



Old Palace Newsletter

April 2022

YEAR 4 GILWELL PARK RESIDENTIAL



Year 4 attended the first residential of the year at Gillwell Park, staying for 3 days and 2 nights, at the beginning of May. This gave the children a great opportunity to be independent, resilient and to showcase great teamwork. They all participated in various activities which enabled them to take their learning outside of the classroom and be active.

In archery, the children tested their accuracy skills, learning how to hold their bow properly, attach an arrow and to shoot it from a safe distance. During the leap of faith, the children bravely climbed a tall pole and once they reached the summit, they leaped across to a bar in front of them. At the backwoods, the children made pizzas and banana chocolate desert which was cooked over an open fire. This helped them to learn that fires need oxygen, just like humans need to breathe. The children thoroughly enjoyed the 3G swing. The children worked together to hoist each other up and then they were free to swing high above the



ground. To further test their teamwork skills, the children built rafts made of huge barrels and rope. Once these were constructed, they then had to use their new acquired rowing skills to travel across the lake, holding their paddles correctly. The children showed great communication with each other in order to control the speed and direction of their raft. The climbing wall really brought out the children's resilience, as all children had a go at traversing the indoor climbing wall. Those with a fear of heights, managed to overcome this and managed to climb as high as they could, with some even reaching the top! The evening hike was a great way to also help the children appreciate the nature around them. Finally, the children made their own catapults using tripods, which they constructed by using a cloth stitch knot to tie the bamboo posts together. We would like to thank Ms. Duong, Mr. Thomson and Mr. Manalo for chaperoning the children.



IMPORTANT DATES



SUMMER HALF TERM HOLIDAY
School finishes Friday 27th May 2022
Return to school Monday 6th June 2022

EID CLOSURE
Friday 8th July 2022 TBC

END OF YEAR PARENT CONSULTATIONS
By Appointment ONLY
12th & 13th July 2022

END OF SUMMER TERM
School finishes **2PM Wednesday 20th July 2022**
Please visit our school website for a full list of term dates www.oldpalaceprimary.co.uk

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THE RETURN OF SATS

In May children across the UK have been busy completing the government's SATs tests.

This week, the children in Year 6 completed tests in Reading, Grammar, Spelling, Arithmetic & Mathematical Reasoning. The children have worked incredibly hard to prepare for the tests and showed great concentration and resilience when completing them. The



tests have been sent off for marking and the school will receive the results in early July. The children continue to work hard on their writing, which will be assessed by their teachers in mid-June.

Meanwhile in Year 2, the children have also been completing SATs

tests. Unlike Year 6, the children do not have to take the tests on a specific day. So far the children have completed an arithmetic test and a short reading test. They will also complete a Maths reasoning paper and a longer reading test, before half term. The results from these tests are then used to help the teachers to make an assessment of each child's attainment.

More national tests will also be taking place after half term, when pupils in year 1 will complete the Phonics Screening and children in year 4 will take the new multiplication tables test, which the children will complete online.

The school will also ask the children in years 1, 3, 4 & 5 to complete NFER tests in Reading and Maths so their attainment and progress can be measured. This information will then be shared in each child's end of year report.



PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

EID CELEBRATIONS



After a month of fasting, our families celebrated 'the Feast of Breaking the Fast' known as Eid ul Fitr on Monday 2nd May. When school reopened on Wednesday 4th May, most of the children dressed up in their beautiful Eid outfits and class parties were held in the afternoon to celebrate Eid. (Year 5 & 6 celebrated on Thursday, as they already had trips pre-booked)

We were also able to hold a Parents Eid party onsite. Parents had the opportunity to meet each other, dress up and enjoy the food served by the school, including biryani and fruit platters. As usual we also had lots of food donated by our very generous families—all delicious and clearly labelled with the ingredients. We had over 100 parents join us for the celebration, which was fantastic! A big thank you to all those who attended and to those who donated food. And a special thank you to Forida and Shelly and to the volunteers who helped to serve the food and to tidy up at the end—your support was greatly appreciated!



REMINDERS

• IT Support

Parents needing help or support with IT or making payments online can book an appointment with our IT technician, Abdullahi. He is available every Thursday 9-9.30am or 3-30pm. Please speak Shelly who will be able to book the appointments for you.

• Lost Property

If parents would like to check for Lost Property, please see Shelly or Forida at 3.30pm Mondays or Wednesdays.

• Keeping the School Updated

Please remember that it is YOUR responsibility as a parent to keep the school informed regarding changes to your contact details. You MUST NOTIFY us of any changes to your address, mobile and landline telephone numbers, emergency contact and collection details. As we often communicate by text it is important details are correct.

PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION

We would like to congratulate Mr Atik Ali on being appointed as a Parent Governor following the election on 12th May. We are confident that he will make a valuable contribution towards the future of the school. We would also like to thank Mr Nasir Uddin for the interest he showed in the role. Both parents were strong candidates and the final result was very close.



COFFEE MORNINGS

On Wednesday 27th April, we held a coffee morning on 'Making Healthier Choices'. This promoted eating a healthy diet and ways to help maintain a healthy weight. Parents who joined the session found it useful, as it gave them the chance to share the changes they had already made to their diet and the impact this had on their general health. Some parents talked about how going on regular walks with their family and playing games, kept both parents and children active, as well as allowing the family to spend quality time together. A great way to staying fit for free!

On Wednesday 11th May, the coffee morning provided an opportunity for parents to meet the two candidates standing in the Parent Governor election.

SATS WORKSHOPS

On Thursday 31st March, Mr Heighington provided a virtual SATS workshop for the Parents of pupils in Year 6. Additional Sats workshop were also provided by Ms McClelland on 28th April, 5th, 12th May for the parents of children in Year 2. The final session will be held on the 19th May. Both workshops provided an opportunity to share the testing timetable with parents, to see past papers and to find out ways to support the children academically and emotionally during this period. The parent who attended found it helpful and supportive knowing how help prepare their children.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Parenting Course for KS1 Parents

16th, 23rd and 30th May from 1:30-2:30pm

If you are interested in taking part please speak to Forida Rahman

Year 1 Phonics Workshop

Tuesday 17th May 9:15am-10am in the dining hall

Virtual session 2:15pm (Zoom code to follow)

Foundation Parents Time 2 Engage

Thursday, 19th May 3.30-4.30pm.

Community Room

Coffee Morning - Mental Health

Thursday 19th May from 9am-10am

Community Room

Somali Families Coffee Morning

Wednesday 25th May from 9am-10am

Community Room

Digital Skills Session

Wednesday 8th June from 9am-10am

Community Room.

NEW Old Palace Parents Walking Group

Starting Thursday 9th June. Meeting point Main

entrance at 9am. More information please

speak to Shelly.

CHALLENGE PARTNERS

As Old Palace has not been visited by Ofsted since 2009, we joined Challenge Partners back in 2018. As a member of Challenge Partners, each year (except for in 2021) we have a school review, carried out by a Lead viewer (who is Ofsted trained) joined by three senior leaders from other schools across England (this year from Ealing, Brent and Dagenham). During their 3 days at the school, the reviewers watch lessons, look at the children's books and talk to pupils and subject leaders about the learning that takes place. Although the process is different to Ofsted, it does allow us to get the views of leaders beyond the school, which helps us to check whether our judgements on the strengths and areas of development of the school are correct.

This year, our review took place from 25-27th April 2022. Challenge Partners grades three areas: 'leadership at all levels', 'quality of provision and outcomes for all pupils' and 'quality of provision and outcomes for disadvantaged pupils and pupils with additional needs'. We are proud to share that in all three areas we were awarded the highest grade, which is 'leading'. The review team also awarded us an Area of Excellence in 'systematic vocabulary development leading to Greater Depth Writing'. This means that we will be recommended to schools who would like support in developing this area of their teaching. A copy of the full report will be added to the school website in the near future.

Having only just come out of the pandemic, and suffered such high levels of staff sickness this academic year, we are especially proud of this achievement. Please join me in congratulating the staff and children on what they have managed to achieve despite the challenges we have faced.

As Ofsted resumed inspecting Outstanding schools before the pandemic, it is likely they will visit us soon. The inspection framework that Ofsted uses has changed 3 times since our last inspection in 2009, and this is a very different process. However it is reassuring to know that Challenge Partners values our work and the education and experiences we are able to provide for our pupils.

As a member of Challenge Partners, senior leaders from Old Palace also get to support the reviews of other schools across the country. Mr Palmer has attended reviews in Kidbrooke and Rochester, Mr Manalo attended a review in Bromley and Miss McClelland attended a review in Lewisham. Not only does this help the schools that are being reviewed, it also allows Old Palace to benefit from good practice in other schools which we feel would further strengthen our provision.

STAR CITIZENS - SPRING B

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

Reception	RB Rayaam & RW Eduard
Year One	1D Yaqub & 1O Ahyaan
Year Two	2B Rahim & 2H Fatima
Year Three	3D Nasif & 3S Bilaal
Year Four	4A Anisha H & 4T Lily
Year Five	5C Zaynab & 5M Anas
Year Six	6K Khattab & 6Y Liyanna

CORE VALUE AWARD - APRIL 2022

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

Reception:	RB Amima & RW Aran
Year 1:	1D Amira & 1O Ayaan
Year 2:	2B Mumin & 2H Imran
Year 3:	3D Mehreen & 3S Nehrin
Year 4:	4A Aamira H & 4T Arissa
Year 5:	5C Tahera & 5M Maira
Year 6:	6K Ummi & 6Y Jhuma

Our Core Value for May will be **Resilience**

NSPCC SPEAK OUT STAY SAFE



On Wednesday 20th April, pupils from Year 1- 6 all took part in the 'Speak Out, Stay Safe' NSPCC assembly. Miss Kurup led the assembly for Year 1-3 and Miss Millward for Year 4-6. During the assembly, the children learned that every child has a right to:

- ◆ **Speak out and be heard**
- ◆ **Be safe**
- ◆ **Get help when they need it**

They discussed the kinds of worries that children can have (including online) and that children can speak to someone they know and trust if they're worried about something. The children thought about which trusted grown-ups they could talk to, in or out of school, if they ever felt worried or sad.

If you would like to know more, check out the NSPCC web link [HERE](#).

YOUNG VOICES CONCERT



On 4th May 2022, the Old Palace choir participated in the celebration of 25 years of Young Voices at the O2. This involved a phenomenal concert, full of celebrities and musicians, including winner of the Voice 2018 ,Ruti Olajugbagbe! The children joined lots of other

choirs from around the country to form one of the biggest backing choirs ever and sang a huge repertoire of fantastic songs. The songs ranged from recent hits like Titanium by David Guetta, to classics like Hey Jude by The Beatles! The day started with a rehearsal and the dancers training the choirs in the moves ready for the big show. The doors opened to the public at 6:00pm and at 7:00pm the show began! The children performed spectacularly and we even had some of our very own Old Palace parents supporting us in the audience. It truly was a night to remember, so a huge well done to the children in the choir, and a special thank you to the adults that supported the children in their rehearsals and on the trip itself. It was a very late night with the children not returning until 10.30pm, but as ever the children did us proud.

RECEPTION VISIT LONDON AQUARIUM



On Wednesday 11th May, Reception headed to the Sea Life London Aquarium. The Sea Life London holds one of Europe's biggest collection of marine life! It is home to thousands of sea creatures including Green Sea Turtles, Sharks, Jelly fish, Gentoo Penguins. The children adventured into a dazzling underwater oasis where they were mesmerised by the wonderful colours and creatures of the underwater life.

The children were able to explore the interactive rock pool where they were excited to get the opportunity to stroke a Jellyfish and touch a sea anemone. The children discovered that there were over two hundred species of jellyfish and they also got the chance to spot the octopus who is a master of disguise. Lastly, they were fascinated by the majestic sea turtles and sting rays that glide beneath the ocean tunnel. Following the visit to the Aquarium we took the children to have a picnic lunch at Jubilee Gardens where they saw the London Eye. The trip helped children's learning about sea life in class and reading their story 'Rainbow Fish' and 'Brave Stanley'.



YEAR 1 CELEBRATE ST GEORGE'S DAY

On Friday 22nd April, Year 1 learned about the meaning of St George's Day. They retold the story of St George and the Dragon and learned that he is the patron saint of England. They also learned about the English flag and how this is incorporated into the Union Jack. Later in the day, that children celebrated with a picnic, where they enjoyed a cupcake and got to wave the flags they had made earlier in the day. We took lots of pictures to help the children to write a recount about the picnic, the following week in their English lessons!



YEAR 5 & 6 SEE THE LSO AT THE BARBICAN



Also on 4th May some children in years 5 and 6 were given the exciting opportunity to visit the Barbican Centre in order to watch the famous London Symphony Orchestra in a special show for young musicians. The LSO is proud to be the Resident Orchestra at the Barbican Centre, where it performs around 70 concerts a year. The children had an incredible experience watching the world famous orchestra, as it performed a number of original pieces, as well as some more well known pieces, such as the Star Wars theme. Watching a full orchestra is always an amazing experience and the children came away from the visit wanting to listen to more film scores performed by the LSO!

YEAR 5 VISIT LORDS CRICKET GROUND

Year 5 went to the 'home of cricket' - Lord's Cricket Ground on 28th April to watch Middlesex vs Lancashire. This was a fantastic opportunity for the children to watch live sport, so we would like to say a huge thank to Middlesex cricket club for allowing us to come and watch and for providing a range of fun cricket activities for the children to enjoy. Continuing the cricket theme...



Year 4, are benefiting from working with a cricket coach Platform Coaches as part of their weekly PE lessons. This programme is designed to spot and nurture talent and will provided an opportunity for some children to take part in a cricket club over the summer.

IMPROVING AIR QUALITY

The school was successful in gaining funding from the Tower Hamlets Environmental Health to add additional planting around the school. In some areas ivy screens have been installed and in others, extra plants have been added to the areas previously planted by Mr Palmer. Not only does this add to the appearance of the school, but the plants also help to filter out toxins in the air caused by traffic pollution. In the KS1 playground we have also added the hanging baskets made by year 2 last half term.

