



CHILDREN IN NEED



Our newly elected school councillors were very busy this month organising and running our ever popular Children in Need week. During the week, the children participated in a number of competitions and activities planned across the school. This included a KS2 penalty shootout which took place in the KS2 playground and proved to be very popular. The children had lots of fun! Congratulations to Tamim 4A for achieving the sportsmanship prize!

Children also got creative by taking part in the 'Design a Pudsey Bear costume' competition in KS2 and the colouring competition in KS1 and Reception. Congratulations to our winners Rec: Adam RW, Suraya RW, KS1: Humza 10 and Saffiyah 2B, KS2: Nusaybah 4T and Habibah 5M Parents and staff donated delicious baked goods to support our Children in Need bake sale! Thank you to all who contributed!



We had a guess the baby competition for years 2-6 and a guess the character competition in Year 1 and Reception. Congratulations to our winners Rec and Year 1: Inaaya 1D, Madiha 1O, Tanzeela 1O, Kiaan 1O, Mahmamud 1O and Safa 1O who guessed all of the characters correctly! Year 2-6: Sama 6K who guessed 13 of the 16 babies correctly! To end the week, we also got to come to school in non-uniform! This year we have raised an impressive **£1098.92** which is the highest total raised for Children in Need by Old Palace to date! Thank you everyone for your participation and kind donations!



IMPORTANT DATES



PARENT CONSULTATIONS By Appointment ONLY

Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th December 2021

CHRISTMAS LUNCH Wednesday 15th December 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

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ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

This year, Anti-Bullying Week took place from the 15th to 19th of November. The 2021 theme was 'One Kind Word' and children discussed the importance of this idea throughout the week. Each Year group read and took part in activities centred around a particular book that gave them an insight into what bullying is and how we can help prevent it. An important goal from the week was to really convey what bullying is: a repeated behaviour that is intended to hurt someone. Students looked at different situations and decided whether or not it was bullying or someone being rude or mean. This really helped them grasp that understanding.

On Monday 15th November, students and staff came to school wearing two odd socks; this was to represent our differences and celebrate them rather than hide them. There were some very fun sock combinations seen throughout the school! Also on Wednesday, there was a parent workshop where we went through the school's procedures and record keeping and discussed ways children could be supported at home. Overall, it was a positive week of learning and we hope that the children at Old Palace feel confident in their knowledge of what to do should they ever be bullied and how they can help others if they see it happening.

PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

PARENT COFFEE MONRINGS & COURSES

Keeping Children Safe Online

On Tuesday, 2nd November all parents were invited to join us for our Keeping Children Safe Online Workshop. During the session, parents and carers were made aware of popular apps and games that children are playing now. We highlighted the official age rating for each app and what the app is used for. We then identified the risks associated with the apps and online gaming and spoke about different games. Parents were encouraged to supervise children all times. Following this we held a second session for Somali speaking families on the 9th November.

Become a Community Money Mentor

On Wednesday 3rd November, Jonathan Robinson from the Financial Health Programme Manager joined our coffee morning over Zoom to promote a new programme called 'Become a Community Money Mentor'. These workshops will be delivered twice a week to our parents virtually. The course will allow parents to gain 6 Credits at Entry Level 3 and is accredited by the Open College Network. If you would like to take part in the accredited course please speak to Shelly or Florida.

Positive Parenting

Our 3 week virtual 'Positive Parenting Course' commenced on Monday 8th November. Thank you to those parents who joined, shared and exchanged their experiences with other parents. It can be challenging at times but keep the great work up. We covered children/family routines, boundaries, discipline, clear instruction and promoting positive behaviour during the 3 weeks.

If you like to take part in our next 'Positive Parenting course' please speak to Florida Rahman, the next session will be on **Monday 17th January 2022**.

Poplar HARCA

On Wednesday 10th November Rujina Ali from the Community Projects and Partnerships Officer hosted our virtual coffee morning. Rujina shared activities that Poplar Harca are providing to local families during term time and school holidays. It was great to see so many of our parents join the coffee morning, especially as a few parents were not aware of the Bow Community hub which is situated opposite the Bromley by Bow station.

Triple P - Managing fighting & aggression

On Tuesday 23rd November, Nazia Ahmed from the Parental Engagement team held a virtual 'Triple P- Managing fights & aggression workshop'. During the session we looked at some of the reasons why children fight and gave some practical suggestions to help prevent problems by teaching children to play cooperatively and resolve conflicts. We looked at how children need to learn to be calm, get on with others and deal with disagreements and frustration. If you are experiencing difficulties with your child/ren and would like 1 to 1 advice, please speak to our Parent Support Worker, Florida Rahman.

Dates for the Diary

Year 3 & 4 Reading Tube Map Workshop

Wednesday 1st December 2021 : 12:00-12:30pm
zoom details will be sent out nearer the time.

Coffee Morning Free School Meals

Wednesday 1st December : 10-11:30am
If you need support in applying online for Free School Meals, please speak to Florida Rahman to book an appointment via Zoom.

Coffee Morning for Dads

Wednesday 8th December 2021 : 10am-10:30am
Zoom details will be sent out nearer to the time.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Many of you will have already heard about the 'Omicron' variant of Covid-19 which last week was classed as a 'variant of concern' by the World Health Organisation.

Over the weekend, the Government followed this up by [setting out the national response](#) to the variant with a few changes to existing Covid-19 guidance and restrictions.

The main changes are:

1. Contacts of those who test positive with the suspected Omicron variant will need to self-isolate for ten days, regardless of their vaccination status.
2. Face coverings on public transport and in shops will be compulsory from today, Tuesday 30th November.
3. The booster vaccine will be rolled out to all over-18s, three months after their second dose.
4. Anyone entering the UK will need to take a PCR test by the second day after their arrival and to self-isolate until they have a negative result.
5. More countries have been added to the government's 'red list' ([Red list of countries and territories](#)).

Understandably, news of a new variant and changes to government guidance and restrictions will be a cause for concern, but the best way to protect yourselves and your loved ones remains the same:

You can book online to get vaccinated – whether it is for your first, second or booster dose. Book here [online](#).

Wear a mask in public spaces – this will be mandatory in shops and on public transport from tomorrow, Tuesday 30th November.

Get tested – if you have symptoms or have been in contact with someone who is positive, get a PCR test. If you have no symptoms, get a rapid lateral flow test. 1 in 3 of us who have the virus don't show any symptoms.

UPCOMING FESTIVE EVENTS

This year we have scaled back our Christmas activities in order to maintain safety.

The following will take place:

Christmas Lunch – this will be served to all children on Wednesday 15th December. The meat is halal as always and an alternative allergen menu will be available.

Christmas Cards – children can bring in Christmas Cards, but only for members of their class on the 16th December. These can be brought in and will be given out at the party.

Christmas Parties – these will take place in the children's classrooms on Thursday 16th December.

Children may wish to bring in healthy snacks to have at the party. Children can come in wearing their party clothes, however we do recommend they bring them in and get changed after lunch to avoid ruining them. Please remind the children to wear appropriate clothing e.g. no jewellery or heeled shoes.

Reception and Y1 parties will be held in the top (Y1) and bottom hall (Rec). Parents are invited to attend. However you MUST provide evidence of a negative LFT and your results will be collected via a link. A separate text message with the link will be sent to all parents of Reception and Year 1. Please complete the form no earlier than 48 hours before arrival. More details to follow. For those parents attending, you will also be required to wear a face mask, subject to Government Guidance.

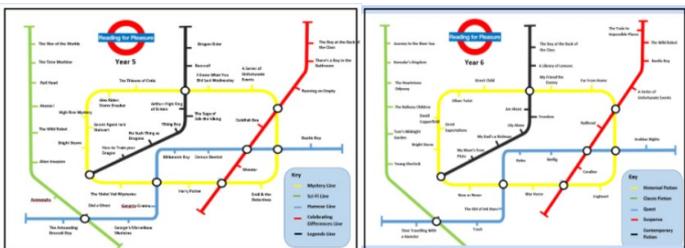
Christmas parties for year 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 will be held in their classrooms. Parents will not be able to attend.

THE READING TUBE MAP PROGRAMME



We held a workshop via zoom for year 5 & 6 parents on the 24th November, explaining our exciting new school reading

initiative 'The Reading Tube Map'. It was created to encourage reading through a familiar and interesting concept. Each term, your child will be reading from a specific genre (ie. suspense, dilemmas, etc.). The school will provide these books for them via home-readers and books from the school library. Once the child has completed a tube line (they are named after the genres), they will receive a stamp on their Oyster Card. This will have massive benefits for your child. More reading = better vocabulary, bigger imagination, increased fluency, improved writing and most importantly will develop a LOVE for reading. Please do ask your child to see their tube map, ask them which line they are on and praise them when they receive a stamp.



RECEPTION READING WORKSHOP

On Monday 15th November a zoom workshop was held for Reception explaining how to access Bug Club. Bug Club is an online interactive resource that we use to support reading in KS1 and Reception. 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. They were also sent some resources to help them to support their child 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. Mrs Naik is our trained Bug Club expert in Reception, she is ready to help if any parents require support.



READING INITIATIVE

As part of our drive to promote reading for enjoyment and instil the love of reading with children, Reception invited parents to come in to school and read together with their child. The children were so excited to read with their parent in school, and have the opportunity to select books from the school library. "I like my mum reading me Elmer" (Aliza RB) "It was so fun reading with my mum" Amima (RB) "I like stories, I read 'Dirty Dinosaurs'" (Ismaeel RB)

CORE VALUE AWARD - NOVEMBER 2021

- ★ The value of the month for November is COURAGE.
- ★ Congratulations to the following Lions:
- ★ Reception: **RB** Jannah & **RW** Arian
- ★ Year 1: **1D** Ayana & **1O** Mikail
- ★ Year 2: **2B** Raahil & **2H** Zayyan
- ★ Year 3: **3D** Rio & **3S** Anisa
- ★ Year 4: **4A** Ehsaan & **4T** Abdurrahman
- ★ Year 5: **5C** Zeeshan & **5M** Rihan
- ★ Year 6: **6K** Elizah & **6Y** Sulayman



Courageous Lion

- ★ Core value for December is
- ★ Originality

KEEPING SAFE—ONLINE SAFETY

With lots of hype around binge-worthy Netflix series or any other streaming services, how can we ensure our children are not able to watch shows created for older audiences? This is where parental controls come in. They can play an important part in preventing children from watching shows they are too young for. Each streaming service, or Video on Demand (VoD) service has parental controls and it is up to the user to set them up; they are not automatically set up. Below are links to some of the more well-known services with advice on what the streaming service provides and how to set up parental controls:

- <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/disney-parents-guide-what-it-and-it-safe-kids>
 - <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/netflix-everything-you-need-know-about-streaming-service>
 - <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/amazon-primeamazon-video>
- Abdullahi, our IT Technician is available Monday and Thursdays to discuss/set up parental controls on devices. Please speak with Frida or Shelly to arrange an appointment. Also, continue to talk to your child regularly about what they are playing or watching. By having conversations, you are providing them with the confidence to come to you if they come across anything upsetting or disturbing.

GOOD ATTENDANCE

Thank you so much to all the families who have been working hard to ensure their children's attendance and punctuality is high. This has again been challenging times and we really appreciate your support. Our attendance target is 97% and displayed weekly on our website. We are currently below this target and we need your continued support to ensure we meet this mark. Establishing good habits early on really will make a positive difference and your child will achieve better if they are in school every day. Only in exceptional circumstances should a child be absent from school. If you are unclear about whether your child is well enough to attend school, please call/email the school office as they will be happy to support. Also there is some useful information on the NHS website below:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

School Absence Procedures

Reporting Absence

Ring the school before 9.15am on the first morning of an absence to let us know the reason for the absence and when the child is likely to return to school.

Send children in for afternoon sessions, if they are feeling better. In KS1 they should be brought in at 1pm and in KS2 at 1.30pm

Making Appointments

A Message For You

Today, 10:15 AM

(Appt Reminder) Mary Kay,
Please confirm your dental appointment on 12/19/2012 at 3:00 p.m.

Confirm by email or text or call (330)725-2242

Please avoid making dental/medical appointments for your child during the school day; if an appointment is absolutely necessary please show your appointment information to the office as evidence for this absence. Please see medical evidence for further details.

Providing Medical Evidence

If the absence is likely to continue for more than three days, on the third day you will be asked to provide medical evidence. This could include emailing a photo of the prescribed medication in the original packing (showing child's name) or providing copies of original medical documentation or providing evidence of an appointment for your child. Please see photo examples.

Extended Leave/Travelling during term time

As per our attendance policy, no travel will be authorised during term time. Any travel should be arranged outside of school term time. Parents/carers should not remove their child from school during term time without having first requested an extended leave form from the office. A meeting will then be arranged with the Attendance Welfare Adviser. In all, but exceptional cases, requests for leave during term time will not be authorised by the headteacher and this will be confirmed in writing. If permission is not granted, but the child is still absent, the absence is classed as unauthorised and parents/carers may be issued with a penalty notice. Parents/Carers must provide contact details and a return date. Otherwise it will be deemed as a safeguarding issue.

Y5 VISITING THE PLANETARIUM



Year 5 visited the Royal Observatory in Greenwich this half term as part of their unit focusing on Space and Forces. The children watched a planetarium show about our solar system and beyond, looking

at all of the planets, their moons, and what we know about the surrounding cosmos. The children had many questions to ask the experts, and had lots of their own facts and knowledge to share. Overall, it was a thrilling experience, and a wonderful time was had by all. We look forward to seeing all the learning year 5 gained from the experience, and how they apply it to their research projects and tasks back in class.

Y6 VISIT NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

This half term year 6 children visited the Natural History Museum. They visited exhibitions that centred around the exploration of fossils and animal bones from different time periods, to explore how animals have changed over time. The children also looked at different mammals and their adaptability to the environments in which they live. The children completed tasks and investigations set out by their class teachers, and explored the museum with a fine tooth comb, looking for the oldest and rarest fossils they could find to complete their assignments. The children behaved like true Naturalists researching important wildlife data in their groups, and set an excellent example for the Old Palace.



Y2 FESTIVAL ASSEMBLY



Year 2 learned about Hindu people and their beliefs. They visited a Hindu temple where they had the opportunity to see different objects such as: Puja trays, bells, statues of gods and goddesses. The Hindu priest answered children's questions about different gods, the huge Hanuman statue in the

Mandir, and specific traditions such as taking shoes off when entering the temple. Also,

they found out more about Diwali, the festival of light and various ways people celebrate it around the world. Following their visit, the children performed the story of Rama and Sita, as part of their festival assembly. Well done, Year 2!

RECEPTION VISIT TRANSPORT MUSEUM

On Thursday 18th November reception headed to Covent Garden to visit The London Transport Museum. This was their first trip since starting Reception. As part of their topic on 'Transport' children explored the different types of transport from the past. Children discussed how the transport has changed and were fascinated in discovering how the London underground was made. They were excited to get on a big red bus and compare it to the Omnibus, which was the first passenger bus in London. They also took part in a transport trail, where they had to find 12 stampers to stamp their special trail cards, which were located around the museum. The children were very well behaved and had a great day.

