



Old Palace Newsletter

September 2021

WELCOME RECEPTION CHILDREN



We have welcomed our new Reception pupils and their families this term. We are very proud of the pupils with how they have settled into the school and managing the school rules and routines. We hope you and your child are happy and feel part of the school community.

This year the government introduced a new test called Baseline which all children have to complete within 6 weeks of joining Reception. As this is a new test, we had a monitoring visit from the Department of Education to check this was being carried out correctly. The visit went well and we would like to thank the children and the staff for all their work in carrying out the tests.



To further support links between home and school, parents of Reception children are now able to access their child's online learning journal on Tapestry. We encourage parents to add positive comments and to share any learning experiences that have taken place at home. Thank you to those parents who have already started to do so. If any parents need any further support please contact Mrs Rahman, who will be happy to help. If you have not received your activation email, please make sure you have checked your junk email folder.



Respect

Core Value Award : Term, Autumn 1, 2021

At the start of term we relaunched the school's Core Values. The value for the month of September was "Respect". The following children were nominated for being excellent role models in showing respect to others, property and the environment:

Reception: Taimun & Mayeed

Year 1: Madiha & Rujhan

Year 2: Saim & Abdurahman

Year 3: Mahreen & Abdullah

Year 4: Naomi & Sarah

Year 5: Sumayyah & Imran

Year 6: Nathan & Prohor

The core value for October is Collaboration.

IMPORTANT DATES



AUTUMN HALF TERM HOLIDAY

School finishes Friday 22nd October 2021
Return to school Monday 1st November 2021

END OF AUTUMN TERM

School finishes Friday 17th December 2021
Return to school Tuesday 4th January 2022

SPRING HALF TERM HOLIDAY

School finishes Friday 11th February 2022
Return to school Monday 21st February 2022

END OF SPRING TERM

School finishes Friday 1st April 2022
Return to school Tuesday 19th April 2022

Please visit our school website for a full list of term dates for 2021-22 www.oldpalaceprimary.co.uk



MUSIC MARK SCHOOL

MUSIC MARK

This year, Old Palace have been nominated for the Music Mark by THAMES (Tower Hamlets Arts and Music Services) as recognition of the 'high-quality music education that we provide for all our pupils. As well as being able to display the music mark logo, we have also been granted access to a wide range of supporting music resources and trips which will further enhance our music teaching.



We relaunched singing assemblies this term for pupils in KS2 and we will be holding auditions for the KS1 & KS2 choirs after half term. To get the children excited about singing we arranged for a special performance by a WestEnd Theatre star, Tanyel Hassan, best known for her roles in shows such as 'Annie', 'Evita' and 'Billy Elliot'. She took to the stage to sing for the children, who were mesmerised as she flawlessly performed a number from 'The Greatest Showman' and spent time answering the children's questions. It was a great pleasure to have Tanyel come and perform for the children, and who knows, maybe one of our pupils will one day also take to the stage.



PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

VIRTUAL COFFEE MONRINGS

Year 6 Transition Meeting

On the 15th September, Gillian Archer from the transition team held a secondary transfer-moving up Zoom workshop for parents of children in year 6. This covered:

- How to apply
- Key dates
- The number of schools parents can apply for
- Things to consider when applying
- How decisions are made
- When and how parent will be notified about the outcome of their applications

If you have any questions or are having difficulties applying online, please arrange an appointment with Florida during the one of times listed below, when she will be able to help you complete the online application form

Tuesday 12th October between 10-11:30am

Wednesday 13th October between 1:30-2:45pm

Thursday 14th October between 1:30-2:45pm

Please remember the application closing date for secondary transfers is the **31st October 2021** and outcomes of the applications will be published on 1st March 2022.

Safer Neighbourhood Ward Panels

On Wednesday 22nd September, Syed Uddin- Head of operations from Leaders in Communities held a virtual coffee morning. This session was to tell parents about how they can help set priorities for the local police team by sharing their concerns about crime in the local area with the Safer Neighbourhood Team. If any parents are interested in being part of the panel they can contact Syed on 0207 987 5764 or via email at syed@leadersincommunity.org

Professional Support for Families

On Wednesday 29th September, the virtual coffee morning was used to introduce some of the professionals who work with the school to support families.

Ms Lina Rahman, our Attendance Welfare advisor from LBTH highlighted that good attendance is central to raising achievement and reducing social exclusion. She works closely with the school to secure high rates of attendance for all our pupils and helps the school enforce the penalty scheme for parents who take their child/ren out of school for unauthorised holidays/ extended leave.

Ms Shahnaz Choudhury, our School Social Worker explained how she provides support to schools in relation to safeguarding and securing the welfare and wellbeing of pupils. The School Social Worker (SSW) provision aims to improve outcomes for vulnerable children and families through the delivery of Early Help and direct preventative work with families. Examples of this include Team Around the Child Meetings and 1:1 work with children and families who may have been identified.

Ms Rayan Farah, is our new School Nurse and will be available once a week on a Wednesday. Throughout 2021 we were without a school nurse, so we are very pleased that Rayan is now able to offer support to our families regarding medical needs. Remember if your child has an allergy you will need to arrange an assessment with your GP first and then once this has been completed, the school nurse can offer additional support.

If you feel you would benefit from support in regards to your child's health, attendance or wellbeing, please contact Shelly or Florida in confidence. They will then be able to arrange an appointment for you with the person best able to support your needs.

Support for parents of Autistic Pupils

Joshua Price from the Phoenix Outreach service will be attending the coffee morning on 6th October from 9:15am-10:15am. This will provide an opportunity for parents of autistic pupils (or those who wish to find out more about autism) to meet with him in a relaxed environment, where they can ask any questions they may have about how best to support the needs of autistic pupils. It will also be an opportunity to meet parents in a similar situation and to share experiences and advice.

Upcoming Courses and Workshops

Emotional First Aid

Emotional First Aid course was open to all the parents. The 6 weeks virtual course started on Monday 27th September to Monday 1st November via Zoom and is led by Ayesha Khanam from the Parental Engagement Team. A few places remain. If interested, please speak to Shelly.

Learning Through Play

Learning through play is a 3 week virtual course for Foundation Stage parents, run by Nazia Ahmed, from the Parental Engagement team. Learning through play is aimed at early years' parents. During this course parents will learn about the characteristics of play and how play links to learning and emotional wellbeing. They will explore different types of play and ideas on how to incorporate play in to family life. By building strong parent-child relationships through play, children feel a sense of security and are able to learn in an environment which enhances their growth and development. Children are more confident in their competencies and have a deeper resilience in the face of new challenges.

EHCP Workshop for Parents of SEND Pupils

The Tower Hamlets and City SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) are running a series of workshops at the Parents Advice Centre.

The first session will take place on Friday 8th October from 10am -1pm which will provide information for parents about the EHCP Process. The second workshop will take place on Friday 15th October from 10am-12pm and will focus on the EHCP Annual Review Process

To book a place at either of these workshops contact For more inform Information Advice and Support Service on 020 7364 6489 or email towerhamlets&city.sendiass@towerhamlets.gov.uk

NSPCC Keeping Children Safe in Sports

The NSPCC are raising parents' awareness how to ensure children are kept safe in sporting clubs and activities

For more information visit: [Parents in Sport Week 2021 | CPSU \(thecpsu.org.uk\)](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/parents-in-sport-week-2021)

To further support this work, we will be texting a link to a Parental Engagement Team leaflet created to help parents safeguard their child/ren when choosing external after school clubs, coaching and independent tutors. Please read this to help ensure your child is kept safe.

WELCOME MEETINGS

At the start of term, the year leader for each year group delivered a virtual welcome meeting for parents. During these meetings information on the curriculum, safeguarding and routines was shared, as well as the expectations for homework. Parents were also reminded of the importance of online safety and signposted to [NSPCC Let Keep Children Safe Website](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/parents-in-sport-week-2021), where parents are able to check the content of the latest online games.

Thank you to all the parents who participated. It is only by working closely together that we can ensure that all pupils achieve their full potential.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Wednesday 20th October @ 10am

Coffee Morning- Online payment information delivered by Michele & Dobbir

Tuesday 2nd November @ time TBC

Keeping Children safe online, delivered by the Parental Engagement Team

Tuesday 9th November @ time TBC

Keeping Children safe online (in Somali)

Tuesday 23rd November @ 9-11am

Triple P, Supporting behaviour at home, including sibling arguments and aggression

LOST PROPERTY

- ◆ Lost will be available to claim in the KS2 playground on
- ◆ Thursday 7th October from 3.10pm. Clothing items not
- ◆ claimed will be given to charity.

FLU IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME



This year, the flu vaccine is being offered to all pupils from Reception to year 6. To find out about the benefits of the Flu Immunisation programme, parents are invited to take part in an Virtual Coffee Morning on **Wednesday 6th October at 10am**. We have invited a guest speaker from Vaccination UK who will be able to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

Following the parents virtual meeting, all pupils will be given a **consent form** and a story book to take home. Parents must fill in only **one section** of the consent form (either the nasal spray form OR the injection form – not both) and then return the form to school in their child's bag, no later than **Monday 11th October**. Immunisation will then take place after half term.



ATTENDANCE

As the cold weather approaches, we wish to remind parents of the importance of good attendance. Sometimes younger children are kept off school for minor ailments, when they could be sent to school. Remember 36-37°C is normal body temperature; if however this increase to 38°C or above,

then medical advice should be sought, as this is one of the symptom of COVID-19.

Should your child start to feel better, remember they can return to school after lunchtime (unless they have diahorea or have vomited, in which case they must stay off school for 48 hours) The school is able to administer medication such as, Calpol, as long as the parent signs to give us consent.

In the unlikely event of a child needing to take more than 3 days off school, we require parents to provide medical evidence, such as a doctor's note or a photograph of any medication that has been prescribed. If your child is too unwell to come to school please remember to email the school or to call us before 9.30am on 0208 983 3020, where you can leave a voice message in English or Bangla.

Making sure your child is wearing the correct uniform, will help them to stay well. As windows need to be left open to provide good ventilation, please make sure your child wears layers which can be added or taken off. It is also very important that each child brings a waterproof winter coat every day. Examples of our winter school uniform can be seen [here](#).



schoolmoney

ONLINE PAYMENT SYSTEM

After half term we will be moving to an online payment service for trips and clubs. We will be trialling this first with our families who currently attend breakfast and wrap around club. A zoom training session will take place on Wed 20th October at

10am and then payments for breakfast and wrap around club will be made online from 1st November.

When taking online payments, we will only be able to setup one parent per family to be able to use this facility, so please decide if the account should be registered to mum or dad. You will shortly receive an text message asking to nominate at least one parent. The information required will be full name, email address and mobile number. The payment system will link with our current texting service and will automatically email a receipt to parents once a payment has been received.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

We are excited about the forthcoming Student Council elections which will take place on Friday 8th October.



This week the children who wish to stand will be busy campaigning. Each class has selected 6 candidates who have been asked to prepare a speech to inform their classmates why they think they would make a good school councillor. They have also each created a campaign poster to display in their classroom this week. School council is a great opportunity for pupils to take a role in helping out the school. Class councillors will meet each week to discuss any concerns that arise, help plan fund raising events such as Children in Need and Sports Relief and discuss ways to help improve the school.

#THYOUTH

This month, **Tower Hamlets** are also holding elections for the next **Young Mayor**. Voting will take place between 11-17th October

Tower Hamlets Young Mayor Election 2021

and we are proud to announce that one of our ex-pupils, Intisar, is standing as a candidate. You can meet the 14 candidates [HERE](#) and watch this [short video](#) to hear our current Young Mayor explain why it is important that young people get a say in local decision-making to ensure that their concerns are understood and acted upon. For more information visit towerhamlets.gov.uk/youngmayor

FIRE SAFETY

Earlier this half term, pupils in Year 2 and 5 had a virtual fire safety workshop delivered by the London Fire Brigade Education team. As part of this workshop, pupils learnt about three main concepts regarding fire safety –



prevention, detection and escape. The pupils were taught about potential causes of fire and how to spot them around the home. They also discussed the importance of escape routes, how to check if a door is hot, how to avoid smoke and how to call for help. Year 5 also had the chance to submit questions before the session to help ensure that they had all their questions answered. We thank the LFB team for an informative session. Please remember to check your smoke detector regularly and to avoid common causes of fires, such as overloading electrical sockets and extension cables.

WRAPAROUND CLUB

The school provides an affordable childcare service for ANY parent who wishes to use the After School Wraparound Club. This starts after school and **finishes at 5pm**. Each evening has a structured activity:

Monday	Indoor Sports
Tuesday	Art & Construction
Wednesday	Outdoor Play
Thursday	Music & Drama
Friday	Crafts

In addition to the above, the children also have access to board games, reading, ipads, lego & other play equipment. Those attending are encouraged to bring a healthy snack. The cost per session is ONLY £2 per child per evening and is paid weekly. For more information please contact the school office.

ACTIVE PLAYTIMES



This year we have introduced active playtimes to help keep our pupils fit and healthy. Our children have been actively engaged in exercises to build up their cardio vascular and muscular endurance. Pupils in KS2 have taken part in activities include running interval training and competitive aerobic exercise, some of which are done in Bob's Park. In KS1, the children have taken part in the Daily Mile Run and Fitness and have also been taught a new playground game each week such as In and Out the Dusty Bluebells, What's the Time Mr Wolf, Duck, Duck Goose and Fish in the Sea.



We have revised our class timetables, so that every day the children are timetabled for some form of physical exercise and have also launched six free after school sports clubs including Dance, Team Games, Football and Fitness.

To make sure your children benefit from the positive effects on exercise on their physical and mental health, please also encourage them to stay active at home. Visit [here](#) to find out about local sports clubs and events. In addition, the [Change4Life website](#) has some great family activities. The children in year 2 will be teaching their parents some of these games before half term, as part of their Make it Real project. We hope you enjoy them.

YEAR 3 AT THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

This half term in year 3 we are learning about Rocks and Dinosaurs. As part of our learning, we went to the Natural History Museum to explore the Dinosaur Exhibit and see some real fossils belonging to some of the dinosaurs we had been learning about in the classroom, such as Tyrannosaurus Rex, Triceratops and ichthyosaur. The children really enjoyed meeting the roaring T. rex and seeing the skull of a Triceratops. It was great to learn about the different time periods when dinosaurs lived, wander among fossils in the dinosaur gallery and to add to our knowledge about these prehistoric giants.



CHILDRENS BOOK PROJECT



Old Palace were fortunate to have received a large donation of books from the Children's Book Project. This is a charity which aims to give children the opportunity to own their own book and encourages reading for pleasure. With this donation, we will be able to gift every child at Old Palace with a book bundle. In KS1, we are planning a class book fair on 5th October, when parents will be invited to come along and help their child select their book bundle to take home. We hope to have a good turnout as the children are looking forward to looking through the books. Dates when pupils in Reception and KS2 will receive their books will be sent out shortly.

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Well done to all the Old Palace pupils who took part in the Summer Reading Challenge, run by the Idea Stores. For 2021 the theme was Wild World Heroes, based around ideas and inspiration to help save our planet.

Children visited their local library with their family and got to borrow 3 books each time; at the end of the challenge not only had they improved their reading, but they got stickers and a medal to take home too!

Signing up at the Idea Store is easy to do and gives the children access to 100s of books.

If you need any help registering, please speak to Shelly or Florida.

Remember your child should be reading every day for at least 15 minutes, which could include reading their Bug Club and school library books. Thank you to all the parents who took part in the KS1 Reading workshop and the Reception Phonics workshop. We hope that you found these useful in helping to support your child's reading at home.



YEAR 5 VISIT THE MUSEUM OF LONDON

The first trip of the academic year 5 was to the Museum of London to explore the 'Roman London' exhibition as part of their topic unit on the Roman Empire. The children studied ancient artefacts and discovered amazing facts about what life was like for people living in a Roman governed city, such as Londinium. The children were eager to use all they had learned from their trip during their discussions back in class. The children behaved immaculately on the trip and set a fantastic example to other visitors on the trip.

