

CHRISTMAS AT OLD PALACE

The festive fun began at the start of December when the Christmas tree went up and the dining hall was decorated with the beautiful decorations prepared by each year group.



On Wednesday 14th December, year 1 performed the Christmas Festival Assembly, which included the nativity. They did a great job acting, singing and narrating the story. Prior to this, the children had visited Bow Church to learn about the features of a church and the things that Christians do to celebrate Christmas. Then at lunchtime, Christmas dinner was served. Staff joined the children to enjoy a traditional yuletide feast including turkey and all the trimmings. The dining hall felt very festive, with the Christmas music and decorations.



On Thursday 15th December, Old Palace took part in Christmas jumper day! Staff and pupils dressed up in their Christmas jumpers to help raise money for the Save the Children Appeal. Christmas parties took place during the afternoon, at which the children played games and enjoyed the fruit platters and other party food; some kindly donated by parents. Children in Reception and KS1 also met a special visitor—Santa Claus himself! Meanwhile, in the dining hall, we hosted a Parents' Christmas party. It was lovely to see our parents come together and take part in the festive fun. A big thank you to Shelly and the parent Councillors for their help in arranging this and to all the parents who kindly donated food. We wish all those families celebrating a very merry Christmas!



IMPORTANT DATES



END OF AUTUMN TERM

School finishes 2pm Friday 16th December 2022

Return to school Tuesday 3rd January 2023

SPRING HALF TERM HOLIDAY

School finishes Friday 10th February 2023

Return to school Monday 20th February 2023

END OF SPRING TERM

School finishes Friday 31st March 2023

Return to school Monday 17th April 2023

Please visit our school website for a full list of term dates for 2022-23 www.oldpalaceprimary.co.uk

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GIRLS FOOTBALL SUCCESS

This half term the year 5 and 6 girls took part in a football competition at Marner Primary School each Monday. For the majority of the girls, this was the first time they had played competitive football and they all did the school and themselves proud. The girls created a brilliant team environment and represented our school superbly. Old Palace finished in 2nd place and pushed borough champions Manorfield Primary all the way, playing some excellent football. Safiyyah and Sumayyah also deserve a special mention as they have been selected to play for the Tower Hamlets Girls' football team in 2023. We are sure they will do a brilliant job—watch out Lionesses!!!



This half term we again managed to fund **free After School Sports Clubs** including a range of activities, such as Tag Rugby, Dance Fitness, gymnastics, dodgeball and football.

We will be sending texts out after the Christmas Break to offer clubs for Spring 1. Please encourage your child to take part in a club to help keep them active and then follows the details in the text to apply.

Clubs will restart from 9th January.

PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

PARENT COUNCIL MEETINGS

This half term we were pleased to be able to hold our first Parent Council Meetings since Autumn 2019. Years 3 & 5 did not have any items to raise. Year 4 only had one item, a possible source of funding for the breakfast club, which we investigated but were not eligible for. To the right, is a summary of the main items discussed by the other year groups and the actions to be taken.

A big thank you to all the Parent Councillors who gave up their time to meet.

PARENT VOICE

Parent Voice sessions provide another means by which we can share information and gain parent views on a range of topics. We help our second Parent Voice coffee morning of the Autumn term on 5th December. Miss Millward spoke about how the school reports on progress. She shared samples of the end of year reports and discussed how the school tracks and assesses the children's progress. Miss Millward also talked about some of the terminologies used for example, what 'Expected' means. Part of the feedback was for parents to have a copy of what their child is 'expected' to know by the end of the year. This was already available on the school website so Miss Millward sent out a text giving the link to help parents locate this. The parents fed back about how clear the information was presented and said they now felt better prepared to attend the parent consultations this week. Thank you to the 18 parents who attended and gave their constructive feedback.

PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCY

Only one nomination was received for the recent parent governor vacancy. This was from Amina Begum who presently has children in year 6 and has had several other children pass through the school. As there were no other nominees, Amina was automatically appointed. We welcome her to the Governing Body and are confident she will make a very positive contribution, along with our other parent governors: Ruhana Ali and Atik Ali.



WALKING GROUP: ROOF GARDEN VISIT

On Friday 9th December the walking group braved the cold to visit the Roof Garden in Canary Wharf. The parents really enjoyed the peace and quiet in the heart of London's financial hub. Parents and the opportunity to socialise together which supports self-confidence and motivation. Thank you to the DLR for providing the parents with free travel. We look forward to more walks next term—please contact Shelly if interested



Year 1	
Online Safety - dangers of unsupervised access to social media platforms	Discussed how online safety is included in the teaching of PHSE & Computing. Referred to the school's Online Safety Council for further discussion
Encouraging reading - access to Bug Club	Y1 parents to be accessed how they access Bug Club during Parent Consultations
Use of Bruce Road gate	Bruce Road gate cannot be used as this provides vehicle access.
Parent Volunteers	School to begin recruiting a small pool of parent volunteers in the Spring term.
Year 2	
Keeping warm in bad weather	Staff to be reminded to ask to zip coats and put on hats & gloves.
When dismissed from the football court One way system from the team games zone	Trial new system in January Parents of Y5 & Y6 children to line up along the side of the ball court rather than going inside. Children will be sent to them to avoid congestion.
Parent Volunteers	See Above.
Year 6	
Leavers' School Graduation Party	Shakespeare performance will be followed by a montage celebrating the children's time at the school. School will arrange an after school Leavers' party as usual
End of year hoodies	Mr Palmer shared details of a company. School is happy to facilitate ordering. Other less expensive options were discussed.
Y6 Booster SATs class	Lunchtime booster will take place twice a week during lunchtime for pupils at risk of missing their targets
Parent Volunteers	See Above.
Reception	
Workshop information too brief	Add more detail so parents are clear about the content and importance of workshops
Support with homework / Pre-cursive Alphabet Sheet	Support was provided during the Sept Phonics workshop. An additional workshop will be held on 19th January. Alphabet sheet sent home with Christmas holiday work
Allow parents onsite at drop off to reduce anxiety	Rational shared - previous system led to 10 minutes lost learning a day (32 hours in a year!) Additional staff to be deployed at the gate and in KS1 playground. Gate not to be opened until they are in place. Anxiety workshop to be delivered by Holly Samson, Drama therapist on 8 th December.
Transition Information/ Accident Procedures	Content of July meeting to be reviewed. Sept Welcome Meeting to be reinstated. Information on accident procedures to be included in January Reception newsletter.

TEXTING SERVICE

Reminder: Please do not download the Teacher2Parent App. If you download the App, messages will only appear in the App, rather than you receiving a text. This means you will only see them when your next open the App. Also if you change your mobile number, please ensure that the office is made aware, so that this can be updated.

PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

PARENTING COURSE

The last Parenting session was on Wednesday 7th December. The focus was on online safety and how to protect children. Any parents who would like to attend a parenting course can sign up with Shelly. The next 6 weeks parenting course will be Wed 22nd February to Wed 29th March 2023.

DIGITAL COURSE

Some parents have been attending a Digital Skills course since September. The parents are proud of the progress they have made with using devices, programs and the internet to help support them and their children at home. On Thursday 1st December the parents were awarded a certificate by Tarana Rouf (tutor from Harca). This course will be repeated in January. Please see Shelly to sign up.

ONLINE SAFETY DURING THE HOLIDAY

A popular app among children is YouTube. 'The YouTube Kids' app is 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 find [HERE](#).

With the Christmas 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 advice on how to set up an online safety plan to keep your family safe online this Christmas.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Attendance Information Workshop

Wednesday 4th January 2023 9-10am

Managing Worries

(delivered by Tower Hamlets Talking Therapist)

Thursday 12th January 2023 9-10am

Emotional First Aid

(delivered by the Parental Engagement Team)

Wednesday 22nd February to Wednesday 22nd March

Healthy Families

(delivered by the Parental Engagement Team)

Tuesday 28th February—Tuesday 28th March

Time2Engage THEATRE TRIP

On 14th December some of the families who took part in the Reception Time2Engage Reading family learning sessions, visited Hoxton Hall Theatre, in Shoreditch, to watch an enchanting performance of 'The Wizard of Oz'. The children had heaps of fun singing along, as did the parents, who for some, this was their first experience of live theatre. The visit was arranged as a treat to celebrate the progress the children had made in their reading thanks to the additional parent support.



CHANGING THE STORY

On 6th December, Ms Hunter delivered a reading workshop for some year 1 & 2 parents. Parents gained information about the project and were given log in details to access additional online books to support reading at home.



STREP A & SCARLET FEVER

Group A Streptococcus (GAS) is a common bacteria which survives in throats and on the skin. People who are carrying the bacteria may or may not have symptoms.

When it does cause illness, this is generally mild, such as a sore throat, tonsillitis, scarlet fever, impetigo and cellulitis. While infections like these can be unpleasant, they rarely become serious. When treated with antibiotics, an unwell person with a mild illness like tonsillitis stops being contagious 24-hours after starting their medication.

We are seeing a high number of cases of Scarlet Fever. The first symptoms include a sore throat, headache, fever (over 38.3° C), nausea and vomiting. After 12 to 48 hours a fine red rash develops (if you touch it, it feels like sandpaper). There is also often swollen glands and a white coating on the tongue

If you think you, or your child, have scarlet fever:

- see your GP or contact NHS 111 as soon as possible
- ♦ make sure that you/your child take(s) the full course of any antibiotics prescribed.
- ♦ stay at home, away from school or work for at least 24 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment, to avoid spreading the infection

Please visit [HERE](#) for further information.

Congratulations to the following children who Achieved 100% Attendance Autumn Term (2nd September to 14th December 2022).

FS: Azlan RP, Aahana RB, Adam RB, Arhaam RP,

Y1: Umayma 1D, Nafees 1D, Areesha 1O, Safiyah 1D, Charis 1O, Alvi 1D & Arian 1D

Y2: Magfir 2H, Hamza 2B, Aadam 2H, Layan 2H, Aneesah 2B, Sana 2H & Yara 2H,

Y3: Iqra 3G, Faiha 3G, Manha 3H, Emily 3G, Hassan 3H, Jaden 3G, Anisa 3H, Aaliyah 3H & Sameeha

Y4: Alina 4D, Maryam 4D, Rayan 4D, Araf 4T, Omar 4D & Taheem 4D

Y5: Aria 5K, Juhan 5M, Sabrina 5M, Zaina 5M, Maimuna 5K, Tayeeba 5K, Lily 5M, Ayana 5M, Husni 5K, Afsana 5K, Naomi 5M, Zain 5M & Kaysah 5M

Y6: Maliha 6W, Sahil 6W, Faria 6W, Safiyyah 6Y, Summayah 6W, Tauheed 6Y, Nabihah 6Y, Maruf 6Y, Mahiba 6Y, Maryam 6W, Anisah 6Y, Ismail 6Y, Habiba 6W, Ayesha 6Y, Anas 6W & Zeeshan 6Y

ADOPT A CHEF COOKING LESSONS

Year 6 worked really hard in the Food Lab this half term. They prepared a delicious cottage pie with Quorn mince and a selection of vegetables. Children had a chance to choose the vegetables that they wanted to include in their recipe and practice as the bridge and claw class, they completed a discussed what could be. They also talked about balanced diet and the nutrients used. The children were cottage pies to share with



This half term Years 1 & 3 have been looking at Christianity in RE. As part of their learning, they got to meet visitors from the Bow Baptist Church, who discussed the importance of the Bible, as the sacred book for Christians, and explored the creation story and its significance to. They enjoyed the quizzes, displayed during the session, expressed by what the children. Thank you to Andy, Bridgid informative session!



CORE VALUE AWARD - DECEMBER 2022

★ ★ ★ The value of the month for December was **RESPECT**. Congratulations to:

Reception: **RP:** Hazira **RB:** Afreen
Year 1: **1O:** Inaaya **1D:** Umayma
Year 2: **2H:** Ridhwan **2B:** Mikail
Year 3: **3H:** Elisha **3G:** Sameeha H
Year 4: **4D:** Noelle **4T:** Tahmid
Year 5: **5M:** Ibrahim **5K:** Ayaana
Year 6: **6Y:** Taiba **6W:** Ruslan

 The core value for January will be **RESILIENCE**

During the last week of term, all the children from Reception to Year 6 have created a print to decorate their calendar for 2023. In Reception, the children experimented with the effects that could be made using vegetables to print. In Year 1 the children explored repeated printed patterns made by leaves. In Year 2, the children also did leaf printing and made their printing into landscape scenes. The children in Year 3 made collagraph printing blocks using collage materials. Year 4 have been extra busy doing both marbling and mono printing. Finally, the children in Year 5 and 6 have been creating relief prints using either foam boards or lino. The calendars all look fantastic and will brighten up everyone's homes.

Throughout the Autumn term, 10 year 6 pupils have been meeting to discuss the seven books selected for the Tower Hamlets Book Awards. The books cover a range of themes and experiences such as: bringing friends together to help each other, following your dreams and developing resilience. Each week the pupils would meet to review the books they had read, they would discuss which parts of the books they found interesting or challenging. The children attended the finale of the Book Awards in Canary Wharf, where they were fortunate to meet the authors of four of the novels. At the event they took part in a vote, along with other schools, to decide what the most popular book of 2022 would be. The winner was 'Mission Mayhem' by Burhana Islam. This was our group's favourite book and we performed a presentation of the book at the event. In our performance we explained that we liked this book as it reflects life in a Muslim British Bangladeshi family. It contains normal children with the sibling rivalry and family is at the heart of the novel



WINTER READING Challenge

If your child loves curling up on the sofa with good book during winter, they will love the Idea Store Winter Challenge! All they need to do is read 4 (or more) books this winter and they will receive a beautiful Winter Reading Challenge certificate. They can either receive this instantly or arrange to collect it from Santa when he visits the Idea Store. So please encourage your child to take up the challenge, as a great way to continue practising their reading this December.

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Y5 ROYAL OBSERVATORY



On 24th November the Year 5 children attended the Royal Observatory in Greenwich to watch a planetarium show. This supported their Science topic on Space and Forces, allowing them to share what they had learned about the intricacies of our Solar System, and the

mysteries surrounding our galaxy. Many questions were raised, such as 'how did we find water on Mars?' and 'which is the largest moon?' which the children will be able to re-search back at school. The children's behaviour was immaculate and we were very proud of how well they represented

Y2 TOWER OF LONDON

Year 2 visited the Tower of London to support their topic on the Stuarts. At the tower they learned about what life was like in September 1666. The children took part in the Fire Fire! workshop, where they got to hear more about Samuel Pepys and his observations of the Great Fire of London. The session used role-play to bring the story of the Great Fire of London to life. The children learned some rhymes to help them remember the key events and were able to compare life today with life in the 1600's. The children really enjoyed their workshop and especially enjoyed exploring the Tower of London!



Y6 NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Year 6 visited the Natural History Museum this half term to attend an evolution workshop which was linked to their topic on Life Story. They explored the museum and looked at fossils of different animals and how they have changed over the years in order to adapt to the ever changing environment. They also took part in a workshop, which was very informative and helped to expand their knowledge on the topic by using investigative thinking and inquiry to complete a range of activities.



Y4 SCIENCE MUSEUM

Year 4 have visited the Science Museum to support their learning about Electricity & Sound. They visited the 'Secret Life of Home' exhibition where they found out about some uses of electricity including automatic doors, burglar alarms, a coin slot, light bulbs and even electric toilets! Back at school they applied their learning about sound to create their own bottle orchestra. They filled bottles with different amounts of water, so that each made a note with a different pitch when played. They then had fun playing their own compositions

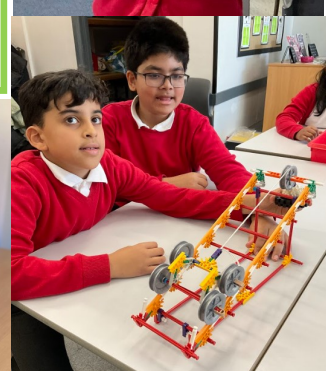
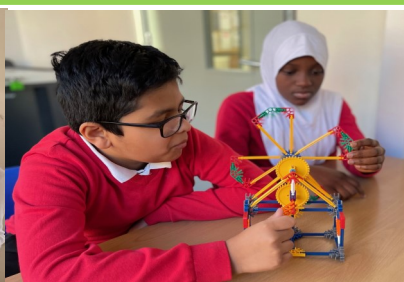
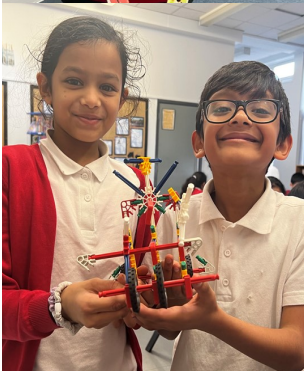


DT DAY MECHANISMS



For their DT Day this term, the children focused on different mechanisms. As part of our creative curriculum, the children researched, designed, made and evaluated mechanical toys. In years 1, 2 and 3 these toys were constructed from tech card. In years 4, 5 and 6 the children built them out of K'NEX. Designing and building these toys helped the children to get a better understanding of simple and complex mechanisms, such as levers, linkages, cams and pulleys and how they work.

The children first designed their product, taking care to make sure that it met the needs of the user. Years 1, 2 and 3 then got to measure, cut and join materials to construct their toy. Years 4, 5 and 6 thought about the different pieces within their toys and how they could use the K'NEX pieces to construct these. The children worked conscientiously and showed great resilience; they should be very proud of their finished products.



Please check out [this link](#) for details of festive events across Tower Hamlets over the Christmas Holiday. You can also visit [here](#) for parenting support and [here](#) for details of the Tower Hamlets' Local Offer.