



Old Palace Newsletter

March 2023

BOOK WEEK 2023



World Book Day celebrations began with lots of reading fun at Old Palace Primary this year, our theme being authors. The children had the exciting opportunity to read a book by popular writers from all over the globe. Each year group had fun 'Tweeting' questions to their authors and designing an advert to promote one of their books. We had some fantastic entries to our competition, where the children told us who their favourite authors were and why. To further extend the children's knowledge of authors, we were able to arrange some visits. James Allen came into school to read his FANTASTIC book 'Hugersaurus' and inspired us all to do some writing of our own! Meanwhile, some children in years 3/ 4 got to meet Serena Patel, author of 'Accidental Detective' at the Genesis Cinema.

Children in Reception & Year 1 also got the opportunity to return to school at 6pm to share a bedtime story. They listened to teachers reading their favourite books aloud, all cozied together with popcorn and beanbags. The parents then



had a chance to read with their children. The reception children also took part in an event at the end of the week where they used story maps to retell the 'The Gruffolo' and 'Siba and Saba' to their parents. The Reading parent Workshop was well attended with parents making book character masks and learning tips on how to make reading fun and part of the routine at home. To further support home reading and the use of the £1 book tokens, we also arranged a book fair, at which over £400 pounds worth of books were bought. After all that great fun, there was only one thing left to do... Book week assembly! Red-riding hoods, Peter Rabbits, Gangster grannies you name them, we had them! The hall was buzzing with the children's favourite characters everywhere. It was great seeing each year group share their author and all the interesting facts the children have learnt about them. Thank you to everyone who made this year's Book Week successful. We look forward to doing it all over again next year!



IMPORTANT DATES



START OF SUMMER TERM

Return to school Monday 17th April 2023

POSSIBLE EID CLOSURE (TBC)

Friday 21st April

BANK HOLIDAYS

Monday 1st & 8th May

SUMMER HALF TERM

School finishes Friday 26th May 2023

Return to school Monday 5th June 2023

END OF SUMMER TERM

School finishes at 2pm on Friday 21st July 2023

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

CELEBRATING EASTER

This week year 5 performed the Easter Festival Assembly. They have been studying the Easter story as part of their RE unit and to support this they got to visit Bow church, where they learned about why the



festival is important to Christians and how families may celebrate it both in church and at home during the Easter weekend. They also got to take part in a 'murder mystery' to investigate who was responsible for the murder of Jesus, helping to consolidate their understanding of the events at the time. Back at school, they applied their learning to perform an excellent fact filled assembly, which included some fantastic acting and enthusiastic singing.

Reception also got to join in the fun, hosting their very own Easter parade. The children were invited to create their own Easter bonnets and as ever the standard was very high! Each with their own unique design. It was a great sight watching the children parade proudly showing off their amazing bonnets. Well done, Reception!



PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

PARENT WORKSHOPS & COFFEE MORNINGS



Healthy Families Course

On Friday 27th January, Hamida Begum from the Parental Engagement Team delivered a four week course on Healthy Families. Parents learnt about the different food groups, and how to encourage children to develop good eating habits and oral health. Parents also learnt how to interpret food labels and found out

how much physical activities adults/children should incorporate into their daily lives. The parents who attended found the course to be 'very useful', and said that they planned to make small changes to live a healthier lifestyle.



Pre Ramadan Workshop

Following the conclusion of the Healthy Families course, the school arranged for Hamida to deliver a hands on cooking workshop for parents to support healthy eating during Ramadan. The parents prepared chicken fajitas and were shown how to reduce the use of oil, fat and

salt. They were also shown how tinned and frozen vegetables can be used to reduce cooking costs. The parents found the session to be good fun and welcomed the money saving tips.



Cost of Living Workshop

On Thursday 23rd February, Mokshuda Ali, a Financial Inclusion and Energy Advisor from the Bromley by Bow Centre, delivered her second session on the Cost of Living. The session was an opportunity for parents to find out more about what help is available and ways to help them save money on energy bills. Parents

found the workshop really informative and helpful. For those parents who missed it, they can call Maokshuda Ali on 0208 709 9700 or email energy@bbbc.org.uk to access advice on energy bills.



Community Cycle Taxi

On Friday 17th March, we arranged for some parents to trial the Cycle Taxi Service, provided by Bikeworks. The parents had a little practice in Bobs Park and then had fun venturing all the way to Victoria Park. Any parents wishing to use this service, can book the Cycle Taxi directly by calling 020 8980 7998 option 5

or book online [HERE](#). This service is **completely free** and is a great way to beat loneliness by allowing up to three passengers to enjoy gentle exercise and fresh air together.

Emotional First Aid for Parents

We recently hosted a 6 week Emotional First Aid course for parents. This was delivered at the school by the Parental Engagement Team. The course covered topics, such as what is Emotional First Aid, emotional stuckness, self-esteem, self-care & communication. Thank you to all the parents who attended. They reported that the course helped them to feel more confident and inspired them to pursue further learning to help develop and care for themselves. If you were not able to attend, and are interested in finding out more, please speak to Shelly who can then book further wellbeing workshops to support Emotional Health.

SATs workshops

This half term both Mr Heighington and Ms McClelland delivered SATs workshops to support the parents of year 2 and 6 pupils. At both workshops, parents were provided with an opportunity to see past papers and to find out ways to support their child's learning and emotional wellbeing during this time. The parents who attended said they found it helpful. Parents were also given the opportunity to purchase CGP books via the school (at a discounted rate) to further help with learning at home. Thank you to all the parents who attended. We hope the CGP books and Easter homework packs will help the children to continue to further their knowledge and skills over the Spring break.

Year 4 Girls Puberty Lesson

Ms Millward led a year 4 parent workshop to share the content of the lesson on puberty due to be taught this half term. As recommended by the Tower Hamlets Healthy Lives Team, the year 4 lesson is taught to support the wellbeing of girls so they understand the changes that happen to their body as they grow. Resources from the lesson were shared and any questions raised were answered. Thank you to all the parents who attended the workshop.

Year 6 Secondary Appeals

Year 6 Parents were signposted to Tower Hamlets Secondary School appeals Workshop on 8th March. The session provided impartial advice, information and assistance to support children, young people and their families during key points of transition. If parents would like to meet face to face please contact the team on 07908 456 660 or 07783 884 869 to book a place at the information session at the Parents Advice Centre

Teachers Pay & Funding Dispute

Teachers are presently voting on whether or not to accept the latest deal put forward by the government. If this is rejected, it is likely that further strike action will take place on Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May. It would be prudent to start making childcare arrangements just in case. As ever we will endeavour to keep as many classes open as possible.

The education unions have provided the following statement: The NEU (National Education Union) and NAHT (National Association of Headteachers) are launching a campaign on school cuts in Tower Hamlets. We want to work with parents and governors to put pressure on the government to invest in our children's education and to pay school staff properly for the work they do. Parents can sign up to join the campaign at [HERE](#)

FREE EASTER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Future Stars Easter HAF Football Camp

Starting Monday 3rd April a fun filled, exciting, free Football Camp, funded by the food program for young people aged 6-11. Click [HERE](#) for more information

FREE Cycling Course

Mon-Thurs: Week 1 (3-6th April) catering for girls and boys (priority given to borough residents children in receipt of free school meals). Click [HERE](#) for more information

Multi-Sports SEN Easter Holiday

Disability Sports Coach and LBTH Sports and Physical team run this multi-sports camp. It is suitable for any child between 5 and 11 years of age who has a disability and their siblings. Click [HERE](#) for more information

Please be aware that Tower Hamlets have chosen NOT to provide vouchers for parents of Free School Meals pupils for use over the Spring break.

CELEBRATING FESTIVALS



PASSOVER—YEAR 3

This term, Year 3 have been learning about Judaism as part of their RE unit. They looked at a range of festivals and holy days that Jewish people celebrate, and learned about the Synagogue, why it's important and the precious objects that it contains. Year 3 were very fortunate to have had Veronica and David join us to share their personal experiences and first hand knowledge about Jewish life. The children had some great questions ready for them and our visitors very much enjoyed answering their questions and talking with the children.

The children applied all this learning into their festival assembly on Passover- a festival that commemorates the liberation of Hebrew slaves in Egypt, who were led out of Egypt by Moses. The children put on a fantastic show re-telling the story of the Exodus with some fantastic songs to support. Our visitor Veronica also came to watch and show support. Veronica commented- 'It's the best Passover assembly I've watched!' Great job year 3!

VAISAKHI—RECEPTION

In Reception, the topic for this half term has been celebrations. The children have learned about a range of celebrations including Ramadan, Raksah Bandhan and Moth-



ers Day. They also learned about Vaisakhi, a Sikh festival, which celebrates the start of the Kalsa Army founded by Guru Gobind Singh. As part of this learning, they were also able to visit a local Gudwara temple to learn more about why the building is important to Sikhs and what happens there. During the festival assembly, the children captured the audience with their amazing performance, demonstrating a multitude of talents including, singing, dancing and role play. They also shared their learning, explaining what the 5ks are and what they represent to a Sikh.

RAMADAN

We would like to wish Ramadan Kareem to all those currently celebrating Ramadan. The school will close for Eid Ul Fitr, which is likely to be on Friday 21st April, but this cannot be confirmed until the day before. As this is close to the start of term, the Eid festival assembly and parties will take place instead for Eid Ul Adha in June, following the year 6 SATs.

DATES FOR YOUR DAIRY

Free School Meals application workshop

Thursday 27th April 9-10am

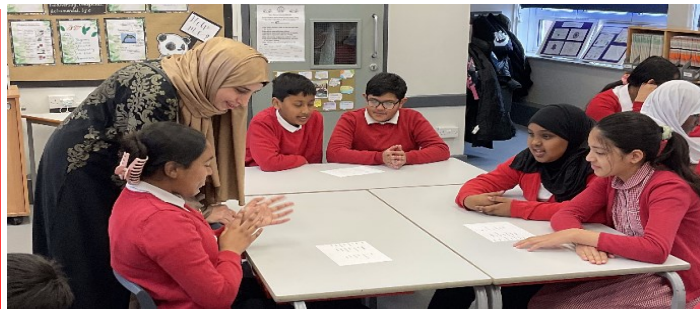
Outdoor Learning

Wednesday 14th June to Wednesday 28th June, 9-11.30am

Positive Parenting course

Wednesday 5th July-Wednesday 12th July, 9-10am

INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES DAY



February 21st was International Mother Languages Day! To celebrate this we held two special assemblies, the first looked at how International Language Day came to be and the second allowed the children an opportunity to share the languages they had learnt during the week. To support this, on Thursday 23rd February, we had some amazing parent volunteers come into school to work with each class to learn a new language!

Reception - Sign Language

Year 1 - German (10) and Somali (1D)

Year 2 - Khmer (2B) and Portuguese (2H)

Year 3 - Italian (3H) and Hindi (3G)

Year 4 - Turkish (4T) and Tagalog (4D)

Year 5 - Mandarin (5K) and Urdu (5M)

Year 6 - Urdu (6Y) and Arabic (6W)

All of the sessions were fantastic! The children really enjoyed learning how to greet each other in different languages and learning some facts about each language.

Why not try asking your child how to say 'hello' in the language they learnt!

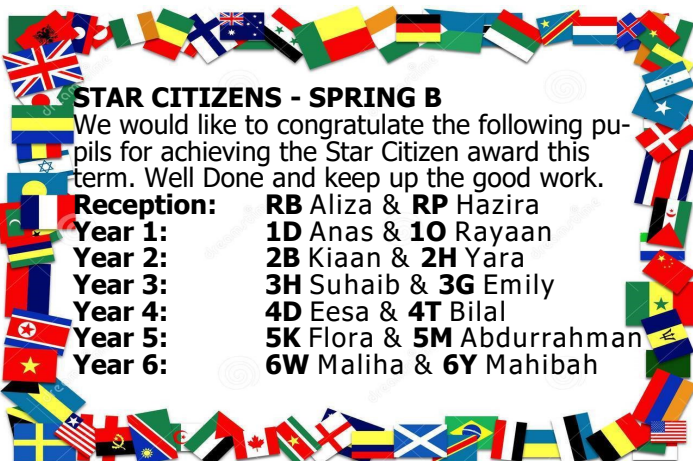
Thank you so much to all parent volunteers who gave up their time to support the children's learning - the children and staff are really appreciative as we love being able to learn and share as a community! Keep an eye out for our



AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

As we are unsure when Eid will fall, after school clubs will start again from 24th April

Parents will be sent details of the clubs after the holiday. This will include a link where they can sign up their child. Sports Clubs give children an extra opportunity to exercise and stay healthy as well as to develop their team work and problem solving. Please encourage your child to sign up



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 Aliza & RP Hazira

Year 1:

1D Anas & 10 Raya

Year 2:

2B Kiaan & 2H Yara

Year 3:

3H Suhaib & 3G Emily

Year 4:

4D Eesa & 4T Bilal

Year 5:

5K Flora & 5M Abdurrahman

Year 6:

6W Maliha & 6Y Mahibah

ONLINE SAFETY: Conversation starters

It is really important to regularly chat with your children more about staying safe online. With holidays coming up, it is a good opportunity to have positive conversations about the internet, so if something ever does upset your child online they would feel more confident in confiding in you. Not sure where to begin? These conversation starter from saferinternet.org can help.

- Ask your children to tell you about the sites they like to visit and what they enjoy doing online.
 - Ask them about how they stay safe online. What tips do they have for you, and where did they learn them? What is OK and not OK to share?
 - Ask them if they know where to go for help, where to find the safety advice, privacy settings and how to report or block on the services they use.
 - Encourage them to help someone! Perhaps they can show you how to do something better online or they might have a friend who would benefit from their help and support.
- Think about how you each use the internet. What more could you do to use the internet together? Are there activities that you could enjoy as a family?

YouTube Update

Children under the age of 13 should not be accessing YouTube without supervision. There are 2 ways primary school age children can access YouTube in safe way. The first- using **YouTube Kids** which is a safer and simpler experience for children to explore. Parents can set up profiles and select age appropriate content.

The other is by creating a 'supervised' account via a google account. Please see below a links which provide more information discussing the 2 options:

<https://www.youtube.com/myfamily/>

<https://www.youtube.com/kids/>

If you or your child do see anything inappropriate on Youtube, please report it straight away. The link below informs you how to do so:

<https://support.google.com/youtubekids/answer/6130562>



Several parents have contacted us to ask when the Ofsted Report will be released. As explained in the last newsletter, once the school receives the final report, a copy of this will be sent to all parents. In the last communication with Ofsted, they apologised for the delay and explained that this was because 'the quality assurance process was taking longer than is typically the case'. Ofsted have recently been in the news following the tragic death of headteacher Ruth Perry, who took her own life following an Ofsted inspection. Many headteachers have raised concerns regarding the Ofsted process. An inspection lasts for only two days and the judgement has to be based on what is seen over that time, rather than taking into consideration outcomes, such as how the children have performed in national tests over time. Schools have reported inconsistencies in how inspections have been carried out and in our case, the team did not include an HMI inspector, who would have been more experienced in leading the process. The NEU have launched a campaign calling for Ofsted to be replaced. Further details about this can be found [HERE](#)

It is very important that schools are accountable and for this reason, Old Palace signs up to Challenge Partners. This means we have an annual review conducted by a lead reviewer and three headteachers/ leaders from schools across England. Despite having had Ofsted this year, we will continue with the planned Challenge Partner review. The report from last year is available on the school website.

DT WOOD DAY

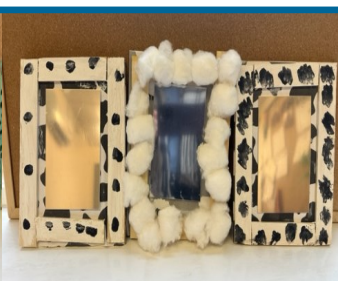
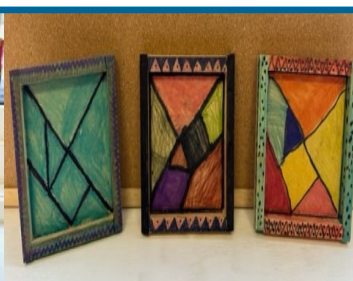


This term, the focus for DT day was on using wood. The children began their day researching existing products and then thought about how to design their own version. After choosing their final design, the children put their DT skills, such as measuring and cutting (using a range of tools like hacksaws and bench hooks) to good use.

In Reception, the children made Marble mazes based on a wildlife design. Children in year 1 designed a mirror frames using animal patterns to link with their topic 'On the Farm' whilst year 2 children beautifully decorated their flower themed pictures frames, using felt and fabric glue.

Year 3 made tangram trays and year 4 made money boxes using a combination of MDF wood and cardboard. Year 5 made memento boxes and year 6 made their own light boxes, complete with a working electrical circuit inside!

They finished the day by evaluating their finished product against the design criteria. There were some fantastic products, so the children should be very proud of what they were able to achieve.



**COMIC
RELIEF**

SKYPE THE SCIENTIST



tions, making predictions and making observations. They also learnt about the different fields of science and that the steps in our Investigation Planner are used daily by scientists!

A photograph showing two boys in the foreground performing a dance routine. The boy on the left is wearing a light blue long-sleeved shirt and dark trousers, while the boy on the right is wearing a dark blue tracksuit with white stripes on the sleeves and legs. They are both in dynamic poses on a polished wooden floor. In the background, a group of about ten children are sitting on the floor, watching the performance. The setting is a school hall with a large door and a piano visible in the background.

The value of the month for February was **ORIGINALITY**, Congratulations to:
Reception: **RB** Junaina & **RP** Abdullah
Year 1: **1D** Amima & **1O** Idriss
Year 2: **2B** Aneesah & **2H** Khaira
Year 3: **3G** Munim & **3H** Elisha
Year 4: **4D** Mehreen & **4T** Adnan
Year 5: **5K** Poppy & **5M** Tayeeba
Year 6: **6W** Rihan & **6Y** Imran
 Core value for March is **FORGIVENESS**

Congratulations to all the following children for Achieving 100% Attendance during the Spring Term (3rd January to 24th March 2023)

- 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 1 VISIT SURREY DOCK FARM



To consolidate their learning this Spring, Year 1 went on a trip to Surrey Docks Farm in South East London. They attended a workshop about the different crops grown on farms and did a tour of the vegetable beds, before planting their own cress seeds, which they took home to look after. They also got a chance to visit the farm animals and were very excited about feeding the goats and sheep! For our Make it Real project, Year 1 turned the playground into a farmer's market! To consolidate their learning on the topic 'On the Farm,' they reviewed all the different plants and crops that grow on farms and what they can be used for. They then made various foods using these; including naan bread, fruit salad, vegetable salad and cereal with milk. Finally they made posters to advertise the market and then sold the food to parents and families. Year 1 had so much fun and an extra thank you to parents for coming!!

YEAR 5 VISIT SOANES



5M went to the Soanes Centre this half term to learn more about Materials. Whilst there, they met Dim again, who went through different materials and their properties. They asked some excellent questions and had extended knowledge about materials and how they're made. Furthermore, they collected

branches to make into firewood! They learnt more about irreversible chemical reactions through the burning of wood. Finally, they observed how gas is formed by mixing vinegar and bicarbonate of soda, which released carbon dioxide. This was made evident by placing a balloon on the beaker to watch it inflate as gas is released.

LEARNING ABOUT NATURE

Year 4 visited the Soanes Centre at the start of the half term to learn about wildlife in the local area as part of their topic on Nature Around Us. Later in the term they got the opportunity to return, in order to apply what they had learned. Before their second visit, they predicted what different animals and plants they would see, for instance worms, crows and holly trees. Upon arrival, they used their observation skills to find evidence by searching for tracks and clues such as nests, webs and shredded leaves. Back at school, they considered what they could do to support the wildlife in our playground, for example by adding nesting boxes and bird feeding stations.

Meanwhile in Reception, the children have been learning about the life cycle of birds. Five eggs were placed in an incubator. The children were very patient and checked them daily. Eventually four of them hatched! The children then helped to care for the chicks as they were transferred to the brooder. The children were sad to say goodbye to them, when they were taken away to the farm to start their new life.



YEAR 4 VISIT ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE



Year 4 had the opportunity to visit the **Trinity Laban** Conservatoire of Music and Dance in Greenwich, to experience a live performance of one of the most famous symphonies of all time. The orchestra, from Trinity Laban, performed dramatic moments from Beethoven's No 5 symphony. From start to finish, the children were mesmerised as they watched the musicians playing the different instruments which make up each section of an orchestra. Upon returning to school the children were inspired and very excited to tell everyone all about what they had seen!

YEAR 2 VISIT DISCOVERY CENTRE

Year 2 visited Hyde Park where they had the chance to learn more about different types of plants and their structure. As part of the workshop at the Look Out Discovery Centre, children pretended to be seeds that



germinate, growing roots, a 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 flowers which they took home. Back in school, year 2 planted different types of flowers such as: lobelia, petunias and marigolds ready to fill their flower baskets which will be hung in the KS1 playground. 2B's trip has been rescheduled for Tuesday 18th April and we are so excited for our trip.

YEAR 3 VISIT EYNSFORD VILLAGE



This half term, Year 3 have been learning about rivers and settlements. To support their learning about how rural and urban spaces differ, they visited Eynsford to carry out some fieldwork. They looked at the difference in transport, shops, litter and housing. The children saw how a rural area, like Eynsford, has more greenery and less facilities. They also got to visit the local school,

Anthony Roper Primary School, where they met some of the children. Year 3 shared some of the highlights of our local area, which they had discovered during our recent local area walk. As well as being fun, this was a great opportunity to meet children from a different area, helping to find out what they had in common and how their daily experiences differ. Overall it was a great day.

