



# Old Palace Newsletter

September 2022

## A LIFETIME OF SERVICE



It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Queen Elizabeth II last month. She dedicated her life to serving the country and by doing so provided a fantastic role model to help our pupils learn about responsibility (our core value for September). To celebrate her life, each year group looked at a different aspect of her role and duties:

**Reception:** Looked at how the Queen bestowed honours, for example awarding OBE awards and medals to people for making a great impact in their line of work.

**Year 1:** Looked at different ways the Queen met her people, for example by accepting flowers and shaking their hands at public events and waving at them from her balcony during special events.

**Year 2:** Looked at how the Queen represented her country, for example by meeting other world leaders and people of importance.

**Year 3:** Looked at how the Queen was the head of the armed forces and her responsibilities that came with this, for example inspecting the trooping of the colour and showing respect by laying the poppy wreath at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday.

**Year 4:** Looked at the Queen's charity work, looking at some of the over 600 charities that she has worked with during her reign.

**Year 5:** Looked at the Queen's role in supporting the government, for example each night reading the documents in the red box, each week meeting the prime minister and each year opening parliament.

**Year 6:** Looked at the Queen's role in the commonwealth, including her visits to the commonwealth countries, being recognised as Queen in other common wealth countries and her role in the common wealth games.

We are thankful for her dedication and service. May she rest in peace.



Queen Elizabeth II 6 February 1952 – 8 September 2022

- **CORE VALUE AWARD - SEPTEMBER 2022**
- The value of the month for September was **RESPONSIBILITY**
- Congratulations to:
- **Reception:** RB Maya & RP Muadh
- **Year 1:** 1D Avli & 1O Zain
- **Year 2:** 2B Tanzeela & 2H Khadijah
- **Year 3:** 3G Ibrahim & 3H Ahyan
- **Year 4:** 4D Shazana & 4T Aniyah
- **Year 5:** 5K Rahil & 5M Naomi
- **Year 6:** 6W Sumayyah & 6Y Trishan

## IMPORTANT DATES



### AUTUMN HALF TERM

School finishes Friday 21st October 2022  
Return to school Monday 31st October 2022

### END OF AUTUMN HALF TERM

School finishes Friday 16th December 2022 @ 2PM  
Return to school Tuesday 3rd January 2023

### SPRING HALF TERM

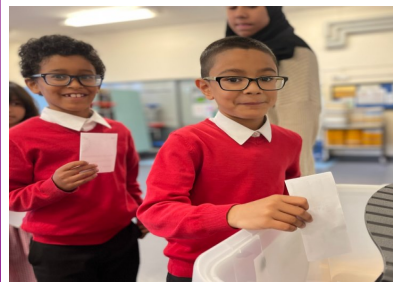
School finishes Friday 10th February 2023  
Return to school Monday 20th February 2023

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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## SCHOOL COUNCILLORS



This week, we held our annual School Council elections! In each class, the children in Y2-Y6 presented their campaigns. The class then voted to select the 6 candidates (3 boys and 3 girls) that they felt had given the best presentations to explain why they would make great school councillors.

On Tuesday, official voting booths from Tower Hamlets Council, were set up to create our very own polling station. Each class had a chance to vote for the boy and girl that would represent their class. The votes have now been counted and the School Councillors for 2022-23 are as follows:



- Year 2: Kiaan, Tanzeela, Ridwan & Sana
- Year 3: Imran, Ruqayyah, Abdul Rahman & Faiha
- Year 4: Bilaal, Aniyah, Humzah & Ariyana
- Year 5: Abdurrahman, Hanna, Hamza & Amira
- Year 6: Mahdi, Sumayyah, Ismail & Safa

Thank you to all the candidates who stood and congratulations to our new School Councillors! We would also like to take this opportunity to thank last year's School Councillors who have just finished their term. They set an excellent example and should be proud of their achievements. Well done councillors!

# PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

## PARENT WORKSHOPS & COFFEE MORNINGS

### Meet the Professionals

On Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September, the coffee morning was used to introduce some of the professionals who work with the school to support our families.



**Sonia Rowlings**, our Attendance Welfare Advisor from LBTH Hamlets highlighted the importance of good attendance and punctuality. She works closely with the school to secure high rates of attendance for all our pupils and helps the school enforce the penalty scheme for parents who take their child/ren out of school for unauthorised holidays.



**Shahnaz Choudhury**, our School Social Worker explained how she provides support to schools in relation to safeguarding and securing the welfare and well-being of pupils. Provision aims to improve outcomes for vulnerable children and families through the delivery of Early Help and direct preventative work with families. Shahnaz is available every Wednesdays.

## Year 6 Secondary School Transition Meeting

On Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September, we held our Year 6 transition information workshop. Bernadette Orgazi from the Parental Engagement Team was invited to come in and answer any questions parents had regarding the transition process. During the meeting she covered topics such as how to apply online, what questions to ask when visiting secondary schools, how decisions on places are made, when parents will be notified and the appeals process. Bernadette and Ms Kurup our SEND/Inclusion lead then held a separate meeting for the families that have children with Educational Health Care Plans as the application process for these children is slightly different. Following these meetings, Shelly, our Parent Support Worker, held a workshop on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October, where help was provided for parents who were experiencing difficulties with the online application process. If you have not applied already please ensure that you do so before the **deadline : 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022**

## Support for Parents of Autistic Pupils

On Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September, Josh Price from the Phoenix Outreach Team, delivered a workshop for parents of Autistic pupils. The workshop provided an opportunity for parents to meet in a relaxed environment, share experiences and gain advice on ways to support autistic children at home. Thank you to all the parents who attended.

## Somali Families Parent Networking Workshop

On Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October, Hussein Hussein from the Parental Engagement Team held his Networking Meeting at the school. Parents who attended, learned how to improve digital skills, which can help parents to better support their child's learning and online safety at home. Parents were able to sign up to a four week training course that will be held at Poplar Harca. If you were not able to attend the meeting and interested to join the digital course please contact Riaz Ullah, Digital Skills Training Officer on 020 7510 9775.

## Keeping Children Safe Online

On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October, Shabana Begum from the Parental Engagement Team delivered a 'Keeping Children Safe Online' workshop. Thank you to all the parents who attended. The workshop covered topics such as: parental controls, screen time and how to monitor your children's life online. Any parents who would like support with setting parental control, can book an appointment with Abdullahi. Shelly is able to help you book that appointment.

## Old Palace Parent Council



On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October, parents were invited to join us to find out more about the Parent Council and the process of becoming a councillor. Parents had the opportunity to ask questions about the role and previous Parent Councillors were also

available to answer questions and talk about their experiences. Thank you to all the parents who have expressed an interest in becoming a Parent Councillor to help the school. The names of our parent councillors will be published in our next newsletter.

## PARKING OUTSIDE SCHOOL ENTRANCE



Parents are reminded that they should NOT park on the double yellow lines outside the school. Doing so results in congestion, which increases the danger of a child one day being hit by a vehicle. We are so worried about this danger that we have resorted to once again placing cones in the area. Unbelievably there have been instances of parents removing the cones so they can park, giving no thought to the danger they are posing to the children's safety. Please help us to keep the children safe and find an alternative place to park. We have requested regular patrols by the parking enforcement team.

## Dramatherapy at Old Palace

On Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October-Holly Sampson our Drama therapist held a meeting with parents to raise awareness about the Connect-Ed School Counselling & Therapy Service. She discussed how she delivers Drama Therapy with pupils following a school referral and consent from parents. She also explained how Talk Time is used to support pupils. To access this, KS2 children can fill in a slip about their worries or concerns, and put it in the blue box. Holly then goes through the slips and makes time to speak to the children. Holly is in school every Thursday. You can email her on [hsamson2.211@lgfmail.org](mailto:hsamson2.211@lgfmail.org) if you would like to speak to her or book an appointment.

## Free School Meals & Tesco Vouchers

On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October parents were invited to attend an information session on how to apply for Free School Meals.

In Tower Hamlets all pupils receive a free school dinner, as these are either funded by the government (up to the age of 7) or by the Mayor for ages 8-11.

Entitlement to benefit based Free School Meals (FSM) is different. This is based on your entitlement to benefits and if agreed provides addition funds for the school.

If you have been receiving Tesco vouchers from us for the school holidays, then your children has already been allocated an entitlement to benefit based FSM. If you have not been receiving these vouchers, but feel that you may be entitled to them, then please check your eligibility [here](#). If it indicates that you are entitled, then please complete the application [HERE](#).



## Date for your diary

Tuesday, 1st November: Every Parent A Story Teller for Reception Families, 3 week course, 9-11am Community Room, Delivered by Parental Engagement Team.

Tuesday, 1st November: Digital Course Ongoing, 9-11am Delivered by Shelly & POPLAR HARCA

Thursday, 3rd November: Parent Voice Behaviour Policy, 9-10am Community Room Delivered by Ms Millward

Monday, 7th November: Home Start Volunteering, 9-10am, Community Room

Thursday, 10th November: Cost of Living Workshop, 9-11.30am, Community Room Delivered by Bromley by Bow Centre



Thank you so much to all the families who have been arriving to school on time and every day. Just some reminders below:

- If you have any further questions in regards to attendance, please don't hesitate to speak to Shelly (our Parent Support Worker) or the main office.

The image features the Roblox logo in large, red, blocky letters at the top. Below the logo, a group of eight Roblox avatars stands on a green grassy field. The avatars are diverse in design, including a robot, a character in a blue cap, a character in a pink outfit, a character in a grey jacket, a character in a red and blue outfit, a character in a red shirt, a character in a blue shirt, and a character in a brown and gold outfit. The background is a bright blue sky with white clouds.

Head down to your local park this half term for fantastic activities. We will be running a recycling fashion workshop, adventure play sessions, cooking workshops, fishing taster sessions and more.

- Contact: Jessica Odubayo, Communications Officer  
email: [Jessica.Odubayo@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:Jessica.Odubayo@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

At the beginning of the academic year, parents are invited to come along to a welcome meeting for each year group. These provide an opportunity to meet the year group leader and to find out what is expected during the course of the year, for example safe-

guarding, attendance, behaviour and homework. At the meetings parents also had the opportunity to take away books, which had been withdrawn from the school libraries following an update of stock.

For those parents who were not able to attend, the meetings, copies of the presentations can be found [HERE](#). Thank you to all the parents who attended. It is only by working together that we can ensure that all pupils achieve their full potential.



As parents did not have access to the playgrounds during the pandemic, we would like to remind you of the school's expectations at home time.

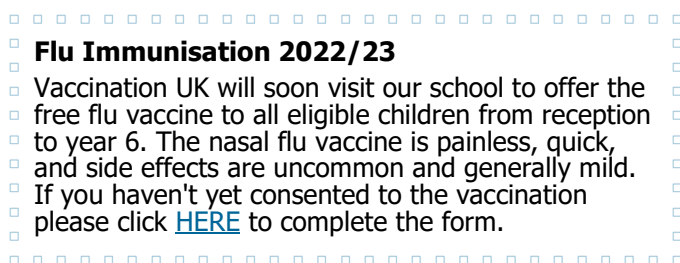
No mobile phones-use of mobile phones is not permitted in the playground. This is because we have a duty to safeguard pupils and there is a risk that mobile phones could be used inappropriately, for example to film pupils.

No riding of bikes/ scooter-please ask children to walk with their bike/ scooter to prevent accidents  
Disposal of litter-please place any litter in the bins provided. Dropping litter, especially food can attract vermin. such as rats



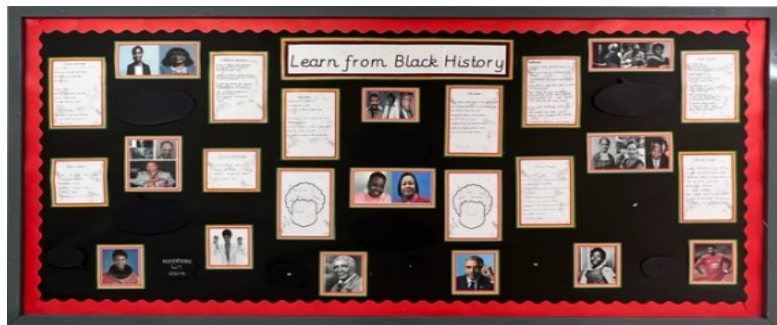
No use of outdoor play equipment- please do not allow your children to play on the outdoor play equipment once you have collected them; they have an opportunity to do this during the day. Please exit the playground once you have collected your child. If parents wish to meet and allow their child to play, consider visiting Bob's Park a few metres down St Leonard's Street. The school accepts no responsibility for accidents which are the result of parents failing to supervise their children or allowing them to play on the outdoor equipment.

Vaccination UK will soon visit our school to offer the free flu vaccine to all eligible children from reception to year 6. The nasal flu vaccine is painless, quick, and side effects are uncommon and generally mild. If you haven't yet consented to the vaccination please click [HERE](#) to complete the form.





## CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH



This year we celebrated Black History Month by looking at what we can learn from other people's lives. Year 6 discussed how we could perform like Billie Holiday, Louise Beaver and Butterfly McQueen. Year 5 looked at how we could be a politician like Diane Abbot & Olukemi Bodenoch. In Year 4 the children explored how you could be a scientist like Neil De grass Tyson, Walter Linkon Hawkins or Mary Jackson, while Year 3 looked at how you could make a stand like Rosa Parks and Nelson Mandela. Year 2 learnt how to care like Ben Carson, Otis Boykin & Patricia Bath and finally, Year 1, learnt how to write like Malorie Blackman & Tola Okogwu. After researching the lives of these iconic people, the children wrote poems to celebrate their achievements.

## OLD PALACE AMBASSADORS & PREFECTS



This academic year, we have re-introduced several positions of responsibility, which were suspended during the pandemic. Year 6 responded enthusiastically and submitted some excellent letters of application. After sifting through these, Mr. Heighington was able to select a team of prefects and sports ambassadors to support the school. Prefects have responsibilities within the school, including monitoring the games room, collecting data for good news slips and diamond tickets and monitoring the corridors as children enter assembly. Sports Ambassadors responsibilities are based mainly in the playground, including setting up and packing away equipment, monitoring playground zones, and reporting to Mr. Hile for any PE related responsibilities! The children have settled into their roles well and have shown how seriously they take their responsibilities. We are very grateful for all their help!



## BREAKFAST CLUB

We currently have spaces available in our Breakfast Club. Breakfast Club runs from 8am-9am, children are giving a healthy breakfast and take part in activities until the school day begins at 9am. The cost of Breakfast Club is £2 per day (£1 per day for children in receipt of benefit based FSM). If you are interested in your child attending Breakfast Club, please email Michele on admin@oldpalace.towerhamlets.sch.uk who will be able to give you more information and register your child in the club should you decide they would like to attend.

## SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

We were so excited to receive certificates in school this week, for the children who took part in the Gadgets Summer Reading Challenge which was run by the Idea stores. The children had to read 6 books in total, they were encouraged to see the science behind everything from fashion to technology. They received stickers and pencils as rewards but have also become more enthusiastic about reading. We are really proud of the children who took part in the challenge and we know this will have a positive impact on their reading.

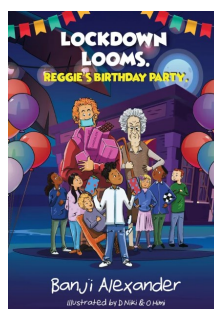


## SPECIAL GUEST BANJI ALEXANDER VISIT

Following last year's visit by David Walliams, we are really excited to inform you that another celebrated author, **Banji Alexander**, will be visiting the children in Y1-Y6 on 9th November.



Banji Alexander appeared on Sky News to discuss the schoolbook tour. For more information on the author click [HERE](#) or you can visit his website [www.lockdownlooms.com](http://www.lockdownlooms.com)



His title '**Lockdown Looms: Reggie's Birthday Party**', which is currently being adapted into a musical, comes highly recommended for primary aged children and has received wide acclaim from teaching professionals across the country, and MPs, including the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, and the Shadow Minister for Schools, Stephen Morgan MP.

## Lockdown Looms: Reggie's Birthday Party:

- Details a child's experience during lockdown
- It was written to allay the fears of Banji's learners surrounding the pandemic
- Helps facilitate discussions around mental health and well-being
- Key themes are: Hope, Kindness, Resilience, Patience, Gratitude & Adapting to Change .

Copies of the book can be purchased for £10. Place the cash in an envelope and give this to your child's class teacher by Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022 if you would like to order a copy.

## AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

As you will know from the text messages we have sent out we are currently in the process of allocating club spaces to children in years 1-6 for next half term. Clubs will begin on the first day back after half term (Monday 31st October 2022) and will run for 6 weeks until week ending Friday 9th December 2022. We have managed to budget our PE funding to cover most of the cost of the after school clubs again next half term so they are being offered at no cost to the parents. If your child is successfully registered in a club next half term you will receive a text tomorrow afternoon ( Friday 21st October 2022). If you have any questions or queries regarding clubs, please contact Michele who will be able to assist you



## YEAR 6 VISIT MUSEUM OF DOCKLANDS



Year 6 visited the Museum of London Docklands this half term as part of their History unit on the Industrial Revolution. They became historians for the day, investigating the origins of some well known landmarks in and around East London Docklands, such as the Rotherhithe tunnel, The Royal Docks, East and West India Quays and Mudchute. The children uncovered the history behind these famous stations and sites, how they got their names and when they were first built. They also had an opportunity to visit the exhibition on slavery which allowed them to find out more about the slave trade and Britain's involvement in the 19th Century.

## YEAR 5 VISIT BRITISH MUSEUM



Year 5 visited the British Museum this half term to attend a workshop on Roman life. They learnt about what life was like during the Roman era and the legacy Romans left in Britain. After this informative workshop, they had the chance to explore some Roman galleries where they could see artefacts and read about how they were used.

## YEAR 6 CITIZENSHIP WORKSHOP



Year 6 went to Shadwell Fire station this half term to take part in a Citizenship Workshop, in preparation for becoming more independent and moving to secondary school. The workshop covered lots of areas including safer travel, fire safety and first aid. It was highly interactive and the children gained a huge amount from the experience.

The children showed exemplary behaviour and focus throughout the workshop, and were able to talk about their learning in detail when they returned to school. Well done year 6!

**STAR CITIZENS - AUTUMN 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>	<b>RB Ridwan &amp; RP Emran</b>
<b>Year 1:</b>	<b>1D Sureya &amp; 1O Alizah</b>
<b>Year 2:</b>	<b>2B Mahreen &amp; 2H Ridwan</b>
<b>Year 3:</b>	<b>3G Faiha &amp; 3H Fatima</b>
<b>Year 4:</b>	<b>4D Mehreen &amp; 4T Yahya</b>
<b>Year 5:</b>	<b>5K Anisha &amp; 5M Mahirul</b>
<b>Year 6:</b>	<b>6W Ayana &amp; 6Y Taiba</b>

## YEAR 1 VISIT SCIENCE MUSEUM

This half term, Year 1 visited the Science Museum, to consolidate their Science learning on the topic of materials. At the museum, the children had a busy day exploring the different galleries. When the children visited the 'Secret Life of the Home' gallery, they were excited to see how the appliances and furniture had changed over time. They were particularly interested in filling up the washing machine drum with water and the effort it took to do this! They also enjoyed thinking about which materials the objects are made of. The children also explored the pattern pod and were very intrigued by the patterns they could make in their environment.



## YEAR 3 NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

This half term, Year 3 have been learning about rocks and dinosaurs in Science. To consolidate this, they visited the Natural History Museum and took part in the 'Super Stegosaurus' workshop. In their workshop the children learnt about how palaeontologists use dinosaur bones to learn about dinosaurs, including how big they were, what they might have looked like, what they ate and where and when they lived. The children got the chance to see 'Sophie', the fossilised remains of the most complete stegosaurus dinosaur skeleton in the world and 'Dippy' the replica skeleton of the first ever diplodocus skeleton to go on display in the world.



The children had the chance to compare these two different skeletons and look for similarities and differences between them. They even got to hold some real fossilised bones. They were heavier than we expected! We learnt a lot and had a great time at the museum! Seeing the exciting and terrifying T-Rex during our trip even inspired 3G's performance assembly!

## YEAR 4 VISIT TATE MODERN

Last month, Year 4 visited the Tate Modern to explore the work of some famous European artists. The children were fascinated by some of the artworks, such as The Snail by Matisse and pieces consisting of upside down cars, and blank painted canvases. They learned more about artists like such as Gustav Metzger & Gerhard Richter and movements such as Dynamic Suprematism. The children found answers to questions as they navigated the galleries and at the end of the day took away lots of inspiration for their future art projects.





## MAKE IT REAL PROJECT



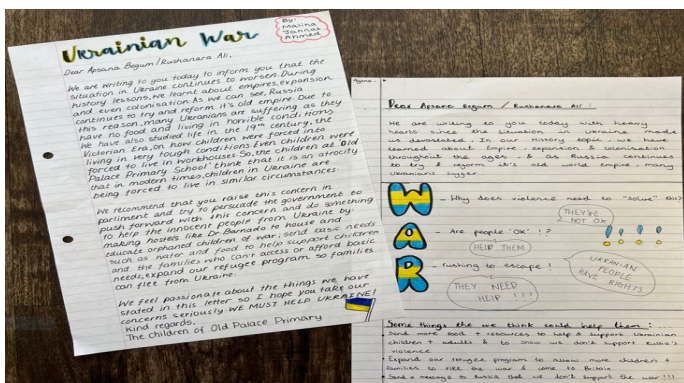
At the end of each half term, the children complete a Make it Real project which allows them to place their learning in real life context. Examples of projects this half term include:

**Year 2:** In Science, the children learned about how to keep healthy. To share their learning the children delivered presentations for their parents on different ways to be healthy including: getting enough sleep at night, drinking enough water, eating healthy, balanced meals, practicing mindfulness and getting exercise each day. Following the presentations, the children met their parents in Bob's Park, where they taught them some fun fitness activities that the family could do together. The children really enjoyed having their parents come in and we look forward to hearing about all the ways in which our Year 2 families have kept active this half term.

**Year 4:** In Geography the children have been learning how to use Ordnance Survey maps and grid references. To help the children to apply this they visited Wanstead. Once there, the children had to use an Ordnance Survey map and compass to find their way around and to locate local landmarks. They were given a copy of a map of the area and as a group we navigated our way around a defined route in Wanstead using a compass and directions to guide them. At specific points, we paused to identify different buildings and features in Wanstead whilst finding the relevant position and symbol on the maps.



**Year 6:** In History the children have been learning about the Industrial Revolution and how the British Empire was needed to power this. This led them to consider how the rise and fall of empires has effected the world in the past and how it continues to do so today, with Russia's invasion of Ukraine. They looked at how the war has affected the lives of children in the country and wanted to take action to make sure the plight of the Ukrainian people is not forgotten. They decided to write to local MPs Apsana Begum and Rushanara Ali, to ask for their support in continuing to raise this topic in Parliament. We look forward to receiving their replies.



## WELCOMING OUR NEW RECEPTION PUPILS



We have welcomed our new Reception pupils and their families this term. We are very proud of the pupils with how well they have settled into the school. We hope you and your child are happy and feel part of the school community.

Reminder: Reception parents should now be using their Tapestry parent account to access their child's online learning journal. If you have not received an activation email, please check your junk mail. Should you need help with Tapestry, please speak to Mrs Rahman who will be happy to assist you.

### Reception Phonics Workshop

Mrs Rahman led a phonics workshop for Reception parents on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September. The aim of the workshop was to introduce the phonics programme we use at school, which is called THEPP (Tower Hamlets Education Phonics Programme) and to advise parents on how they can best support their child's phonics at home. The workshop helped parents identify the 44 sounds taught in the phonics programme and how to pronounce them accurately. They looked at how children apply their sounds by blending and segmenting decodable words. It was shared with parents how children develop their early reading skills and the parents had an opportunity to practice the sounds and to familiarise themselves with the letter story mnemonics. Before leaving, the parents were also given a handbook to take home, which included lots of activities to support their child with phonics at home. Thank you to all the parents who came to the workshop and found it very helpful.

### Reception Local Area trip

This half term Reception went on their very first trip to the local area! The children also visited local shops and market stalls on Stroudley Walk, and discussed how it linked to the book they have been reading, 'Baby Goes to the Market'. They discussed the similarities and differences between the markets stalls from the story. The children were excited to point out where they lived looking at the flats around them in the local area. They talked about the changes being made to Stroudley Walk, how the buildings have been demolished for new homes and shops. They ended their walk to Bob's park, where the children had lots of fun and collected things relating to Autumn, which they took back to class to put on their class display. Reception did really well on their first trip, and remembered to stay safe when walking on the street. Well done to all our Reception children!

