



# Old Palace Newsletter

February/March 2022

## BOOK WEEK 2022

Last week, we had great fun celebrating Book Week and World Book Day. The theme this year was: authors. To support this, each class focused on the work of a particular author, reading their books, tweeting questions to them and designing an advert to promote one of their books. The children also took part in a competition, where they told us who their favourite author is and why—we were very impressed by the quality of their entries.

With restrictions beginning to end, we were able to re-launch our popular 'Bedtime Story' event for our Reception children. On Wednesday, the children came back to school with their parents at 5pm. They listened to teachers reading their favourite books aloud, all cozied together with popcorn and beanbags, followed by a chance for parents to read with their child. On Thursday, the Mayors Fund arranged for best selling author, David Walliams, to visit three schools in East London. Old Palace was lucky enough to be selected, so David attended an assembly for KS2 children, reading extracts from two of his books and answering some of the children's questions. Da-



## IMPORTANT DATES



### END OF SPRING TERM

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

### MAY DAY

Monday 2nd May 2022

### POSSIBLE EID CLOSURE

Tuesday 3rd May 2022 TBC

### SUMMER HALF TERM HOLIDAY

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

### POSSIBLE EID CLOSURE

Monday 11th July 2022 TBC

### END OF SUMMER TERM

School finishes Friday 22nd July 2022

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

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vid's team insisted that we kept the visit a secret so it would be a complete surprise for the children and staff when he walked in. His publisher was also very generous, donating a free book for all the children in Y4-Y6 to take home.

Then on Friday, we were lucky to have a second author visit us, Keilly Swift, who visited year 2 to share her most recent book, 'The Tigon and Liger'. The children loved the story and had lots of questions ready; following the visit they had fun creating their own mythical creature, much like the wondrous Liger!

After all that great fun, there was only one thing left to do... Book week assembly! In the Old Palace tradition, we asked the children to dress up as a book character and you did not let us down! We had some amazing home made costumes, including: Red-riding hoods, Peter Rabbits, Gangster Grannies ....you name them, we had them! The hall was buzzing with excitement and it was such a pleasure to hear the children share all the facts they had found out about their author over the week.



Book week also included a book fair for our year 4, 5 & 6 pupils, following successful events for our younger year groups in the Autumn. The children were able to bring home two free books that were kindly donated to the school by Harper & Collins. The school is also running a Scholastic Book Club. Parents should have received a catalogue. In order to order books from the catalogue please go to <https://schools.scholastic.co.uk/old-palace/digital-book-club> where you can browse through 100s of exciting titles and order online. For every £1 you spend on this month's Book Club, our school will earn 20p in Scholastic Rewards, which will help us to buy even more books. Please place your order online by 14th March. You can also use the £1 book token which was given to the children as part of World Book Day! Thank you to everyone who made this year's Book Week such a success. Keep up the reading, as not only is it fun, but also one of the best ways to support the children's learning!



# PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

## COFFEE MONRINGS & PARENT WORKSHOPS

### Reception & Year 1 Oral Health

On Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February, Michelle Ting from the Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust held a presentation on fluoride varnishing for the parents from Reception and Year 1. Tooth decay is very common in children and it can cause pain, stop children from eating, speaking, sleeping and learning properly at school. The Department of Health recommends that fluoride varnish is applied at least twice a year to protect teeth. Michelle also expressed the importance of brushing teeth, ensuring their tooth paste contains at least 1000 ppmF for 0-3 years and 1450 ppmF for 3 years above. Thank you to all the parents and carers who joined from Reception and Year 1.

### Financial Advice and Support

On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February, we held a virtual information workshop on benefits advice. Ruby Farrell, a Community Engagement Officer from Age UK East London, was invited to speak to our parents. Ruby went through the benefit changes and also spoke about funding and help with rising fuel bills. If there are any families who were not present and would like advice, Ruby has agreed to return on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March and Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May between 9-11am. To arrange an appointment please speak to Forida or Shelly.

### Reading Together

Thank you to all the parents who attended the 'Reading Together' Course held for KS2 parents coordinated by Nazia Ahmed, from the LBTH Parental Engagement Team.

During the 3 week programme, the parents were shown how reading is taught in schools, key reading strategies, how parents can support their child in choosing the appropriate book, skills on how to support reading with useful questions to encourage 'book talk', and how to encourage cross curricular work when reading text, which also links between reading and writing. Feedback from the parents, who attended was very positive, as they felt the course was engaging and offered useful ideas to support reading at home with older children.

### Reception Reading Workshop

On Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March, we held a special reading workshop for our Reception parents. The workshop focused on the story 'The Hungry Caterpillar' by Eric Carle and 'The Gruffalo' by Julia Donaldson and how this could be used to support early reading. This included an opportunity to get creative, as the parents created their own puppets and props to support a retelling of the story at home.

### Speaking English with Confidence

Thank you to all the parents who log on regularly to the virtual Speaking English with Confidence (SPEC) session every Thursday 10.30-11.30am. SPEC is an informal, safe space for parents to share experience and practice speaking in English. We have spaces available for anyone else who would like to join the session; please speak to Shelly or Forida if you are interested

### STAR CITIZENS - SPRING A

We would like to congratulate the following pupils for achieving the star citizen award this term. Well Done and keep up the good work.

<b>Reception</b>	RB Ahnaf & RW
<b>Year One</b>	1D Aizah & 1O Saudah
<b>Year Two</b>	2B Rahim & 2H Suhaib
<b>Year Three</b>	3D Inaya & 3S Nehrin
<b>Year Four</b>	4A Tamim H & 4T
<b>Year Five</b>	5C Ismail & 5M Maryam
<b>Year Six</b>	6K Yazmin & 6Y Shamira

### CORE VALUE AWARD - FEBRUARY 2022

The value of the month for February was **RESPONSIBILITY**. Congratulations to:

<b>Reception:</b>	<b>RB Hafsa &amp; RW Hannah</b>
<b>Year 1:</b>	<b>1D Sana &amp; 1O Mahreen</b>
<b>Year 2:</b>	<b>2B Safiyyah &amp; 2H Sanjana</b>
<b>Year 3:</b>	<b>3D Maryam M &amp; 3S Adem</b>
<b>Year 4:</b>	<b>4A Tamim H &amp; 4T Tahera</b>
<b>Year 5:</b>	<b>5C Safa &amp; 5M Joey</b>
<b>Year 6:</b>	<b>6K Hacib &amp; 6Y Liyana</b>

Our Core Value for March will be **Forgiveness**.

### TIME TO ENGAGE

With restrictions easing, we are pleased to be able to relaunch our Time to Engage sessions. These sessions are one of the strategies we use to support disadvantaged learners. An after school family learning session is held, during which homework is set to complete the following week. Not only do these sessions help build the children's skills, they also help parents to develop ways to support learning at home. This half term the focus will be on Reading and sessions will be provided for Reception and Year 2 on alternative Thursday's. We look forward to seeing all the parents we have invited and having fun learning together.

### DATES FOR THE DIARY

#### Advice on Energy & Benefits

Mon 7<sup>th</sup> March & Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May. Appointment ONLY

#### Advocacy & Emotional Support

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March, 10-11am  
Zoom details to follow near the time

#### Asthma and Children's Physical Activity

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March, 10-10.45am. All sessions will be held online. To book, please email [Sultana Begum](mailto:Sultana.Begum).

#### LBTH Prevent Workshop for Parents

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 10-11am  
Zoom details to follow near the time

#### Dads Maths Games

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> March 9-11am, Community Room

### KEEPING OUR SCHOOL CLEAN & TIDY

It has been great to welcome back Reception & KS1 parents onsite at the end of the day, following the relaxing of restrictions. Unfortunately, since we have reverted to all the children being collected from the playgrounds, we have noticed an increase in litter, especially wet wipes, tissues and discarded food packaging/wraps. Please do not consume food in the playground and if you do need to dispose of any litter, please use the bins provided. Litter is not only unsightly, it can also spread illnesses and attract rats and other vermin. Please help us to keep our playgrounds tidy!

### SUPPORTING PARENTS WITH TECHNOLOGY

Most parents are now successfully using our new online payment system, School Money. However, should you require help, Abdullahi, our ICT Technician, is available to offer IT support with this, as well as on how to set up parental controls and how to access homework on Google Classroom. Appointment are available on Mondays and Thursdays and can be arranged with Forida or Shelly.

## ONLINE SAFETY WEEK



This year's Safer Internet Day theme was 'All Fun And Games: Exploring Respect and Relationships Online.' The children spent a morning completing activities dealing with some of the current issues that they may encounter when they go online.

Reception and Year 1 read the story 'Digiduck and The Magic Castle.' The children used the ideas from the story to start thinking about who they have in their lives who they can trust and can go to if they need help with anything online.

Year 2 looked at different pieces of information and discussed which information they should keep private and offline (eg. your full name) and what was safe to share online (eg. a photo of your food).

Year 3 considered what is needed to have happy and healthy relationships online in order to make it a kinder, more friendly place for everyone. They then came up with a 'Kinder Internet Spell' that would help to achieve this. (eg. A large handful of good manners)

Year 4 thought about what features of games are there to help keep them safe. Then they designed a character to act as a gaming guide to people chatting online, in order to make gaming chats a more safe and respectful place.

Year 5 discussed what children can do to make sure everyone feels safe, happy and respected when playing together online. They then designed a Respectful Gaming Guide poster sharing their ideas about how to keep online games a more positive place.

Year 6 looked at some scenarios that they may come across when gaming or chatting online, such as online bullying, trading, leaving people out. The children then thought about what advice they would give to someone in those situations. They also thought about how they would react in different scenarios in the moment and considered ways they could improve the situation.

Parents can find out more about the apps, films and games that children may be interested in by visiting [common sense media](https://www.commonsensemedia.org)



## MINISTER OF PARLIAMENT VISITS OLD PALACE



To support their learning of the democratic institutions of the UK, the children in year 4 were visited by our local MP, Apsana Begum. Prior to her visit, the children learnt about how the Greeks helped to give us the idea of democracy and how this is put into practice in the UK. The children first began looking at the three parts of the UK Parliament: The head of State, the House of Commons and the House of Lords. They then learnt about how elections are run on a national level and made comparisons to how they voted for their class school councillor. Following on from this, they then began researching what the role of an MP was and how laws are made. The children had great fun role playing the passing of an imaginary bill, debating as if they were in the House of Commons. For their Make It Real Project, the children generated questions to ask local MP Apsana Begum. The children were delighted when Apsana, not only agreed to answer their questions, but also said that she would come to visit them. During her visit they discovered what inspired her to become an MP, when she was elected and what actions she has taken that have benefitted the lives of those in her constituency. We would like to thank Apsana for taking time out of her busy schedule to visit us. The visit was a real inspiration for the children and really helped to bring their learning to life.

## YEAR 2 FOOD LAB : SOMALIAN CUISINE



This term, for their DT Food project, Year 2 prepared a dish of Nafaqo and salad. Nafaqo is a traditional Somali snack, made from a boiled egg, wrapped in mashed potato and bread crumbs. It really is delicious! You need a lot of cooking skills to make it, such as chopping and mixing. The children did a great job, working co-operatively to create the tasty dish. Yummy!

## RED NOSE DAY 2022

This year, to celebrate 'Red Nose Day', we are hosting some fantastic activities in school to raise money for charity **from Monday 14th until Friday 18th March**. The children will be able to donate money and take part in activities such as:

- **Design a red nose competition (30p),**
- **Penalty shoot-out (50p),**
- **Big Red Nose Day Quiz (50p)**
- **Pyjama Friday - (50p) (Children can wear Pyjamas or loungewear to school, along with their red noses!).**

Alongside these activities, there will be merchandise on sale in the KS2 playground every morning from 8:45am until 9:00am including:

- **Red Noses (£1.50),**
- **Pin Badges (£1),**
- **Wristbands (£1),**
- **3 in 1 Card Games (£2) and**
- **Fluffy Keyrings (£3)**

We will also be holding a Cake Sale on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022 and we welcome any donations of cakes and baked goods. If you are able to donate, please make sure the cakes are clearly labelled with the ingredients that have been used.



## YEAR 2 VISIT HORNIMAN MUSEUM



Year 2 visited the Horniman Museum where they learned more about Life in Africa. As part of the workshop they attended, children were split into three groups, focusing on African toys made from recycled materials, African markets and African animals and decorations. The children were fascinated with toy cars made from cans and lids or soft toys made from old shoes. Additionally, they had the chance to use musical instruments, such as African drums and to try on traditional fabrics. Among other exhibits, children saw and touched a tiger's skull and a snake's skin. They also enjoyed the musical instruments playground in the museum garden.



## YEAR 3 AFRICAN DRUMMING

This half term the children have been learning the African Drum (Djembe) with music tutors from THAMES. The children have been focusing on how to produce different sounds from the instruments, and how to play simple rhythms in time to the beat. The children work hard each week, putting lots of effort into producing different sounds and ensuring that the instruments are looked after during each session.



## YEAR 5 VISIT THE BRITISH MUSEUM

Last half term, year 5 visited the British Museum to support their learning about the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. They were able to explore ancient artefacts from the Anglo Saxon era. It was fascinating to see the different armour they had and the intricate designs of all their beautiful jewellery. We also saw how they recorded every day life through engravings on boxes and vases.



## YEAR 5 & 6 FOOTBALL TOURNAMENTS



It is great news that sports tournaments are now once again being planned following the disruption caused by the pandemic. On Tuesday, 1st March our year 5&6 girls' football team went to their first football competition of the year. They competed at the Premier League Primary Stars football regional girls competition, at The West Ham foundation, playing against schools from all across London. Despite not winning the tournament, the girls did the school extremely proud, not only with the effort that they put in, but also with their teamwork and sportsmanship, which was praised by several of the coaches at the tournament. On Thursday 3rd March, the year 5 & 6 boys'



team competed in the same tournament. They played well putting in a brilliant defensive performances throughout the tournament I hope you will join us in congratulating both teams for all their commitment and hard work.

## YEAR 4 FESTIVAL ASSEMBLY : NIRVANA

Last half term, Y4 did a fantastic job delivering the Nirvana Festival Assembly. Prior to this, the children had been learning about Buddhism as part of their RE topic. This was also supported by a visit to the London Buddhist Centre. In addition



tion to finding out about the temple, they carried out a mini role play of the story of Siddhartha Gautama leaving the royal palace in his search for enlightenment. After this, they practised a variety of meditation techniques and discussed how it made them feel. Their festival assembly was very informative and we were able to learn how Buddhists in countries in other parts of the world such as Japan and India, celebrate this festival. We particularly enjoyed their wonderful rendition of Nico Vinz's 'Am I wrong' and 'Let Love Shine Through' which all left us feeling calm and content.

