading and Maths and 44% in Writing. Given the disruption to the children's learning through school closures, these results are very impressive and actually higher than in 2019! This shows how hard the children have worked, despite all the changes and demonstrates the effectiveness of our Remote Learning. A big thank you to all the staff for their work and dedication over the years in helping these children to gain such a solid start to their education, which will stand them in good stead for their secondary education.

The children have been busy creating their own version of Shakespeare's Macbeth for their Leavers Performance. The performance has been created virtually and the world premier will take place on Monday 19th July, to which Year 6 parents have been invited. We can't wait to see it! Following this, after school on Monday, year 6 will enjoy an end of year celebration which we are sure will be very emotional. We wish all our year 6 pupils the best of luck in the coming years. If they continue to work as hard as they have at Old Palace, they will all have a very bright future ahead.

