



Old Palace Newsletter

March 2022

SPRING FESTIVAL ASSEMBLIES



This half term has included several festivals. Firstly, Reception performed the **Vaisakhi festival assembly**, after learning more about how the Sikh's religion began. They visited a Gurdwara to see what happens there and how Sikh people pray, sing and read their holy book called the Guru Granth Sahib. The children got to look around the main hall and Mr Singh talked about the Sikh religion. They were even given special treats to take back to school. On Friday 25th March the children performed their very first festival assembly and did an amazing job. They showed great acting skills, retelling how the Khalsa panth of warriors was created and sharing what they had learned about how Sikhs' celebrate Vaisakhi.



This week, Year 3 performed the Passover **festival assembly**. To help prepare for this, the children were visited by Veronica and David, who talked about the meaning of Passover and how this is celebrated. The children had the opportunity to ask lots of questions about Passover and our guests enjoyed talking to the children about what they had learned about Judaism. The assembly then took place on Wednesday. The children retold the story of Passover, explained the purpose of a Seder plate and shared some of the songs they had learned. Thank you Year 3 for such a great performance and for helping us to understand more about the festival of Passover.

Tomorrow, Year 5 will be performing the **Easter festival assembly**. Also as part of the Easter celebrations, Reception held an Easter bonnet parade. There were some exceptional bonnets with many showing great creativity and design flare. Everyone had a great time. Thank you to all the parents who came to watch the parade.



IMPORTANT DATES



END OF SPRING TERM

School finishes **Friday 1st April 2022 @ 2PM**
Return to school **Tuesday 19th April 2022**

ANNUAL SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

Thursday 21st 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

Friday 8th 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

Follow us on Twitter 

NO PLACE FOR HATE

Tower Hamlets have developed a No Place for Hate (NPFH) Campaign which aims to send clear and consistent messages that hate will not be tolerated in the borough.

They have created a NPFH Personal Pledge for any individuals that live, work or visit the borough to sign to show their support in tackling hate and discrimination. If you would like to sign the pledge, please follow this link [Personal pledge against hate](#)



YEAR 5 & 6 FOOTBALL COMPETITION

A huge well done to our year 5 and 6 boys' football team who achieved second place in the Bow Boys Primary League held at Marner Primary school. Just two weeks ago, they were at the bottom of the league, but through their commitment and resilience they made an impressive comeback. The boys should be very proud of their team work and what they have achieved together. Congratulations!



PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

COFFEE MORNINGS & PARENT WORKSHOPS

Google Classrooms

On Tuesday 29th February 2022 we held a workshop for parents in KS1 on using Google Classroom and Bug club. We looked at how parents could support their child in reading and completing their homework, as well as how to access both platforms. Thank you to all the parents who attended.

Advice on Energy & Benefits

On Monday 7th March, Ruby Farrell, from Age UK East London, came to school to offer benefits advice to parents, which included helping some to access energy payments. If there are any families who are experiencing difficulties or hardship, please come and speak to Shelly, who will be able to book you an appointment. The next session will be held on Thursday 5th May between 9-11am.

Maa Shanti Workshop

Thank you to those parents who joined the Maa Shanti workshop on the 9th March. Maa Shanti is an organisation that supports South Asian mothers who are fleeing domestic abuse. They provide support to single Asian mums and help with building confidence. Additional services, such as advocacy, emotional support, sign posting and activities that reduce isolation and promote peer support are available. If you or you know of someone that maybe going through domestic abuse, help them by visiting the website and completing the form on the home page: www.maashanti.org or diector@maashanti.org. Alternatively you may call on 0207 700 0675/ 07904 034278 in confidence. If you need support with this please do not hesitate to speak to Forida or Shelly.

Prevent Workshop

On Monday 16th March, Eleanor Knight, an Education officer from LBTH was invited to talk to our parents about Prevent and what it means. 'Prevent' is about safeguarding individuals from being drawn into terrorism, ensuring those vulnerable are given appropriate advice and support at an early stage. If you are concerned or feel someone maybe at risk of being radicalised and need support please contact prevent@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Dads' Maths Games

Thank you for all the dads that committed their time to 'Maths Games for Dads'. The course was delivered by Peter Gill from the Parental Engagement Team and over the three weeks al-



lowed the dads to explore the power of games to stimulate mathematical thinking and develop higher level thinking skills, like problem solving and reasoning. The course also emphasised the importance of language in early mathematical learning. Dads were introduced to fun,

interactive games and practical activities which can be used to reinforce key mathematical concepts at home. By the end of the course, the dads were more confident in using a range of open-ended learning experiences, such as sorting, comparing, counting, calculating and describing with their own child/ren. Well done dads!

Ramadan

Following feedback from parents on Wednesday 23rd March, we held a virtual Coffee Morning on 'Healthy Choices for Ramadan'. It was great to see all the mums online. Mums were really keen to share what they make for iftaar (breaking the fast at sunset). The parents shared their cooking methods and then discussed healthier options, which could be used to support a more balanced diet. We are now all looking forward to a happy and healthier Ramadan. Ramadan Mubarak to those who celebrate.

CORE VALUE AWARD - MARCH 2022

The value of the month for March was **FORGIVENESS**. Congratulations to:

Reception: RB Thaifa & RW Taima
Year 1: 1D Maherul & 1O Shafayat
Year 2: 2B Jaden & 2H Halima
Year 3: 3D Shazana M & 3S Araf
Year 4: 4A Hamza H & 4T Poppy
Year 5: 5C Tahera & 5M Mahdi
Year 6: 6K Safiyyah & 6Y Masuma

Our Core Value for April will be **COMPASSION**

TIME 2 ENGAGE PROJECT



This half term, families in Reception and Year 2 have been taking part in Time2Engage workshops. The focus has been on Reading.

Reception families have been learning creative ways to engage children in reading and practising their phonics sounds. Some of the activities they have explored include making a reading board game and making phonics fans.

Year 2 families have been looking at the different reading domains. They looked at the strategies children need to use to answer different types of comprehension questions. Parents then had the opportunity to work with their child, in order to help them to develop the different strategies needed.

As part of the workshops, parents were able to take away activities to complete at home with their child. This support at home is very important in helping a child to consolidate their reading skills and we can already see the benefits in school. Thank you to all of the families who attended the workshops. Next half term we will be providing sessions for Year 1.

ONLINE SAFETY WEEK

A popular app among children is YouTube. In 2016 YouTube introduced -'The YouTube Kids' app which was designed to allow younger children to use YouTube in a more managed way, whilst giving parents extra controls. Whilst it is a great app, the biggest reason why children tend to not go on the 'child friendly version' is usually because the channels/videos that the children want to watch are not available on the YouTube Kids app. YouTube have now introduced a new service called **Parent Allow listing** which can be used on mobile devices where a parent can approve age appropriate videos/channel from the main YouTube app into their child's YouTube Kids account. There is a link to a video explaining this on YouTube which you can found [HERE](#).

With the Easter break coming up, it is more important than ever to be aware of the safety features that can be set up on devices to help protect children when online. Internet Matters has a huge range of advice and guidance, which includes simple guides on how to set up devices, including tablets, phones, gaming devices and more. This [page](#) gives a good introduction on how to set up safety features.

And remember, if you need help setting up parent controls on any device, you can also book an appointment with our IT technician- Abdullahi. Just contact Forida or Shelly to make an appointment.

YEAR 5 VISIT THE SOANES CENTRE



This half term, Year 5 have been learning about materials. To support this, they attended a workshop at the Soanes Centre, where they found out more about the origins of different materials and their properties. The children carried out experiments to determine the strengths of a range of materials and also investigated ways in which different materials could be separated from one another. The children set a brilliant example for Old Palace and were able to share all of their fantastic learning back in class.

YEAR 1 LEARN ABOUT FOOD & FARMING

To consolidate their learning this Spring, Year 1 went on a trip to visit Surrey Docks Farm in South East London. They attended a workshop about the different crops grown on farms, which supported their learning back in school. They then did a tour of the vegetable beds and planted their own cress seeds, which they took home to look after. To end the trip, they got to visit the farm animals and even had a go at feeding the goats! As part of this topic, the children have also learned how to make naan bread in the Food Lab. They practised measuring out ingredients for the naan bread and chopping different fruits for the fruit salad, while following instructions! They also talked about where the ingredients come from and how they were grown. The children have also planted their own beetroot, carrots, peas and beans in the school playground to harvest later in the year. Finally as their Make it Real project, the children hosted a farmers' market where they got to share their knowledge and food with their parents. We had a great turn out of parents, so thank you parents for your support.



CELEBRATING EID

At present, it is predicted that Eid-Al-Fitr will be on Tuesday 3rd May. Should this be the case, the school will be closed on that day. As the timing of the celebration relies on the moon, we will not be able to confirm until the day before. If the festival falls on Wednesday, we will be open on Tuesday, and then close on Wednesday instead. As soon as we know, a text will be sent to all families to confirm when the school will close.

We will be holding Eid parties the day after Eid-Al-Fitr. The children will have Eid parties in their classroom during the afternoon, except for Reception, who will have their party in the top hall. Parents of Reception children will be able to attend the Reception party from 1.45pm. Please only one adult from each family and no siblings. We will provide food, but as always we are very grateful for any food donations. If you send in any home cooked food, please add a list of ingredients, so that we can make sure children with allergies are kept safe. We recommend that children bring their party clothes in and change at lunchtime, so these do not get damaged or dirty at playtimes. If this is not possible, children can wear party clothes for the whole day, as long as they do not pose a safety risk. Pupils are **not allowed** to wear jewellery or make up at anytime.

Based on the current COVID-19 restrictions, we plan to hold a **party for parents from 2.15-3.30pm**. Food will be provided, but again donations are welcome. If you would like to volunteer to help with the Parents' Party, please speak to Shelly or Florida.

BOOK DONATIONS

We would like to say a big thank you to our LBTH Business partner SEI who donated a selection of books to the KS1 library as part of a project arranged by Book Love. The children are looking forward to exploring the new books when they return after the Easter break.



We would like to say a massive thank you to all the families who have been coming to school and helping our attendance remain consistency above the national average! Our target is 97% and over the Spring term our average attendance has been going up each week, which is great to see.
The weekly figures on the website front page <https://oldpalaceprimary.co.uk/>

Congratulations to all the following children for Achieving 100% Attendance during the Spring Term (5th January to 30th March 2022)

- FS:** Rayyan, Meeyad, Aydan, Safiyah, Tuba, Charis, Maria & Hannah R.
- Y1:** Surayya, Madiha, Hamza, Adam, Ahyaan, Inaaya, Layan, Ayana, Tanzeela, Sharleez & Ummul.
- Y2:** Munim, Ahyan, Imran, Iqra, Kaitlyn, Suhaib, Faiha, Halima, Safiyyah, Amani, Emily, Atta, Yusuf, Anisa, Aaliyah, Ayaan & Sameeha.
- Y3:** Alisha, Safa, Zahir, Omar, Aaminah, Ahianul, Rio, Alina, Elma & Raif.
- Y4:** Juhan, Sufian, Zaina, Saadat, Tamim, Anisha, Ahmed, Ayana, Husni, Ihsan, Afsana, Aadam & Taif.
- Y5:** Maliha, Tauheed, Ayan, Mahibah, Maryam, Ismail, Maymunah, Anas & Safa.
- Y6:** Amaan, Yazmin, Rihan, Zaim Shabib, Nahid, Ihsan, Natasha, Habibah, Dawood, Nathan, Sama, Inayah, Rifat, Alisa, Yusha, Zaim, Adeeba & Safiyyah.

Below is a gentle reminder of the percentage of attendance, which may trigger a cause for concern:

91%-94%: Parent Support Worker Meeting / 90% and below: Attendance Welfare Advisor Meeting
We look forward to the attendance continuing to rise in the summer term and keep up the good work!



YEAR 3 VISIT EYNSFORD VILLAGE



As part of their Geography unit on Settlements and Rivers, the children in Year 3 visited Eynsford in Kent to learn about life in a village. They made comparisons between life in Eynsford and life in an urban environment, such as Bow. They looked at how land was used in both settings and completing their own sketch maps of both. The children were excited to visit the ford to find out what it was; they also had time to visit Eynsford Castle and explore the ruins. Finally they visited Anthony Roper School and got to compare the site to Old Palace. It was a tiring day, with lots of walking, but gave the children a good understanding of how village life compares to living in Bow.



As part of their field work, the children investigated the amount of litter in the local area, even creating a tally of the different types of litter they observed. They found that there was much more litter here than in Eynsford, so as their Make it Real project, the children decided to create a campaign to highlight the issue of littering in our area. They created posters and videos persuading people to stop littering and have also written some letters to the local MP about the littering issue around Bow. Please support the campaign by always taking your rubbish home with you or disposing of it in a bin and also by politely reminding others to do the same. We thank you for your support.

YEAR 6 VISIT THE SCIENCE MUSEUM

This half term, Year 6 went to the Science Museum to learn about the energy crisis, global warming, electricity and light. They were able to view amazing models of the sun, the main light source, as well see how we are currently harming the planet with fossil fuel use. They were also able to ask experts how we can begin to help solve our current global issues! As their Make it Real project, the children will be writing to Mr Palmer and the council to suggest ways in which the school and local area can reduce their energy consumption and adopt more sustainable sources of power.



COMIC RELIEF 2022

RED NOSE DAY

School Council supported by Mr Heighington prepared an exciting programme of events to raise money and to join in the fun and laughter associated with Comic Relief. There were many activities that ran throughout the week, including penalty shootout, The Big Red Nose Day Quiz and a sold

out cake sale! The school council worked really hard to put on the events and make sure they ran smoothly, they even found time to make a fantastic film exploring what it takes to make a good joke. On Friday the children and staff came into school in their pyjamas and during the assembly the children got to find out the winning joke of the week. All in all we managed to raise a whopping £891.33 for the charity. Thank you to everyone who donated, included staff and parents who put their cooking skills to good effect to make cakes for the sale. Finally a special thank you to the School Council for making this such a huge success!



RECEPTION VISIT BOW ARTS GALLERY



Our Reception children went to the Nunnery Gallery at Bow Arts, where they explored the photo installation, poem and artist sketches. They had great fun and talked about their favourite art pieces, what the images reminded them of and what they think the artist was trying to capture. Using

the inspiration they had gained, they were then given an opportunity to put their creative skills to work by completing their own piece of Art.

MOTHERS DAY

Our Reception children invited their mums to a special Mother's day celebration. It was a lovely afternoon; the children recited a special acrostic poem and then complete a range of activities, such as hand printing and cake decorating with their mums. The afternoon ended with the children handing out a daffodil they had grown for their mum and a special card they had made.



DT DAY: FABRIC

This term's DT day focussed on the use of different textiles to create a range of products. The children had to really think about who their user was, the purpose of their product and the suitability of the material they were going to use.

Reception were able to decorate their party bags using a range of brightly coloured foam shapes. In Year 1, they created their very own finger puppets based on different farm animals in order to retell a farmyard story linked to their topic. Year 2 incorporated their learning on plants and used Georgia O'Keefe's art as inspiration, to make, decorate and attach pockets onto a tote bag made of cotton. Year 3 used off cuts of leather, and repurposed them to make coin purses. Before using leather they made prototypes out of calico material, in order to see which material would be more suitable to make their product. To assist them in their nature trails, Year 4 designed, measured, marked out and cut sewed pockets made of Hessian onto a drawstring bag. Year 5 used bags made of PVC and repurposed them to make pannier bags or rucksacks. They carefully measured their handles, in order to suit the purpose of the bag. Finally, Year 6 made oyster card holders by sewing pieces of felt together using blanket and back stitches. They even incorporated the use of an electrical component in the form of a LED bulb! During the day we were visited by teachers from the Inspire Trust who came to find out more about the way we teach DT. They were very impressed with the children's work and took lots of idea back to their schools.



YEAR 4 LEARN ABOUT NATURE

Year 4 visited the Soanes Centre to explore a range of plants and animals that live in the local area. They used their observation skills to classify trees as deciduous or evergreen and looked for clues, such burrows, beehives and eggs to identify wildlife living around the Soanes Centre. Back in the classroom they wrote non-chronological reports about different animals and decided that for their Make it Real project, they would like to do more to care for the wildlife in the school grounds. They researched ways in which they could help and decide to make butterfly feeders which they hung in the school gardens. They also decided to install some bird feeders which they will take it in turns to refill and have installed a special bird box design for swifts to try and encourage this species of bird to nest in the area. Check out <https://www.rspb.org.uk/> to find out about lots of other ways to help local wildlife.



YEAR 2 VISIT HYDE PARK

Year 2 visited Hyde Park where they had the chance to learn more about different types of plants. As part of the workshop at the Look Out Discovery Centre, children pretended to be seeds that germinate, growing roots, stem and leaves. They also explored the part that flowers play in the life-cycle of flowering plants. After describing different methods of seed dispersal, they used twigs, leaves, seeds and dried fruits to create a memory card. Additionally, children learned how to make a recyclable paper pot, they chose from a variety of seeds and planted their own flower which they took home. Back in school, Year 2 planted different types of flowers such as: lobelia, petunias and marigolds, which they will add to the planting around the school. We were very impressed with their gardening skills—well done Year 2!

