



Old Palace Newsletter

July 2023 Issue 1

OLD PALACE SPORTS MORNINGS



The children recently took part in our annual Sports Mornings. They competed in their team colours of yellow, blue, red and green, having lots of fun whilst showing off their sporting talents. KS2 children went to Three Bridges where they took part in eight activities including: javelin throw, football dribble, 100m relay and agility run. KS1 and EYFS went to Bob's Park, where their events included accuracy throw, over and under, long jump, sack race and egg and spoon race. There was an impressive display of skill, stamina, determination and sportsmanship from all the children as they battled to gain as many points for their team as possible



There were also events for the parents, with some hotly contested tug of war and egg and spoon race competitions. We would like to thank everyone who came along to cheer the children. We greatly appreciate the support we received from parents in helping to safeguard pupils by respecting the limits placed on using mobile phones. A big thank you to everyone who was involved and well done to all the competitors. The winning team will be announced during Friday assembly



IMPORTANT DATES



END OF YEAR PARENT CONSULTATIONS
By Appointment ONLY
Opportunity to collect your child's annual report
18th July 2023

END OF SUMMER TERM
School finishes **2PM** Thursday 20th July 2023

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

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YEAR 6 SAILING

As part of the PE curriculum focusing on Outdoor Adventure, year 6 visited Fairlop Waters where they had the opportunity to try their hand at both sailing and orienteering. For the orienteering, the children were given a map of the country park and were asked to navigate from points of interest all the way from one



end to the other. For the sailing, the children were taken to one end of the lake in a speed boat, shown how to set up their boats and asked to sail to the middle of the lake and back in teams of 3. Despite the strong winds, the children wowed the Fairlop Staff with their quick learning, resilience and team work. All the children gave their best effort and some were able to showcase excellent sailing and navigational skills. Well Done Year 6!



PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

WORKSHOPS, COFFEE MORNINGS & COURSES

Coffee Mornings

Summer Fete

On Thursday 8th June, Michele, our School Business Manager, met with parents to share ideas for our Annual Summer Fete. This year the Summer fete is taking place on Friday 14th July. If anyone would like to cook for the food stall or offer to volunteer, please speak to Shelly or Forida.

Somali Coffee Morning

A Somali coffee morning was held on Thursday 22nd June. Unfortunately no parents attended despite several reminders being sent via text and phone calls

Dads' Coffee Morning: Father Day

On Thursday 15th June, we held a Dad's only coffee morning. This was to celebrate father's day. The dads enjoyed chatting to other dads. We were able to sign some dads for the Money Management course that will be delivered by the Idea Store in July.

Subject: Design and Technology

On Thursday 6th July Mr Manalo, delivered a session on the subject Design and Technology. He explained what is covered in the DT curriculum (which includes cookery) and how knowledge and skills develop from Reception to year 6. Parents also got to see some of the prototypes used by the teachers to model the products that the children will create.

Health & Wellbeing

During the Summer term, Shelly continued to co-ordinate a parents' walking group. This was set up to enhance health and wellbeing, as taking even a short walk can increase mental alertness and energy levels and reduce stress and anxiety. During the walks we also incorporated a shared picnic with the parents. If you would like to sign up please speak to Shelly or Forida.

Cycle taxi

On Monday 12th June, Forida arranged for some Dads to board the Cycle Taxi sponsored by Bikeworks. The Dads cycled all the way to Olympic Park. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The Cycle taxi is free service for the community. Families wishing to use this service can do so at no cost. For more information please click [HERE](#)

Health Workshop

On Tuesday 13th June, Michelle Rocha from Tower Hamlets Healthy Lives Team delivered a Healthy Eating session for parents. They explored how to prepare nutritious meals and looked at how little changes to our lifestyles can have a big impact. Michelle shared the 'eat well plate' which shows how much of what you eat overall should come from each food group. She also discussed childhood obesity in Tower Hamlet and how hidden sugar in food and drinks contributes to this.

Dad's Money Management Course

On Monday 3rd & 17th July, Jagdeep Chatha, a Maths & Literacy practitioner from the Idea Store, delivered a course for the dads who maybe struggling with the cost of living. The course was designed to boost numeracy skills and to share tips on how to make money go further especially in relation to energy bills, phone contracts and financial products such as credit cards and loans. If any more dads would like to join the course, please speak to Forida.

Parenting Course

Forida delivered a three week parenting course which explored themes such as boundaries, routines, special times and managing negative behaviors. Thank you to the parents who signed up and who were so willing to share their experiences, ideas and top tips on parenthood. The course will be repeated in the Autumn term.

Outdoor Learning

Thank you to all the parents who took part in the three week Outdoor Learning course. This was delivered by Peter from the Parental Engagement Team. And offered practical ideas on how outdoor spaces can be used to enhance learning, improve well-being and build relationships with their children. Parents explored the mental health benefits of being outside and how the environment and found items can be used to support language development and writing. Parents had a go at planning their own activities, and learned how easy and cheap it can be for children to learn through play both in and outdoors.



Time 2 Engage

The sessions, for parents of disadvantaged pupils in year 2 and 3, were led by Ms McClelland and explored how to support children's mental maths. Session 1 looked at addition and subtraction and session 2 focussed on multiplication (times tables). The children really enjoyed having their parents come into school to work with them and loved playing the fun maths games. Keep up the great practicing at home!



DLR VISIT TO Thames Barrier Park

On Monday 19th June a group of parents visited the Thames Barrier Park with Shelly and Sabina Alam, an Ambassador from the DLR. On board the DLR, Sabina spoke to parents about emergency procedures and what to



do during an emergency situation whilst on board the train. The parents enjoyed the opportunity to socialise in a safe environment and ended the morning with a picnic. Thank you to the DLR for proving the school with free travel.

Year 5 to Year 6 Transition

The Parent Advice Centre are offering Zoom sessions to support current year 5 parents/carers with the process of applying for secondary school, including key information and deadlines. The sessions will be offered on Mon 10th July at 10 am & 6 pm and on Wed 12th July at 10 am. Places can be booked through [Eventbrite https://THTS2024.eventbrite.co.uk](https://THTS2024.eventbrite.co.uk) For more information contact Tower Hamlets Transition Support Service on 07783 884869 or 07908 456 660

Other Important Dates:

11th July 9.15am Parents Voice: Safety & Well Being
11th July 9.30am Reception Induction meeting
17th July 9.30am Year 1 Induction Meeting
18th July 9.10am E-Safety Workshop—You Tube
18th July 2pm Y6 Children University Graduation at Bow School
18th July By appointment Parent Consultations
19th July 2pm Reception Graduation Picnic
19th July 10am 6W Leavers Performance
19th July 11.15pm 6Y Leavers Performance
19th July 3.30pm Year 6 Leavers' Party

ONLINE SAFETY

One of the best ways to keep children safe online, is having parental controls set up on the devices they access. On the rise (among primary children), is purchasing virtual items in games and apps. It can be as easy as clicking on a 'nudge' to gain a purchase, which can end up costing a parents/carer an 'eye-watering' amount. Many devices have parental controls which can help pre-vent these purchases. An article which details how to set up parental controls on popular devices, including the PS4, iPhone and Xbox can be found [HERE](#).

If you require any assistance, before the summer holidays, arrange an appointment to see our ICT technician (Abdullahi) via Florida/Shelly.

We will be holding a Parent E-Safety workshop on YouTube on Tuesday 18th July, all parents to attend.

YEAR 3 VISIT BRITISH MUSEUM



This half term year 3 have been learning about Ancient Civilisations. As part of their learning about Ancient Egypt, they visited the British Museum and took part in a workshop where they got the chance to be archaeologists for the day! The workshop provided the children with a fantastic opportunity to explore a range of ancient Egyptian artefacts, they got to examine these up close and use them to help them

learn more about what life would have been like in ancient Egyptian times. The children asked great questions and used what they found out to later order the artefacts chronologically. The children also got to explore the Egyptian gallery where they saw a range of monuments, statues, mummies and even the Rosetta Stone. The children had a fantastic time and really enjoyed their learning!

YEAR 5 CAREERS FAIR



Our annual Careers fair took place this week and was a huge success thanks to all the volunteers. The children were able to find out about various professions which ranged from creative copywriters to data scientists, actors and even a team from the DLR.

The children have been inspired by our volunteers, who were very complimentary of the children's behaviour and were impressed by their inquisitive nature. The children learnt a lot by asking questions on how to pursue their chosen career path. We would like to thank all the volunteers who came and gave up their time this year.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to all the parents who kindly offered their time to support with school trips. Ten parent volunteers have now been selected and they will be supporting trips for all year groups, not just for the year their child/ren attend. The role is highly regarded and all volunteers have gone through a rigorous vetting process, including DBS checks, to ensure their suitability to work with young children. As reduced funding has meant the school has needed to reduce the number of support staff, we really appreciate the commitment of our new parents volunteers, as without them we may have had to reduce the number of trips we are able to offer. We greatly look forward to working with you during next academic year. In total, 12 parents applied for the parent volunteers post, the following parents have been approved to join the team: Nazma Ali, Marzahan Akther, Rolly Begum, Ruksana Begum, Shewley Khanom, Jalal Miah, Rukeya Tahid and Tasnimul Tasnim.

YEAR 4 CRICKET COMPETITION

This term year 4 have benefited from coaches from Platform Cricket supporting their PE lessons. Some of the children, who showed talented in the game, were invited to take part in a cricket tournament at Victoria Park. They competed in two teams against schools from Tower Hamlets and Newham. The children showed brilliant teamwork, and played some great cricket, as they had fun in the sun. Both teams had success in some matches, with 4T coming mightily close to qualifying for the semi-finals. Well done to everyone who participated!



ATTENDANCE & EXTENDED LEAVE

As it is coming to the end of the academic year, we have began to see an increase in requests for Extended Leave during term time. Tower Hamlets strongly discourage families removing pupils from school during term time. **If parents want to remove their child/ren from school during term time they must complete a 'Leave in Term Time Request Form' before the child/ren go away** (available from the school office). The Attendance Welfare Advisor, Sonia, will then get in touch to discuss the extended leave application. Such periods of absence are only authorised under very exceptional circumstances where supporting evidence is provided.

The school follows the Tower Hamlets' 'Leave in Term Time' policy, so please be aware that any application that is unauthorised and for a period over 3 days, will result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued. The full cost of the Penalty Notice is £120 per parent per child payable within 42 days (for example for a family with two parents and two children, the fine would be £480) The cost is reduced by half, if payment is made within 28 days. The payment is sent to Tower Hamlets. The school does not receive any of this money.

The government requires schools to know the whereabouts of its pupils in order to help make sure they are safe. Therefore, if you do intend to go away before the end of term, it is very important that you complete the 'Leave in Term Time Request Form' giving details of where you will be staying. **If we do not receive this information and are unable to contact the family, we are required to complete a 'Child Missing in Education' form**, which is sent to the local authority. This then becomes a safeguarding incident which social services will investigate.

For more information please find our policy and extended leave form [HERE](#) or contact the school office.

CORE VALUE AWARD - JUNE 2023

The value of the month for June was **FAIRNESS**.

Congratulations to:

Reception: RB Ayan & RP Musa

Year 1: 1D Hannah & 1O Thaifa

Year 2: 2B Asiyah & 2H Aryan

Year 3: 3G Yaseen & 3H Elisha

Year 4: 4D Omar & 4T Anisa

Year 5: 5K Tabiba & 5M Tahera

Year 6: 6W Hawa & 6Y Taiba

Our Core Value for July will be **COLLABORATION**

YEAR 3 VISIT THE NATIONAL GALLERY

Year 3 visited the National Gallery recently to support their Art unit on the Impressionist movement. The children recognised some of paintings that they have been learning about, such as Monet's Waterlilies and Pissarro's beautiful landscapes and were able to identify the artist. It was really exciting to get up close to the paintings to see the brush strokes that the children have been replicating in class.



As the children sat and sketched their favourite paintings, the staff at the gallery commented on their brilliant behaviour and concentration. Well done Year 3! To celebrate the fantastic outcomes achieved by the children in Art this year, we will be hosting an Art Exhibition during the Parent Consultations on Tue 18th July. We hope you will be able to spare a few minutes to stop by and share in the children's success.

5K LEARN SCIENCE AT BOW SCHOOL

5K recently visited Bow Secondary school to use their STEM facilities. In the Science Lab they got the chance to use chromatography. The children performed a series of experiments, in order to investigate the components within different coloured liquids, using a solvent to separate them. The children really enjoyed using the facilities and we thank Bow School for providing this exciting opportunity.



This academic year, Old Palace has been working hard to re-credit our award of the Science Mark. This has included providing training on the 10 Science Investigative skills that are taught in primary schools and exploring how children can be provided with opportunities to apply these when planning and carrying out their own scientific enquiries. Governors got an opportunity to view this first-hand during a recent learning walk.

DT STRUCTURE DAY

This half term saw the last of our termly DT days, which focused on 'Structures'. As part of their product analysis, the children learned about different structures such as shell, frame and mass. In KS1, the children focused on creating shell structures, whilst KS2 looked at frame and mass structures. The children worked with various materials, including wood, card and paper to create their structures. Not only were the children able to practise their design and making skills, they also had to work collaboratively in order to create a class structure.

As part of the DT day process they conducted a 'product analysis' which enabled the children to research about existing structures and think about the user, materials, cost, aesthetics and purpose. Once they completed this part of the day, they then moved on to design their product, showcasing their design skills, using colour and labels to inform their audience of their design choices. Once they were happy with their designs, they then moved on to make their structure, applying the vocabulary they had learned (such as shell, frame, triangulation and reinforce) as they did so.

DT projects included making a replica of the Houses of Parliament out of Eames cards in year 2, domes out of wooden rods and connectors in year 6 and a giant caterpillar using the shape rhombicosidodecahedron in year 5! In years 3 and 4 they worked with art straws to create replicas of either an Egyptian pyramid or a truss bridge. Year 1 used shells structures to create 'bug hotels' and in Reception they made a rainforest tree using triangular tubes. As ever the children enjoyed using their creativity and came up with some excellent products. Well done!



CELEBRATING EID al ADHA

This year, Eid al Adha, also known as the Feast of Sacrifice was celebrated on 28th June. Prior to the festival, Year 6 visited the Brick Lane Mosque where they learned about the significance of this important Muslim festival. They also had a tour of the mosque and learned about its amazing history, as in the past, the building had also been used as a church and a synagogue. They applied what they had learned from the trip and



their RE lessons, while preparing for the Eid Festival Assembly. As well as entertaining the audience with their excellent singing and acting skills, they also shared their knowledge regarding Hajj and why this is important to Muslims and the importance of making sacrifices to help each other.



When the children returned to school on Thursday, Eid parties were held in the afternoon. It was fantastic to see the children enjoying the fun, as they played party games dressed in their colourful Eid clothes.

In the Dining Hall, we also held a Parents' Party. Thank you to all the parents who attended. It was lovely to see you all chatting and enjoying the fun. A special thank you to those parents who donated food and to our Parent Councillors who helped out on the day.



CHALLENGE PARTNERS

The school hosted its annual Challenge Partners Quality Review on 24-26th May. The review is led by a Lead Reviewer (who is Ofsted trained) along with three senior leaders from other schools across England. During their 3 days at the school, the reviewers watch lessons, looked at the children's books and talked to pupils and subject leaders about the learning that takes place. Challenge Partners grades three areas: 'leadership at all levels', 'quality of provision' and 'outcomes for all pupils' and 'quality of provision and outcomes for disadvantaged pupils and pupils with additional needs'. **We are proud to share that in all three areas we were awarded the highest possible grade: LEADING**

Comments from the report include:

- * Leaders and staff across the school are exceptionally ambitious for all pupils
- * Pupils have excellent attitudes to learning and towards others.
- * The school has created an incredibly positive atmosphere for learning, blending challenge and support exceptionally well for both staff and pupils. Pupils thoroughly enjoy learning due to the creative and aspirational activities they tackle
- * Pupils with SEND achieve very well. This is because the curriculum has been designed so that pupils with SEND can access and understand what they are being taught. Teachers employ a range of strategies to support this group of pupils ahead of and after the main teaching time.
- * The senior leaders have a well thought out and rigorous vision for all pupils, their learning and wider development. The development of staff is planned and undertaken robustly by the senior staff. This means that the delivery of the curriculum is maintained to a high standard
- * Leaders have ensured a strong level of consistency in the delivery of the phonics scheme and the reading curriculum across the school. Teachers model and articulate the sounds that letters make well and pay careful attention to supporting pupils in using their phonics knowledge to write words and sentences accurately.

The comments regarding phonics are particularly pleasing, given this was the one area that Ofsted said we needed to improve in KS1 & year 3. It should be noted, that Challenge Partners followed the correct procedure and observed pupils reading with a familiar adult. In our Ofsted Inspection, the Lead Inspector sent away the familiar adult and asked the children to read directly to her, which is a breach of Ofsted's own protocols. Please join me in congratulating the teachers, support staff and children on achieving such a positive outcome, which is testament to their hard work and dedication. The full report is available [HERE](#)

FREE SUMMER SWIMMING LESSONS

Free intensive swimming lessons are being offered during the summer holidays at the centres below.

To book please email Sabrina Forde
Sabrina.Forde@GLL.ORG

York Hall leisure centre

Monday 7th August -11th August 9-1130am

Mile end leisure centre

Monday 21st August -25th August -9-1130am.

Poplar baths leisure

Tuesday 29th August -1st September

SUMMER FETE

Friday 14th July 2023

This year we are hoping to use the money raised for our school fund to continue to help us subsidise school trips and curriculum activities.

Donations of old toy and books in good condition would be much appreciated. If you are able to help or donate or require more information please contact the School Business Manager Michele Walsham