



# Old Palace Newsletter

January 2023

## SAFER INTERNET DAY 2023

This week we joined schools across the UK in celebrating Safer Internet Day, which promotes the safe and responsible use of technology. Using the internet safely and positively is a key message that we promote in school and celebrating Safer Internet Day is a great opportunity for us to re-emphasise the online safety messages which we deliver throughout the year. Classes carried out a range of activities, such as creating a magic window, an online safety poster and



higher up the school, role playing different online safety scenarios. We also held Parents Workshops where we spoke more about Safer Internet Day, what things to be aware of and how parents can support the internet being used safely at home. Parents of children in Y1-4 also had the opportunity to visit classes and join in part of lesson with their child.

We would also be delighted if you could continue the conversation about online safety at home. To help you with this, the UK Safer Internet Centre have created some free activities and information for parents and carers which are available at: [saferinternet.org.uk/ SID-parents](https://saferinternet.org.uk/SID-parents).

## RECEPTION VISIT THE TRANSPORT MUSEUM

Reception children visited the London Transport Museum in Convent Garden as part of their topic on 'Transport'. The children explored the museum looking at vehicles from the 19th and 20th centuries as well as artefacts and exhibits related to the developing transport network in London. They started their journey through the museum by following the stamp trail, collecting the different stampers to stamp their trail card as they explored the exhibits. The children discovered how transport had changed over time and were shocked to discover that old trains did not have any lights, so people travelled in the dark. They also got to see an Omnibus, the first passenger bus in London. They also enjoyed getting on the different transport, including a steam engine, open top bus and a black taxi. The children had a fantastic time at the museum and were so well behaved throughout.



## IMPORTANT DATES



### SPRING HALF TERM

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

### SUMMER HALF TERM

School finishes Friday 26th May 2023  
Return to school Monday 5th June 2023

### END OF SUMMER TERM

School finishes Friday 21st July 2023

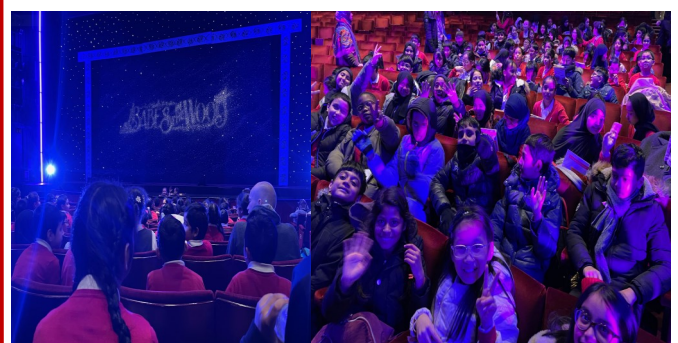
Please visit our school website for a full list of term dates  
[www.oldpalaceprimary.co.uk](https://www.oldpalaceprimary.co.uk)

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## A NIGHT AT THE PANTOMIME



Some pupils in years 4-6 had the wonderful opportunity to attend this years Pantomime at the Peacock theatre in Central London. The show was the fantastic 'Babes in the Wood', the incredible story of two young children whose wicked uncle wants them removed from power so that he can claim their inheritance. The children were so thrilled at the experience and sang, laughed and danced throughout the performance. We are very proud of how well behaved the children were and the wonderful example they set for our school. It was a late night for all involved, so a big thank you to the staff who attended and to the city firm, Price Cooper Waterhouse who donating the tickets.



# PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

## PARENT WORKSHOPS & COFFEE MORNINGS

### Managing Worries

On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January, Sufia Khan from Tower Hamlets Talking Therapy spoke to our parents about 'managing worries'. During the first half of the session, parents filled in a questionnaire about themselves, and how they manage situations. They then explored practical examples of how worries can be managed. Parents left feeling happy and have requested that Sufia returns to deliver further sessions. Thank you to all the parents who attended. If you would like support from a Talking Therapist, you can self-refer, please call 0207 702 7641

### Digital Skills for Parents



On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January, Tarana Rouf, from Poplar Harca Digital Skills, delivered a taster session to the parents. Parents had the opportunity to get hands on experience using the computers and also to chat with parents who had completed the course previously. Parents then had the opportunity to sign up to the accredited Entry 1 & 2 Basic Computing Course. The course will help develop practical skills in day to day tasks like booking

online GP appointments, paying using School money, using Word, Excel and a range of Apps; it will also explore online safety. The course will start on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February from 12-2pm at the Bow Community Hub, Jefferson Plaza E3 3QE or parents can attend a second session on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February from 9.30-11.30 at the Aberfeildy Centre, Aberfeildy Street, London E14 ONU 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> January.

For further information contact Poplar Harca on 02027 510 9770 and request the Personal and Skills course leader. Alternatively speak to Shelly.



### Parents Walking Group

Our weekly Walking Group resumed on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January. The aim of the group is to improve fitness and well-being, and to bring the community back together; it is run in collaboration with Well One and Poplar Harca. During the first session, we

were also joined by Sufia Khan, Our Talking Therapist, who shared her expertise on ways to manage worries and stress. If you are interested in joining the walking group, please speak to Shelly.

### Healthy Families Course

Hamida Begum from the Parental Engagement Team is presently delivering a five week course on Health Families. The first session was delivered on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January, at which parents enjoyed learning about food groups, healthy meal ideas and recommended portion sizes for children and adults. The session was really interactive and engaging. If you were not able to attend this session, you can still sign up for future sessions on Fridays (3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> February & 3<sup>rd</sup> March). Please see Shelly to sign up.

### Reminder

The NEU is proposing to take strike action on

- Thursday 2nd March
- Wednesday 15th March and Thursday 16th March

If this goes ahead, many classes are likely to be closed, so please begin to make arrangements for childcare.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February

Emotional First Aid  
9am-11am, 6 week course

### Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February

Coffee Morning: Cost of Living BBBC 9.10-11.30am

### Tuesday 28th February

Making masks during Book Week 9-10am

### Wednesday 22nd February 2022

Early REPAIR Course  
ERC is a brief awareness raising course for fathers who have been identified to be using abuse (physical and/or emotional and/or coercive control) at a level currently considered to be low risk. For more info please click [HERE](#)

### HALF TERM ACTIVITIES

#### Trampolining

London Youth Games Trampolining  
Session's start from Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January and run through to Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023. Please click [HERE](#) for more information.

#### Free Family Cycle Training

Suitable for regular cyclists looking to progress cycle skills to the next level. Meeting point Victoria Park. More information please click [HERE](#)

#### RICH MIX Textile Project

Creative course for parents to learn about local history and share our stories of migration to Tower Hamlets. For more information please click [HERE](#)

### Homework Workshop

Mrs Rahman led a Homework workshop for Reception parents on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January at the request of the Parent Council. The aim of the workshop was to help parents understand how best to support their child's learning at home. The workshop talked about establishing a good routine that enables parents to find a suitable time to read with their child on a daily basis. The session also looked at supporting children with phonics - which



teaches letter sounds and letter correspondence to a sound. Parents were shown how these early reading skills are essential to becoming a confident reader. They also looked at some decodable books and talked through how to use them at home. The workshop ended with the parents having the opportunity to put their skills into practice. Thank you to everyone who attended.

### CORE VALUE AWARD - JANUARY 2022

The value of the month for January was **RESILIENCE**  
Congratulations to:

- **Reception:** RB Amira & RP Hilary
- **Year 1:** 1D Ilyanah & 1O Majim
- **Year 2:** 2B Ismail & 2H Taqwa
- **Year 3:** 3G Amani & 3H Zakariya
- **Year 4:** 4D Alina & 4T Araf
- **Year 5:** 5K Hamza & 5M Tamim
- **Year 6:** 6W Maymunah & 6Y Yameen

Core value for February is **ORIGINALITY**



## BOOK WEEK 2023

Old Palace Primary School will be celebrating World Book week from 27<sup>th</sup> February to the 3<sup>rd</sup> March. The children will take part in a variety of tasks, including meeting and/or researching an author.

### Dates for your calendar

Day	Activity
<b>Mon 27<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<p><b>Year 1 Bedtime story</b> <b>Time: 5-6pm</b> Details: We encourage the children to come dressed in their Pyjama's and they can bring along a soft toy to snuggle up to when being read a story in a small group.</p> <p><b>Whole School Competition launch:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This will be brought home by your child</li> <li>They will need to draw their favourite author and write a reason why</li> <li>Entries need to be submitted to their teacher by Wednesday 2nd March</li> <li>Prizes for the best entries will be given out during Friday's assembly</li> </ul>
<b>Tues 28<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<p><b>Reception Bedtime story</b> <b>Time: 5-6pm</b> Details: We encourage the children to come dressed in their Pyjama's and they can bring along a soft toy to snuggle up to when being read a story in a small group</p>
<b>Wed 1<sup>st</sup> March</b>	<p><b>Parent Workshop- 9-10am</b> We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Go through how we teach reading in school</li> <li>Share tips on how to support your child's reading at home</li> <li>Identify authors whose books your child may enjoy reading with you and Making masks</li> </ul>
<b>Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	<p><b>Dress Up</b> All children can come dressed up as their favourite book character</p> <p><b>Reception Parents Morning Reading</b> <b>8:45-9:10am</b> Reception parents will be able to listen to their children telling a story using a story map</p> <p><b>Author visits</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>James Allen author of Hugesaurus will be visiting Reception, Year 1 &amp; 2</li> <li>A group of children from Year 3/ 4 will be going to the Genesis cinema to meet with Serena Patel author of Accidental Detective.</li> </ul> <p><b>Book Fair</b> After school there will be a book fair where you can purchase books using cash and your child's £1 book voucher.</p>

## STAR CITIZENS - SPRING 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.

**Reception:** RB Nawaira & RP Nazifa  
**Year 1:** 1D Aydan & 1O Yahya  
**Year 2:** 2B Aadam & 2H Ibrahim  
**Year 3:** 3H Sameeha & 3G Safiyyah  
**Year 4:** 4D Shazana & 4T Khadeejah  
**Year 5:** 5K Husni & 5M Manha  
**Year 6:** 6W Manha & 6Y Zeeshan

## OFSTED INSPECTION UPDATE

On 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> January the school was inspected by Ofsted. The team was made up of 3 inspectors, not one of whom was a HMI inspector.

The school is still waiting to receive the draft report. Once this has been verified, staff can be told the outcome and then all parents will be sent a text link to the final report.

It has been nearly 14 years since our last inspection back in 2009. During this time the criteria by which schools are judged has changed 3 times; at present the framework is very heavily focused on phonics and reading.

For a while Outstanding schools were exempt from inspection as long as results remained strong. This changed in 2019, when it was decided to inspect all schools again, with the head of Ofsted, Amanda Spielman, stating publicly that the proportion of Outstanding School was too high. In its report on the 2021-22 academic year, Ofsted stated that 308 of the 370 previously exempt schools that had a graded inspection were downgraded. The majority (62 per cent) became 'good', but over a fifth fell to 'requires improvement' (17 per cent) or 'inadequate' (4 per cent).

In the absence of Ofsted, the school has been taking part in annual Challenge Partner reviews. These involve the school being visited by an Ofsted trained lead reviewer and a team of 3 senior leaders from schools across the country. Previous reports can be found [HERE](#). We find this to be a valuable exercise to help identify our strengths and areas for development and so will still continue with the review scheduled for later this year.

## Extended Leave/ Travelling during term time

As explained in our Attendance Policy, no travel will be authorised during term time, other than in very exceptional circumstances. If for any reason you plan to go away during term time, you must first request an extended leave form from the office and provide evidence to support the application, such as medical documents, death certificates

What do your attendance figures actually mean?

95%	=	<b>47 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR</b> <b>8 days in total or 1 week and 3 days</b>
90%	=	<b>95 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR</b> <b>16 days in total or 3 weeks and 1 day</b>
85%	=	<b>142 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR</b> <b>24 days in total or 4 weeks and 4 days</b>
80%	=	<b>190 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR</b> <b>32 days in total or 6 weeks and 2 days</b>

and details of the flights and when they were booked. It is essential that parents/carers provide the school with details of where the family can be contacted while they are away. If we do not receive this information, the child is categorised as 'missing in education' and then social services become involved as this is seen as a safeguarding issue.

Once an extended leave form has been submitted, a meeting will be arranged with the Attendance Welfare Adviser. In all but exceptional cases, requests for leave during term time will not be authorised and a Penalty Notice given. The cost of the Penalty Notice is **£60** per child per parent/carer but increases to **£120** if payment is not made within **21 days**. This money is paid to the local authority, not the school.

Missing days from school can add up, disrupting their routine and impacting massively on a child's progress. Thank you to all the families who have been working hard to ensure their children's attendance and punctuality are high. If you are having difficulties in getting your child to school, please reach out to Shelly (Parent Support Worker) as we can arrange support from Shahnaz (school social worker) who is from the Early Help team or Sonia, our Attendance Welfare Advisor. We are here to help.



## YEAR 6 VISIT THE TATE MODERN



which they found intriguing, and later used this as inspiration for their final piece.

## YEAR 2 VISIT THE HORNIMAN MUSEUM

Year 2 visited the Horniman Museum where they learned more about Life in Africa. They took part in a workshop and were split into three groups, focusing on African toys made from recycled materials, African markets and African animals and decorations. Children were fascinated with toy cars made from cans, and lids or soft toys made from old shoes. Additionally, they had the chance to use musical instruments, such as African drums and try on traditional fabrics. Among other exhibits, children saw and touched a tiger's skull and a snake's skin. They also enjoyed the musical instruments playground in the museum garden.



## YEAR 3 VISIT SCIENCE MUSEUM



ed how pulleys work and explored Ferro-fluid created a magnetic force. It was fascinating!

## YEAR 4 VISIT LONDON BUDDHIST CENTRE

This half term, year 4 have been learning about Buddhism! They visited the Buddhist temple where they learnt about the three jewels. They also learnt about how Siddhartha Gautama became the Buddha and his importance to the faith. They had the chance to do a non-religious meditation which was great fun! Back at school the children applied their learning to prepare for the Nirvana festival assembly. The shared the story of how Siddhartha became enlightened, as well as information on how the festival of Nirvana is celebrated across the world. Congratulations year 4 on delivering such an entertaining and informative performance



## RECEPTION LEARN ABOUT CHRISTIANITY

In Reception we had some visitors come to discuss the religion of Christianity. That children had a chance to explore important aspects of Christianity such as thankfulness and forgiveness. The children also had an opportunity to ask questions about the church and how Christians pray.



Our kind visitors also brought in some artefacts that would be found in a church, such as the Bible, a towel for Baptism and a tray with glasses. They explained the symbolism and meaning behind each of these artefacts and why they are important to Christians. The children thoroughly enjoyed the interactive visit and took away a lot of information.

## YEAR 1 VISIT THE CUTTY SARK

This half term, Year 1 visited the Cutty Sark in Greenwich to consolidate their learning about explorers in the past and present. The children were true explorers for the day and loved walking around the upper and lower deck of the ship, looking at all of the different parts they had learned about in school. They even climbed into the bunk beds! They loved playing the interactive game; travelling between continents and steering the ship to safety avoid the icebergs and land borders. The children also really enjoyed the story session workshop, where they acted out voyages from the past, thinking about how the crew felt and the equipment they used. They also learned how the ship got its name from a famous poem.



## YEAR 5 EQUALITEACH WORKSHOP

This half term, year 5 took part in a workshop delivered by Equaliteach. The aim of the workshop was to support the children's understand of diversity and the importance of respecting differences. It included a variety of activities designed to get the children thinking, sharing and reflecting on equality. The children were asked to try to identify someone based on their heritage, to match well known celebrities to their disabilities and to choose guests for a party, based on only knowing their country of origin and one other small piece of information. The children were very confident in sharing their ideas and showed the facilitators just how inclusive and open minded the pupils of Old Palace can be. We are really proud of the children and how well they worked together to build their understanding of diversity and inclusion.

