



Old Palace Newsletter

May 2023

CELEBRATING KING CHARLE'S CORONATION



In KS2 the children celebrated the coronation of King Charles III with a picnic at Groves Park. The children got to dress up in red, white and blue and celebrated with a special packed lunch and treats they brought to share with their friends. It was great to see all our families celebrating together.



Due to rainy weather, in KS1 we had to move our picnic indoors, so instead had class coronation parties, that our parents were able to join. The children took part in games, singing and dancing and got to share some tasty treats along with their special coronation packed lunch. The children really enjoyed celebrating with their friends and families.

In the build up to the big day, the children also completed a range of coronation activities, such as designing their own coronation crowns (Reception), designing a new stamp (Y1), creating coronation bunting (Y2), devising their own coronation recipes (following the tradition of creating a new dish for the new monarch) and designed a comic strip on what it would be like to be a King or Queen for the day in UKS2.

A great time was had by all and we wish our new king a long and healthy reign. God save the king!



IMPORTANT DATES



SUMMER HALF TERM

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

EID CLOSURE (TBC)

Wednesday 28th June

SPORTS DAY

LKS2: Tuesday 4th July 2023
UKS2: Wednesday 5th July 2023
KS1: Thursday 6th July 2023

END OF SUMMER TERM

School finishes at 2pm on Friday 21st July 2023

Return to School
ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-2024
Monday 4th September 2023

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

Follow us on Twitter 

ANDY DAY AND THE ODD SOCKS

Back in November, Old Palace took part in the annual Odd Sock Day, which is a day dedicated to raising awareness for Anti-bullying. Each year, the Anti-bullying Alliance holds a competition for schools to see which school can really spread the message about the need to put a stop to bullying. They loved the work we shared on our twitter page, including the pictures of our odd socks, and so decided to make Old Palace one of the winners!

The prize was a special performance from CBeebies star Andy Day and his band, 'the Odd Socks' which took place on Monday 17th April. Andy and the band came to school and surprised the children in a special assembly held for the children in years 1-5. It was a very exciting assembly! The band performed many of their hit songs, talked to the children more about the importance of Odd Sock Day and thanked them for all their hard work. The children really enjoyed listening to all of the great songs, singing and dancing along. At the end of the assembly they even got to ask the band some questions!

Well done to everyone for all their hard work in raising awareness of bullying and how to prevent this.



PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

PARENT WORKSHOPS Y1 Phonics Screening



On Thursday 4th May, Ms Millward delivered a Phonics Screening information workshop to Year 1 parents. The Phonics Screening is a short statutory assessment that all Year 1 children take to check their knowledge of phonics. At the workshop parents had the opportunity to engage

in the sounds and try past papers. Parents were given hand-outs to help them to practice at home with their child/ren.

Handwriting Workshop

On Tuesday 16th May, Mrs Rahman and our English Lead, Mrs Dias Patel, delivered a handwriting workshop. Parents were shown how to form the letters correctly, in accordance with our Phonics programme, and discovered what skills the children need to learn in order to write neatly.



They were shown how young children's writing progresses through the different developmental writing stages and explored various activities that can be carried out at home to support

handwriting. Thank you to all the parents who attended the workshop.

Coffee Mornings Free School Meals

During our weekly Coffee Morning on Thursday 11th May, Shelly delivered an information session on how to apply for benefit based free school meals. She guided parents through the online application, which can be accessed [here](#). If you were not able to attend, and would like to support, please speak to Shelly.

Parent Voice: Music



On Thursday 18th May, Mr Heighington held a coffee morning to talk about Music at Old Palace. Throughout the morning, Mr. Heighington showed how the school embeds music across the curriculum, making sure the children

are always exposed to some form of music education, even when they are not learning a specific instrument. The parents were able to find out about all the amazing visits we have from the City London Symphonia, talented singers with backgrounds in West end theatre and amazing trips to watch orchestras like the LSO. We also explored all of the instrument tuition that the children take part in from recorders to Glockenspiels to guitars and keyboards, and the parents even got to have a go at the instruments themselves which was amazing to see! Thanks so much to the parents that came and took part in the morning and we really enjoyed your fabulous musical ensemble!

Spring Term Parent Council meeting

The following items were discussed with the Head teacher:

| | Suggestions | Action |
|-----|---|---|
| YR | Using Parents Volunteers to support trips. Some parents are apprehensive about trips—can something be done to help address their fears. | Parent Volunteers to be recruited in Summer 2 (Information session to be held on Tue 6th June) Next trip letter will include more details on risks assessments, travel and supervision arrangement |
| | Support with homework & Research project | More guidance on Research Projects homework to be included in next year's KS1 welcome meetings in September |
| Y1 | Reading recommendation which books should children read in each year group | Tube map are in place for Y3-6. These will also be developed for r KS1 |
| | Marks on clothes from non-washable markers | School to research washable markers. We are presently trailing some from Crayola |
| Y2 | No concern raised | NA |
| Y3 | No concern raised | NA |
| Y 4 | Will parents receive end of year levels for children? | Yes, this is recorded in each child's end of the year report |
| | Some parents felt they needed more information on ways they can support their child's learning during the recent Parent Consultation | This will be fed back to the Year 4 team. Some suggestions should have been provided. If further advice is needed regarding a specific area of learning, parents are welcome to email the school their questions |
| | Books the children bring home do not always match their reading level | The books the children take home are from the class and school library. Children are free to choose these to support reading for enjoyment. The books allocated on Bug club are levelled and matched to the child's reading ability |
| | Access to slides from the Puberty Lesson workshop | Parents can email to request these. They will then be sent via return email |
| Y5 | Gilwell Park | Mr Palmer asked for help in filling the remaining places. It was suggested that the children could perhaps have an overnight stay on school premises |
| | Is the Mersey Island residential happening? | Yes in July. An information session will take place in Summer 1 |
| Y6 | Eid Celebration | Year 6 will perform a festival assembly for the Eid-Al- Adha in June followed by parties for the children and parents. As Year 6 were studying for their SATs and the school had only just returned after Spring break, it would be less disruptive to the children's learning if the school waited until June. |
| | No concerns raised | NA |



ONLINE SAFETY

We all know that gaming is a hugely popular activity for a number of different reasons, e.g. socialisation, coping mechanism, skill building and much more.

Many games are not appropriate for children and plenty of parents struggle with this. Internet Matters have put a guide together which details some alternative games which promote gaming as a family activity. There are games from 3+ upwards so there's something for everyone. You can download the guide from the link [HERE](#).

Additionally, Andy Robertson from Ask About Games has some family guides which parents will find really useful. You can find all the guides in the link [HERE](#).

Last week, a separate letter was sent out to UKS2 parents regarding the dangers associated with pupils having social media accounts. This can be found [HERE](#)

PARENT NOTICE

Recently, there has been a noticeable increase in children bringing toys in from home. We do ask that the children do not bring these in as it can cause unnecessary problems in the playground, distractions during the school day and distress if they misplace their toy. If a child is found to have brought in a toy from home, the staff member will confiscate the toy until the end of the day and give it to the adult who collects the child.

STAR CITIZENS - SUMMER 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 Mabruk & RP Eliza
Year 1: 1D Aahil & 1O Ayman
Year 2: 2B Hamza & 2H Khadijah
Year 3: 3H Halima & 3G Sameeha Y
Year 4: 4D Alina & 4T Ayah
Year 5: 5K Munira & 5M Kaysah
Year 6: 6W Umaima & 6Y Tauheed



LBTH HALF TERM HOLIDAY SPORTING ACTIVITIES

Athletics

Victoria Park Harriers hold sessions for athletes of all abilities. They provide coaching,

holiday programmes, mini marathon and competitions. Please click [HERE](#) for more info.

Cricket

A variety of sessions for young people across the borough, from competitive coaching to informal street cricket: [Street Cricket](#), every Fridays 3.30-5.30pm: ages 8-15 @ Oaklands School

Hockey

There are 3 teams in Tower Hamlets providing hockey coaching and match play for a variety of ages: [East London Hockey Club](#) (includes youth training at Mile End Stadium, every Sunday 10-1.30am). [Wapping Hockey Club](#) (includes junior session at John Orwell Sports Centre, every Saturday 9.30-11am) and [Tower Hamlets Hockey Club](#)

YEAR 2 VISIT SOANES CENTRE



Year 2 have been learning about Habitats this half-term, including pond habitats. To bring to life their learning, they visited the Soanes Centre where they explored different plants, flowers, insects and animals along the path. They also looked at a pond habitat where they used fishing nets to see what pond insects they could find. The children caught many pond insects including a newt.

We would also like to thank Year 2 for adding their blooming baskets to the KS1 playground. The children started to grow the plants before Easter and then transplanted them into the containers they designed. We are sure they will brighten up the playground this summer!

5M VISIT SALTERS INSTITUTE



Last half term, 5M were involved in a project to design a school garden which would support bio-diversity. Although they did not win, 5M were invited to the Salter's Institute to share their design. They presented the different aspects of their design and explained how it would improve biodiversity in the local area, as well as how it would be utilised by everyone at Old Palace. The institute were so impressed, that they decided to award the school a cheque for £300, so the children could buy more plants for everyone to enjoy. At the event, the children also found out more about different types of soils and which plants are best matched to each. They also find out more about ways in which they can encourage biodiversity at home. Congratulations 5M! We look forward to seeing which plants you will choose!

5K VISIT CAMELEY ST. NATURAL PARK

This half term, year 5 have been learning about Life Cycles. To consolidate this, 5K travelled to Kings Cross to explore the Camley Street Natural Park. There, the children found out more about biomes and the life cycles of different animals and plants. They even got to go for a little fishing trip to catch some ocean dwelling insects! Before the day was over, they also got to apply their knowledge by identifying some wildlife species all on their own. Great job, 5K!



SATs TIME AGAIN!



The children in both Year 2 and Year 6 have now completed their SATs tests. The Year 6 papers are sent off for marking and we will receive the children's results on

11th July. In Year 2, the teachers use the tests alongside the work in the children's books to decide at which standard they are working.

All the children have worked incredibly hard this term and we have been very impressed with their attitude during the tests. In the media, some schools have raised concerns about the difficulty of the Year 6 Reading test, but we are proud to say that our pupils showed great resilience, even when faced with the more challenging questions.

Please join us in thanking the Year 2 and 6 teams for all their hard work to ensure that the children were well prepared for the tests and able to achieve their full potential. Children in Year 1 will be completing the Phonics Screening after half term, so parents please remember to keep up the phonics and reading practice during the holiday! We wish all the children the best of luck with their results!

CORE VALUE AWARD - May 2023

The value of the month for May was **POSITIVITY**. Congratulations to:

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Reception: | RB Ayla & | RP Mehrama |
| Year 1: | 1D Ilyanah & | 1O Emre |
| Year 2: | 2B Mathiha & | 2H Aribah |
| Year 3: | 3G Kaïden & | 3H Ayra |
| Year 4: | 4D Jasmine & | 4T Lilly |
| Year 5: | 5K Manhaa & | 5M Hanna |
| Year 6: | 6W Nazim & | 6Y Imran |

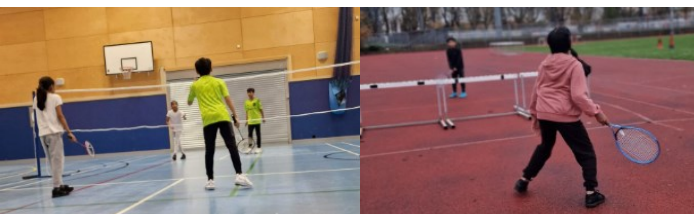
Core value for June is **FAIRNESS**



With Graduation round the corner, the children in year 5 and 6 have been doing an exceptional job with the Children's university project. All children in year 6 have achieved bronze and 58% of children have achieved silver or above. 28% have now achieved gold. We also have 6 children who have achieved a bronze post graduate awards.

Meanwhile in Year 5, most children are on track to achieving Bronze by the end of summer, which considering it is their first year, it is also remarkable achievement.

We are currently in the process of organising the graduation ceremony with the Children's University team, and hope to host it at the Bow School riverside theatre in the Summer 2 term.



Ofsted

Ofsted published the school's Inspection report on Monday 22nd May. A link to the report was sent to parents and it has also been published on our website [HERE](#)

We are very pleased that Ofsted continued to rate Behaviour, Personal Development and our reception as Outstanding. As the Lead Inspector felt that the changes we have made since September to the teaching of phonics in years 1-3 are yet to be fully embedded, she rated the Quality of Teaching as Good. This meant that Leadership and Overall Effectiveness were also graded as Good.

The school will continue to work on embedding the new phonics programme. When senior leaders visit us from Challenge Partners, we will ask them to observe phonics. This will help us to evaluate our strengths in phonics and to identify any areas we still need to develop.

YEAR 4 PLATFORM CRICKET

This half term, year 4 have had the opportunity to work with cricket coaches from - Platform 4. During PE lessons, they have learnt many skills, including different batting and bowling techniques and how to develop their hand eye coordination. To add to the fun, they also had an opportunity to play mini cricket tournaments, where the children got the chance to



field, wicket keep and bat. During the lessons, the coaches also kept an eye out for children who showed a particular talent in cricket. These children have been invited to attend a weekly after school club at which they can further develop their talent.

LONDON MATHS CHALLENGE

Each year Old Palace takes part in The Mayor of London Fund's Maths Challenge, where children in year 5 get to take part in a variety of different challenging puzzles and activities including: domino puzzles, pentominoes, code-breaking and the 24 game, which involves children using their knowledge of the 4 operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) to turn any combination of number into an answer of 24. You can try it at home here: <https://www.4nums.com/>



Some of our year 5 children have been attending a maths club at lunchtime to help prepare them for the competition. They also visited Marner School for a friendly competition to help them practice in a competitive environment

The first official heat took place on 16th May, when the children competed against schools from across London. Our children did extremely well in their heat, scoring highly in each round of events. We are now waiting to hear if we will get a call back for the final! Well done to all our year 5 competitors. It is great to see such a passion and enjoyment of maths!

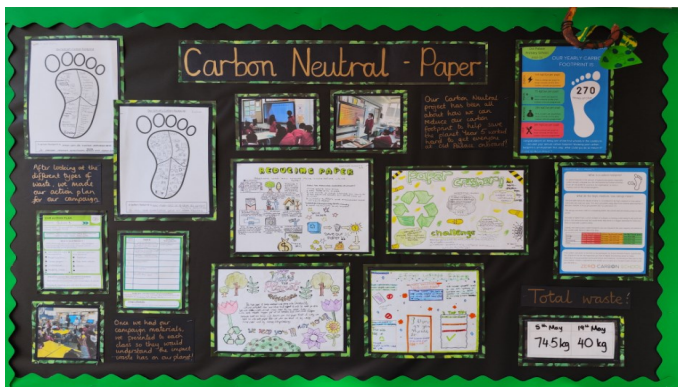


SUMMER UNIFORM

- With hotter weather hopefully on the way, please
- click [HERE](#) for a reminder about our Summer
- School Uniform. Please also remember to apply
- sunblock in the morning and consider sending in
- a sun hat to keep your child protected on the
- sunniest days



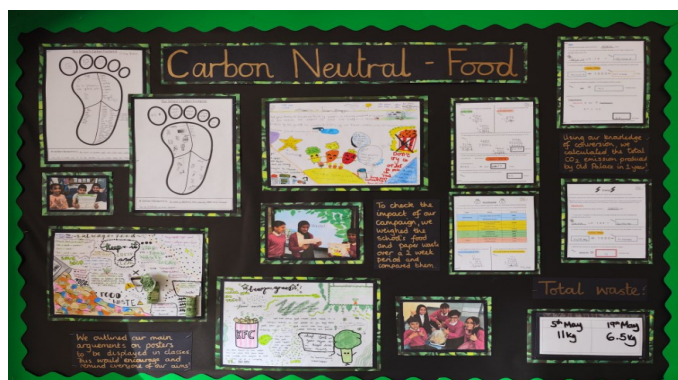
YEAR 5 CARBON NEUTRAL PROJECT



Since March, year 5 have been taking part in a special project led by Greener Schools. The children have explored the damage that carbon dioxide can cause when released into the environment. They then calculated how much carbon dioxide Old Palace creates for example through purchasing things like paper and school dinner, as well as through the use of energy. This is called the school's carbon footprint. They found out that we create a whopping 270 tonnes of carbon dioxide each year!

They decided this was not good enough and so set about reducing our carbon footprint. 5M created a campaign to reduce our use of paper, while 5K focused on reducing food waste. As a result of the children's hard work, the amount of waste paper in a week reduced from 74.5 to 40kg and the amount of food waste in a day, fell from 11 to 6.5kg.

There is still a lot to do to make Old Palace a Zero Carbon school, but what a great start from year 5! We salute the efforts of all our eco-champions.



YEAR 4 GILWELL PARK RESIDENTIAL



Each May, year 4 pupils visit Gilwell Park for a three day residential. The children who attended this year had a brilliant time, rising to the challenge, overcoming their fears and setting new personal achievements. The children got to participate in a range of activities including archery, climbing wall, raft building, high ropes and the legendary 'leap of faith' and also got to sample Mr Palmer's famous hot chocolate before bed. Mr. Thomson and Ms. Din and the team were utterly astounded by the sheer bravery, teamwork and determination that the children demonstrated as they have faced the challenges together. The children made their teachers and school proud, showing exemplary behaviour as kind, friendly and polite members of the Gilwell community. The school places high value on residential trips, as these allow the children to develop their confidence and independence outside the school environment. Well done to all the children who attended and a big thank you to all the staff who attended; without their support the trip would not have been possible.



SUMMER FETE

This year our annual Summer Fete will be held on

Friday 14th July 2023

Donations of

Resalable toys, DVDs and Brick-a-brack needed
(Please No Electricals or Clothes).

If you are able to help on the day please come and speak to Shelly or Forida. Thank you for your support.



Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 6th June

Parent Volunteer Information Session, 9.15-9.45am, Community Room

Tuesday 6th June-Tuesday 20th June

Parenting course with Forida 2.30-3.30pm, Community Room

Friday 9th June

Cycle Taxi 9.30-10.30am

All parents are welcome to attend the walking group. Please speak to Shelly to book a seat

Monday 19th June

Walking group to Mudchute Farm – DLR funded trip 9.30-11.30am

Wednesday 14th June to Wednesday 28th June

Outdoor Learning for KS1 parents 9-11.30am

Thursday 29th June TBC

Eid Party – Would like to request Parent Councillors to volunteer. Please speak to Shelly

Wednesday 5th July – Wednesday 19th July

Parenting Course with School Social Worker & Forida 9.30-10.30am, Community Room

RECEPTION VISIT THE LONDON SEALIFE CENTRE



As part of our topic on life in the sea, Reception visited the London Sealife Aquarium last week. The children had a fantastic time seeing all the different sea creatures and were great at using their prior learning from school to identify them and share the interesting facts they have already learnt, such as female sea turtles lay their eggs in the sand, jelly fish have no brain and penguins can't fly but are great swimmers! The children were so excited to see the penguins, sharks, sea turtles, sting rays and they even touched a sharks egg!

It was a great day out and the children also enjoyed the journey on the train and walking past some of the famous London landmarks, like Big Ben and the London Eye. Later in the week, RP performed their first class assembly where they shared their learning on sea animals and reminded us all how we can help protect marine life by reducing plastic waste. It was a spectacular performance full of singing, dancing and great acting too! Well done to everyone in RP.



YEAR 4 VISIT IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

This half term, year 4 have been learning about WW2 and how it effected the local area, for example through evacuation and the Blitz. To consolidate their learning, the children visited the Imperial War Museum. They were able to become historians looking at many artefacts from this period, including one of the boats used in the rescue of soldiers from the Battle of Dunkirk. Additionally, they were able to investigate a mock up of what a house from that time would have been like, complete with Anderson and Morrison Shelters. The children also got a chance to try and crack the enigma code in one of the interactive exhibits.

Back at school, the children used primary sources to find out about the bombing of the old school building on 19th April 1941 when sadly 34 brave fire fighters were killed. The London Fire Brigade will be unveiling a new plaque to commemorates the tragedy during half term, to ensure their sacrifice is never forgotten.



YEAR 3 VISIT BOYDELLS DAIRY FARM



Year 3 visited Boydells Dairy Farm this half term. At the farm they got to see and learn about a wide range of farm animals. The trip began with a visit from Mootilda the cow, who the children had the chance to milk. Next, they had a tour of the farm and were introduced to all of the different animals. This included goats, pigs, donkeys, llamas, sheep, alpacas, chickens, ducks and a turkey! The children were able to pet and feed the animals, as well as learning how they are cared for on the farm, what they eat and where they are kept. The children learnt lots of great facts, such as which animals have no top teeth and that cows have 4 stomachs! After a lovely picnic lunch, the children met some of the smaller animals on the farm. They all had the opportunity to feed and cuddle a lamb, hold 4 day old chicks and stroke and feed the rabbits and guinea pigs. There were even kittens to play with. The children had a great day and left with a greater understanding of farms and where our food comes from.



YEAR 1 VISIT ROYAL HAMPTON COURT PALACE

To consolidate their learning this half term on kings now and in the past, Year 1 went to visit Hampton Court Palace. . Once there, the children explored Henry VIII's apartment and saw the top table, where some of the servants sat. They looked up at the impressive roof and the stone ceiling and talked about the different shapes they could see. They saw the paintings of Henry VIII and identified his six wives. Afterwards, we went inside the kitchens and looked at the larder and at how the spit was used for cooking in the fireplace. Next, we explored the outdoor kitchen gardens and lots of children talked about the different vegetables they could see. The children loved the rose gardens and pretended to walk around like royalty. It was great to stand on the same ground where King Henry VIII had once stood. Finally the children returned to Old Palace, feeling very tired after such an exciting day!

