



## Old Palace Newsletter

January 2022

# PANTO NIGHT IN THE WEST END



Year 4 & 5 children had the opportunity to see the fantastic 'Alice in Wonderland' Pantomime at the Peacock Theatre in the West End this half term. The children were brimming with excitement in the weeks leading up to the event, and the school made sure to be in regular contact with the venue so that we could safely take the children to see this spectacular show. We were very grateful for all the support and measures the theatre put in place to make Old Palace feel safe and welcome, and the children had a great night to remember. A truly exceptional performance from the cast and a fantastic live band, captivated the children, as they enjoyed the performance from start to finish. We would like to say a big



thankyou to all the children that attended and set a great example for our school, and all the staff that supported on the trip by working so late into the evening.

## **YEAR 6 VISIT CENTRE OF CELLS**

This half term, Year 6 visited the 'Centre of the Cell' museum in Whitechapel, which specialises in cellular research and is part of Queen Mary's University. The children were given a tour of the site and got to see the scientists hard at work in their laboratories. They then participated in a workshop that included interactive activities, as well as some fantastic resources about evolution and human DNA! Overall, the children really enjoyed their visit and learned a lot of interesting facts which they brought back and incorporated in their science lessons. Well done year 6!



## **IMPORTANT DATES**



## SPRING HALF TERM HOLIDAY

**SCHOOL 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**

## SUMMER HALF TERM HOLIDAY

**School finishes Friday 27th May 2022  
Return to school Monday 6th June 2022**

# **END OF SUMMER TERM**

**School finishes Friday 22nd July 2022**

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

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**RECEPTION VISIT THE DISCOVERY CENTRE**

On Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January, our Reception classes set off to the Discover Story Centre in Stratford. The children had the opportunity to explore a wide range of props and use their imagination to create their own stories. The children were excited with all the sensory and interactive resources they were able to use. They also listened to a story told by a story teller, who re-enacted the story, allowing the children to see the story come alive! The children have been reading lots of fantasy stories based on superheroes in school, this half term, so this was a great way to consolidate the story writing.

ONLINE SAFETY WEEK

- Online Safety Week runs from 7th-11th February.
  - This year's theme will be 'All fun and games?' exploring respect and relationships online. The children will look at online gaming, chat functions, streaming and video content. The week will celebrate ways in which young people can help to create a safer internet through their online activity, such as creating content and interacting with friends and peers. As parents play a vital role in supervising their child/ren's online activity, we will also be providing a Safer Internet Parent Workshop via Zoom at 10:30 on Monday 7th February.

# PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

## PARENT COFFEE MONRINGS & COURSES

### Healthy Families- New Year New You

On Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January we held a workshop on 'Healthy Families' which was delivered by Nazia Ahmed from the LBTH Parental Engagement Team. The workshop covered the benefits of a healthier lifestyle, obesity stats for children, the Eatwell plate, different food groups, benefits of fruit and veg, exercise, keeping hydrated and portion sizes, healthy food swaps and how to plan for next steps. Thank you to all the parents who joined our virtual session. It was great to hear so many ideas being shared on how we can help to keep our families healthy.

### AWA & Social Worker

On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January, the virtual coffee morning was delivered by Lina Rahman, our Attendance Welfare Advisor, who highlighted the importance of good attendance and how this helps children to achieve and reduces social exclusion. Also attending was Shanaz Choudhury, our School Social Worker, who explained how she provides support to schools in relation to safeguarding and securing the welfare and wellbeing of pupils. The session helped parents to know what sources of help are available to them and to understand that accessing these is a positive step and not something that should be feared.

### Coffee Morning for Dads

Thank you to all the dads that joined our virtual coffee morning on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January. It was a great pleasure to see you all and to share the upcoming events at Old Palace School.

### Coffee Morning for Somali Families

On Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January we held a coffee morning for our Somali families. This is a platform for parent to come together, share experiences and sign post services if needed. A range of topics were discussed and some parents requested a parenting course for Somali parents. In response we have arranged a 3 weeks course, which will be delivered on Monday 7<sup>th</sup>, 21st and 28<sup>th</sup> February from 1.30-2.30pm. If interested please speak to Forida or Shelly.

### Speaking English with Confidence (SPEC)

We will be continuing with our virtual Speaking English with Confidence on Thursdays after half term, however this will now be at 10.30-11.30am. SPEC is an informal, safe space for parents to come together, share experiences and practice speaking in English. Thank you to all the parents who have participated, and we look forward to new parents joining the group.

### IT Support

Abdullahi, our ICT technician, is available to offer support with issues, such as setting up parental controls, setting up School Money accounts and helping parents who are having difficulties with accessing homework on home devices or phones. To arrange an appointment please speak to Shelly/ Forida.

### WRAP AROUND CLUB

It is with regret, that we have had to take the decision to close our Wrap Around Club at the end of this half term. To make the club financially viable we need a number of children to attend. At present, with as few as 3 children attending, the school is having to subsidise the cost of the club, which we cannot afford to do given the strain on school budgets. We are sorry for any inconvenience this will cause.



### ★ CORE VALUE AWARD - JANUARY 2021 ★

★ The value of the month for January is POSITIVITY.  
★ Congratulations to the following Bees:

- ★ Reception: **RB** Ayman & **RW** Safa
- ★ Year 1: **1D** Rayan & **1O** Hamza
- ★ Year 2: **2B** Atta & **2H** Ayra
- ★ Year 3: **3D** Noelle & **3S** Serena
- ★ Year 4: **4A** Rihan & **4T** Manha
- ★ Year 5: **5C** Maria & **5M** Isra
- ★ Year 6: **6K** Hacib & **6Y** Adam



★ Core value for February is Responsibility



### CHILDREN WITH MEDICAL NEEDS

At Old Palace, children with medical conditions are supported so that they have full access to education. Pupils with long term and complex medical conditions may require on-going support, medicines and care whilst at school to help them manage their condition and keep them well. Medical conditions such as epilepsy, asthma, allergies, eczema or other any long term conditions require a Medical Health Care Plan. These plans are kept at school, and staff are made aware of the needs and medication children have at school, if required staff are provided with ongoing training.

Old Palace has an allocated School Nurse from the Barts and London Health Care Trust. The School Nurse attends fortnightly to meet and discuss medical conditions and to help prepare Medical Health Care Plan for the school. It is important that parents do share medical information with the school and also check medication regularly. The school office will also contact parents from time to time to remind parents of medication expiration dates.

If your child requires temporary medication, such as anti-biotics, the school is able to administer this, however first parents must complete an authorisation form. The school office can provide this.

For children with Asthma, parents will need to collect a form called 'My Asthma Plan'. This form needs to be completed by both the parents and their GP/practice nurse. Once the form is completed, this will provide an Asthma Plan for the child, providing details of the inhaler, the dose and frequency of use.

For children with allergies, parents must first talk to their GP who will arrange an assessment. Once this has been completed, this will be shared with the School Nurse, who will then work with the school to put a Care Plan in place

Please click [HERE](#) to see our Policy for Children with Medical Needs in School.



### Dates for the Diary

#### Reading Together KS2

1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> February 10am-11:30am

#### Coffee Morning -Safer Internet

7<sup>th</sup> February 10:00-10:30am

#### Year 4 & 6 Gilwell Park Residential Trips

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February 10:00am

#### Coffee Morning – Maa Shanti

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 10:00-10:30am

#### Maths Games- Dads

Starts 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March 9am-12pm

#### Empower Workshop

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February 10:00-11am

#### Coffee Morning- Prevent

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 10:00-11:00am



## GOOD ATTENDANCE

Thank you to all the families who have been working hard to ensure their child's attendance and punctuality is high. Establishing good habits early on really will make a positive difference to your child's life. The link between attendance and achievement cannot be over stated. Your child will achieve better if they are in school every day. Only in very exceptional circumstances should a child be absent from school. If a child's attendance drops below 94% our Parent Support Worker, Shelly, will hold a meeting to discuss the child's attendance and ways forward to improve it. If attendance drops below 90%, this is considered a 'persistent absence'. Absence at this level is doing considerable damage to any child's education and we need parents/carers full support and co-operation to tackle this. We monitor all absence and the reasons given thoroughly. Once attendance falls to 90%, our Attendance Welfare Advisor, Lina Rahman, will arrange a meeting to discuss the child's attendance and carry out statutory duties on behalf of the Local Authority to ensure that parents/carers fulfil their legal responsibilities in relation to school attendance.

If you have any concerns in regards to your child's attendance please do not hesitate to contact the school office to arrange an appointment with the attendance team, so we can offer the right help and support.

## Did you know?

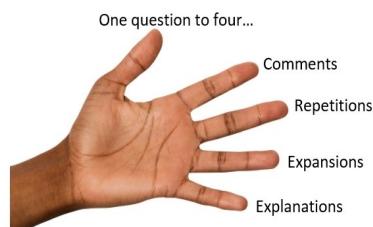
Attendance during one school year	equals this number of days absent	which is approximately this many weeks absent	which means this number of lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons

Frequent absence can add up to a considerable amount of lost learning and can seriously disadvantage your child in adult life.

## SUPPORTING SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY

At Old Palace, we understand that Speech and Language is a very important part of child development.

As well as using a language rich environment and strategies to increase vocabulary, such as word of the day, we have also introduced a new intervention in Reception called NELI. This targets pupils who need more support with their language to improve their vocabulary in expressive and receptive language, including listening and early reading skills. We also use the five finger model with our questioning, which is something parents could also use at home.



Asking questions based on these five different areas, in response to the children's answers really helps them to extend the vocabulary, sentences and ideas they communicate.

Furthermore, for children who have greater speech and language needs, we offer a range of interventions. Some of these are led by our Speech and Language therapist, Stewart Neil, who visits the school every Tuesday. Others are created by the Speech Therapists and then led by teaching assistants, who are trained and supported by Stewart. The parents of these children are also provided with resources which can be used to promote language within the home environment.

As talk is such an important part of learning, please make sure that you allow some time each day to talk to your child about their learning. The questions [here](#) will help. It is also a great idea to add in some questions about what the children learned last half term, the term before and even in the previous year. Asking the children to recall what they have learned before helps them to remember and to make links between what they have learned, allowing them to learn more.

If you have any concerns about your child's language development, please email [admin@oldpalace.towerhamlets.sch.uk](mailto:admin@oldpalace.towerhamlets.sch.uk) and we will contact you to discuss any worries.

## UPCOMING RESIDENTIALS



We are hopeful that we will be able to relaunch our residential visits for KS2 children this year. These are of great benefit to the children, allowing them to develop their independence, try a range of different activities such as climbing, archery, high ropes and raft building, and experience staying overnight in a different outdoor setting, such as woodland or by the coast. Children visiting Mersea Island and Thrifwood also get to experience camping and sleeping in a tent.

Our last residential trips took place in summer 2019, so we will also be offering an additional residential trip this year for Year 6, as they missed out when they were in Year 4 & 5.

**The dates for this year's residential are as follows:**

- ◆ Year 3: Thriftwood 7-8th July
- ◆ Year 4: Gillwell Park 4-6<sup>th</sup> May
- ◆ Year 5: Mersea Island 29<sup>th</sup> June - 1<sup>st</sup> July
- ◆ Year 6: Gillwell Park 25-27<sup>th</sup> May

We will be holding an information session on the Gilwell Park residential trips for Year 4 & 6 parents on **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February at 10am**. A reminder text message with the Zoom link will follow. Following the meeting we will begin to take bookings on a first come, first served basis. We will be accepting payment in instalments to reduce the financial burden on families.

### FREE FAMILY CYCLE TRAINING

Tower Hamlets have partnered with Bikeworks to offer FREE family cycle training. This is suitable for regular cyclists looking to progress their cycle skills. This is not suitable for complete beginners unfortunately.

**Date:** Monday 14th February, Tuesday 15th February & Thursday 17th February

**Times:** 10:00- 12:00

**Location:** In East Side Victoria Park, entering from Parnell Road, Postcode E3 2LA

Dr Bike will be available on the 14th February, 9am-12pm for repairs and advice

\* Refundable £10 deposit per family.

For more information or to book your free session click [HERE](#)

### LOOKING AFTER EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING



Emotional well-being is an important part of our every day lives and it is particularly important for children to have the opportunity to explore emotions and discuss how they are feeling. As well as having these opportunities embedded within our curriculum, we also have 'Talk Time' every Thursday lunch time. A 'worry box' is placed outside, where children can write how they are feeling and any concerns/ issues they want to discuss. This is all voluntary. Holly, our Drama Therapist, then checks the box every Thursday morning and invites those children along to discuss their worry - A problem shared is a problem halved! If you would like to know more, or opt out of this service, please contact the school office.

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## **RECOGNITION OF WIDER ACHIEVEMENT**

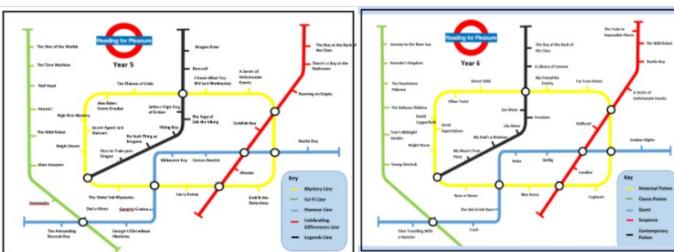
This year, we are taking part in two fantastic projects in UKS2 to help recognise the wider achievements of our pupils at Old Palace.

Year 6 are taking part in the JASS project, which focuses on four main areas to become: Successful Learners, Confident Individuals, Effective Contributors and Responsible Citizens. The children will take part in extra curricular activities inside and outside school to earn hours towards achieving an award at the end of the academic year. Each child will meet half termly with their designated mentor, who will help them to check evidence of their extra curricular activities, such as clubs, family activities and community work, which the children will record using their EJASS online accounts. At the end of the year, the children who have accumulated enough hours will receive the Bronze awards.

Meanwhile, year 5 are taking part in a project called Children's University. The aim of the project is very similar, and again the children are able to earn points for the extra curricular activities they complete, which will lead towards a certificate at the end of the academic year. The children are given passports to log the hours they complete and their teachers help them to claim those hours on the online portal.

The children are excited about taking part in these projects and we really appreciate the support of parents in allowing children to access out of school activities, which are a great way to help the children to develop their interests and to further nurture their talents.

## **READING REMINDERS**



## Reading Tube Maps

The Tube maps are full of exciting books for children in Year 3- 6 to read. Please do ask your child what line they are on. When they are reading you could also ask, 'What has happened so far in your book?', 'What do you think will happen next?' 'Would you recommend this book/ author and what are your reasons for this?

## This Book **Bug Club**

If you have a child in Reception to Year 4, please support your child by asking them to read their bug club book to you. When they read the book, they will be able to click on the bugs which provide them with comprehension questions to answer. Remember we do encourage children to read a story more than once as it helps them to build up their fluency and confidence.

## **Library Books**

We are so fortunate in our school to have a two libraries full of amazing books. Between September - December, 911 Non-fiction books and 1801 fiction books were taken out of the libraries. When your child brings the books home, why not make a comfortable reading place for them to read with you or by themselves for example on a beanbag or on the sofa. We are constantly buying new books to ensure our library is stocked full of the children's favourite authors.

# **Children's Book Week**

**BOOK WEEK** Book week will be from 28th February to 4th March. As always, we have lots of exciting activities planned for the children. This year, the theme is 'authors'. We will be asking the child to dress up as their favourite book character on Friday 4th March, so please start to think about what they can wear. We will also be sending home a Scholastic catalogue, so the children can use their book vouchers to order books online.

## **YEAR 5 WRITERS**



Ten children in Year 5 attended a writing workshop with famous poet Neal Zetter. They worked with children from other schools to understand the fundamentals of poetry. They were able to flex their creative muscles in a variety of warm ups, games and challenges. Finally, children crafted a poem about an everyday object one might find in the classroom. The poems used lots of alliteration and personification and were extremely impressive!. It was an educational and fun day filled with lots of words, laughs and creativity.

## **YEAR 4 VISIT SIR JOHN SOANES MUSEUM**

Year 4 went on a trip to the Sir John Soanes Museum. Inside, they explored the different parts of the house which showcased a range of artefacts from the Ancient Greek era. Through a guided tour, the children got up close to a range of paintings and sculptures, linked to



their history learning. Following this, they had a workshop, analysing the architecture of Ancient Greek temples and designing their own temple based on their favourite Ancient Greek god. It was a fun filled day of learning!

## **YEAR 2 VISIT HORNIMAN MUSEUM**

In Geography this half-term, Year 2 have been learning all about Life in Africa. This includes learning about the life of people who live in Kenya and comparing it with people who live in the UK. They also explored and created African mask sculptures in class. At the Horniman Museum, the children completed a Life in Africa exploration hunt, which allowed them to explore a range of African artefacts. Exploring the different artefacts, stimulated the children's curiosity and helped to bring their learning to life.

