



Old Palace Newsletter

Sep/Oct 2023

SCHOOL COUNCIL 2023-24



On Tuesday 17thth October, children from year 2 up to year 6 had the opportunity to vote for this year's School Councillors. After viewing the candidates' campaign posters and listening to their speeches, the children had the opportunity to vote for one girl and one boy to represent their class. To support the children's understanding of democratic elections, we replicated this process in the dining hall. Each child had the opportunity to cast their vote in secret and then to post their vote in the ballot box. We are very proud of all the children who put themselves forward this year. Following the count these children have been elected as our School Councillors for 23-24:

2B: Charis & Abdullah	2H: Safa & Nafees
3H: Mikail & Khairah	3K: Ibrahim & Saudah
4D: Sofia & Hasan	4T: Yusuf Zayd & Iqra
5H: Safa & Omar	5D: Ayah & Humzah
6A: Aria & Ibrahim	6W: Ihsan & Tabiba

YEAR 6 CHILDRENS UNIVERSITY GRADUATION

Year 6 attended their Children's University Graduation on 22nd September to celebrate their achievements in extra-curricular activities whilst in year 5. The children put in lots of effort and hard work last year to complete a variety of activities that go above and beyond their learning at school. Activities included: visits to the theatre, after school clubs, cooking, attending Arabic school and going swimming to name a few. We are confident that they will continue to show commitment to their extra curricular learning now they are in year 6 and we look forward to celebrating the achievements of both year 5 & 6 pupils with Children's University in July.



CORE VALUE AWARD - OCTOBER 2023

The value of the month for October was **POSITIVITY**.

Congratulations to:

Reception:	RD Wen Xen & RP Ayyub
Year 1:	10 Musa & 1W Afreen
Year 2:	2B Ilyanah & 2H Tianna
Year 3:	3H Matiha & 3K Aribah
Year 4:	4D Elisha & 4T Zohha
Year 5:	5D Aniyah & 5H Mehreen
Year 6:	6A Manha & 6Y Sadaat

IMPORTANT DATES



AUTUMN HALF TERM

School finishes Friday 20th October 2023
Return to school Monday 30th October 2023

END OF AUTUMN HALF TERM

School finishes Friday 22nd December 2023 @ 2PM
Return to school Monday 8th January 2024

SPRING HALF TERM

School finishes Friday 9th February 2024
Return to school Monday 19th February 2024

Please visit our school website for a full list of term dates

www.oldpalaceprimary.co.uk

Follow us on Twitter 

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Black History Month is a time set aside each year to celebrate the achievements of the black community in the past and today. This year the theme was 'Saluting Our Sisters'. Despite their countless contributions to society, the achievements of black women, in particular, have too often been overlooked or forgotten. That is why, this year, we celebrated the exceptional achievements of black women. Year 1 looked at 'Women who broke barriers' like Amy Sherald. Year 2 explored 'sheroes' like Chi-Chi Nwanoku. Year 3 discussed 'women who had pioneering voices' like Rosa Parks. Year 4 looked at 'women who moved mountains' like Charlene Hunter. Year 5 explored women 'who were able to lead' like Michelle Obama. Year 6 discussed women who were 'innovators' like Madam CJ Walker. After researching the lives of these iconic women, the children wrote poems to celebrate their achievements.

Friday 29th September 2023
Let's crack history in a poem
Black history month
Mae Jemison
Mae Jemison, Mae Jemison
"No dream was too far to go to space"
Mae Jemison, Mae Jemison
"And then those shining stars"
Mae Jemison, Mae Jemison
"The awesome NASA made it come true"
Mae Jemison, Mae Jemison
"Made it as true as life"
Mae Jemison, Mae Jemison
"Even though the black it didn't hold me back"
Mae Jemison, Mae Jemison
"And now look at me, the first black woman to go to space"
Mae Jemison, Mae Jemison
Mae Jemison, Mae Jemison
"It's a miracle I stayed there for 8 long days"
Mae Jemison, Mae Jemison
"At last, I had some awesome astronaut buddies"
Mae Jemison, Mae Jemison
"If you are black too, don't forget you can do it!"

You, yourself have a power,
Don't humble down the tower.
If they deny, do not sigh
Show them what you made of.
If you take action you'll never fade,
So prepare the game.
Everyone has a light
If you switch it on, your journey is bright
Your success will increase,
To rising up the kite,
And this will lead you to peace.
You can be star,
Go far with the game.
Step up the stage,
If they are jelly,
Prepare your speech.

PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

COFFEE MORNINGS, WORKSHOPS & COURSES

Welcoming Meeting

At the beginning of the academic year, parents are invited to come along to a welcome meeting for each year group. These provide an opportunity to meet the year group leader and to find out what is expected during the course of the year, for example as regards safeguarding, attendance, behaviour and homework. For those parents who were not able to attend, the meetings, copies of the presentations can be found [HERE](#).

Thank you to all the parents who attended. It is only by working together that we can ensure that all pupils achieve their full potential.

Meet our AWA & School Social Worker

On 27th September, the coffee morning was used to introduce some of the professionals who work with the school to support our families. Sonia Rowlings, our Attendance Welfare Advisor from LBTH Hamlets, highlighted the importance of good attendance and punctuality. She works closely with the school to secure high rates of attendance for all our pupils and helps the school enforce the penalty notice scheme when parents take their child/ren out of school for unauthorised holidays.

Shahnaz Choudhury, our School Social Worker explained how she provides support to schools in relation to safeguarding and securing the welfare and wellbeing of pupils. Provision aims to improve outcomes for vulnerable children and families through the delivery of Early Help and direct preventative work with families. Shahnaz delivers Parenting courses alongside our Parent Support Worker. Both Sonia & Shahnaz is available every Wednesdays 9-12pm. Appointments can be made via the school office.

Bug Club & Google Classroom Support

During the coffee morning on 21st September, we held a drop in session for parents who needed help and support with Google classrooms. Login details were provided and we demonstrated how to access the school platform.

Forida has also been providing one to one support for year 1 parents, who have been experiencing difficulties with accessing Bug Club, our digital reading platform.

If you are experiencing any difficulties using with these programmes, please speak to Shelly or Forida, who will be able to help.

Sewing for Beginners Course

On 26th September we started a 5 week 'Sewing for Beginners' course, run by Sarah McSweeney from Parental Engagement team. This beginner level course, trained parents in the basics of how to use a domestic sewing machine and learn simple but useful skills to start mending and altering their own clothes. As the course was incredibly popular we hope to be able to offer this again in the future. Thank you to all the parents who took part and showed your commitment by attending every session.

ESOL CLASS

The school has been working in partnership with the Idea Store to deliver ESOL classes for parents at Old Palace. The course was open to all parents who wanted to improve and learn English as a second language. A total of 25 parents applied to join the course. An initial assessment was carried out by the Tutor from Idea store Tutor on Wednesday 4th October, of those, 13 parents have been accepted onto the course at Old Palace, which started on Thursday, 12th October 2023 from 1.30-3.30pm. 6 have been referred to Marner Children's Centre and have been advised to attend every Thursday 9.30-11.30am starting 2nd November. And finally, 5 parent were at lower level and require in depth support therefore have been invited to attend classes at Idea Store, Whitechapel from Thursday 19th October 1.00-3.00pm. The process is now closed, but anyone who maybe interested can apply directly to Idea store to do a ESOL course.

Oral Health Workshop

On 4th October, parents from Reception and Year 1 were invited to join our Oral Health Workshop. Michelle Ting from NHS Community Dental Services delivered a session and spoke to parents about how to prevent dental decay through regular brushing, use of high fluoride toothpaste, a healthy diet and regular visits to the dentist. Parents were also advised about the benefits of taking part in the school Fluoride Varnish Programme.

Parent Council



On Wednesday 27th September, the Parent Councillors for last academic year were invited to attend an assembly so the school could say thank you for all the support they had given us. This is very much appreciated! As an extra treat, they then attended a buffet arranged by Shelly.

The school values the Parent Council as a means of extended parental engagement—parents who have not previously been involved are especially welcome. A coffee morning was held on 28th September to promote the role and to discuss any questions parents had before applications opened. There was also an opportunity to meet former councillors to gain their insights.

So far we have recruited 14 brand new Parent Councillors. We also have 10 Councillors from last year who are happy to do the role again; while we are very thankful for their continued support, we would love to get more parents involved. Therefore we have extended the deadline until after half term, in case there are any parents interested in joining for the first time. If that is you—please speak to Shelly or Forida. The first meetings will be taking place in November.

Health & Wellbeing Walking Group

The weekly walking group, led by Shelly, is now taking place every Monday. There is no need to book—just arrive at the school gate by 9.15am. Each week the group takes a different route, walking and chatting enroute. Walking is a great form of exercise and supports mental wellbeing. The group is also a great way to form new friendships. We hope you can join us in the near future.

Year 6 Transition Meeting Workshop

On 14th September, we held our Year 6 transition information workshop. Aleha Khanum from the Parental Engagement Team was invited to come in and answer any questions parents had regarding the transition process. During the meeting she covered topics, such as how to apply online, what questions to ask when visiting secondary schools, how decisions on places are made, when parents will be notified and the appeals process. Aleha also covered information for our SEND families that have children with Educational Health Care Plans as the application process for these children is slightly different. Following these meetings, we held drop in session to provide support for parents who were experiencing difficulties with the online application process. Please ensure that you submit your application by **30th October 2023**.

Free School Meals Funding

On the 5th October, parents were invited to attend an information session on how to apply for Free School Meals. In Tower Hamlets all pupils receive a free school dinner, but some pupils are eligible for extra funding if their parents are on universal credit. Confusingly this is also referred to as Free School Meal entitlement. Forida, our parent support worker was on hand to help parents apply for this additional school funding using the LBTH online application form. Parents who were not able to complete an application on site were offered an 1:1 appointments at a later date.

To check your eligibility click [here](#). If it indicates that you are entitled, then please complete the FSM application [HERE](#).

Well done to all our children who took part in the Ready, Set, Read Summer Reading Challenge, which was run by the Idea Store. The children had to read 6 books in total and they were encouraged to choose books that they would enjoy reading. They received a sticker book and stickers, a

Year 6 visited Shadwell Fire Station to attend a carousel of workshops that will help them transition from year 6 to secondary. It was a very informative trip, where they got the opportunity to meet people who worked for TfL alongside paramedics, fire fighters and Anti-Knife crime

GOOD ATTENDANCE

- Please arrive at school between 8:50am-9:02am. The gate will close at 9:02am and any time after this will be considered as a late mark.
- If your child is off for 3 days or more, you will be asked to submit medical evidence, such as a prescription, medical appointment or any other medicines prescribed.
- If your child is unwell, please contact the office first thing in the morning to update them so we know why your child is not in school. Continue to update the school if your child is not returning the next day.
- We ask that you make appointments for your child after school or during half terms, however if this is not possible you will be asked to provide evidence of the appointment.
- If you intend to take your child out of school during term time, ensure that you complete an Extended Leave form which can be obtained from the office. In the majority of cases a Fixed Penalty Notice will be issued to both parents unless evidence can be provided to show why the trip could not take place during normal school holiday. For more information [click here](#)

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE WORKSHOP



YouTube Supervised Experience is really easy to set up and gives parents much greater flexibility in managing the content their children are watching on YouTube. The link below has 5 very simple videos showing parents how to set up and use Supervised Experience Kids (which also has new settings). Please that children should not have their own account until they are at least 13 years old. Click [how to setup parental restrictions](#).



Having regular conversations with your child about what they are playing online, can help keep them safe. Please find [HERE](#) simple tips about how to discuss online issues with your child, helping them to open up and share their digital life.

TIN CAN CHALLENGE

Flu Immunisation

Vaccination UK will soon be visiting the school to offer free flu vaccines to all eligible children from reception to year 6. This year, the NHS is offering gelatine free vaccination as well as the nasal flu vaccine. If you haven't yet consented to the vaccination please click [HERE](#) to complete the form. For those parents who are considering using their GP service for flu vaccinations, please note—**GPs are not offering this service to children.**

GP services are currently running a catch-up programme for children who are not fully vaccinated for Polio & Measles. This is very important as it is feared there may be a measles epidemic this year. For more information and eligibility please click [HERE](#).

YEAR 4 VISIT TATE MODERN GALLERY



This half term, Year 4 visited the Tate Modern to explore the work of some famous European artists. The children were fascinated by some of the artworks, such as The Snail by Matisse, Ardek by Olle Baertling and Composition C with Red, Yellow and Blue by Piet Mondrian. They learnt more about artists like as Gustav Metzger & Gerhard Richter and movements such as the Dynamic Suprematism. The children found answers to questions as they navigated the galleries and at the end of the day took away lots of inspiration for their future art projects.

YEAR 1 VISIT THE SCIENCE MUSEUM

In year 1 the children have been learning all about all the different materials that are used to make homes. They have been looking at the rooms inside our homes and finding out about the different objects we have inside them. To explore further, the children went on a trip to the Science Museum where they looked around the 'secret life of the home' exhibition. They found out about the different parts of a home and explored which materi-



als are used to make household objects. They also got to see how some of the familiar items in our homes have changed over time, which they really enjoyed. We compared how they were used years ago, how they are used now and how they've changed. We watched videos about the parts of a home and what they look like inside now and in the past. We had lots of fun looking at lots of old transport, seeing some pictures of new transport and even got to explore the body space exhibit looking at the planets and space ships. It was a great day out for Y1!

YEAR 5 VISIT ROMAN AMPHITHEATRE



Year 5 visited Guildhall Art Gallery, to take part in interacting with a Roman Amphitheatre. The children were able to witness the well-preserved Roman ruins in which crowds would once have gathered to watch wild animal fights, public executions and gladiatorial combats. The children were able to look at and touch items from Roman times. They really loved the Amphitheatre as they also got the chance to do some role play as if they were actual people who would have been in the Amphitheatre in Roman times. This is the first time Year 5 have visited this attraction, and we would definitely recommend it for next year!

YEAR 6 VISIT DOCKLANDS MUSEUM



Our Year 6 pupils had a chance to visit the Docklands Museum in East London as a part of their learning about the Industrial Revolution. The trip involved visiting both interactive exhibitions and hands-on workshop. It offered a unique opportunity for the Year 6s to delve into the stories of the people who shaped the area of East London. From the bustling days of maritime trade to the challenges faced during wartime, the museum provided a fascinating insight into the ever-evolving history of the docks. As our students explored the museum's exhibits, they developed a deeper appreciation for the rich tapestry of cultures and industries that have made the Docklands a vital part of London's heritage. They discovered how the area transformed from a hub of global trade to a thriving hub of arts and culture. Children were very excited to explore the past and enrich their understanding of London's history and its role in the world.



YEAR 3 VISIT NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

This half term, year 3 visited the Natural History Museum to learn more about their science topic - Rocks and Dinosaurs. The children visited the world famous dinosaur gallery and were very excited to see a life sized robotic T-Rex that moved and roared! They also took part in a workshop, lead by the experts at the museum, discussing how we can identify the fossils of different dinosaurs by their features just like real palaeontologists - and we were able to visit the rocks and minerals galleries as well. We learned all about the formation of the earth and different types of rocks. From sparkly gems to ancient fossils! The children had a fantastic time on the trip and were able to apply this learning back in class



STAR CITIZEN—AUTUMN 1 2023

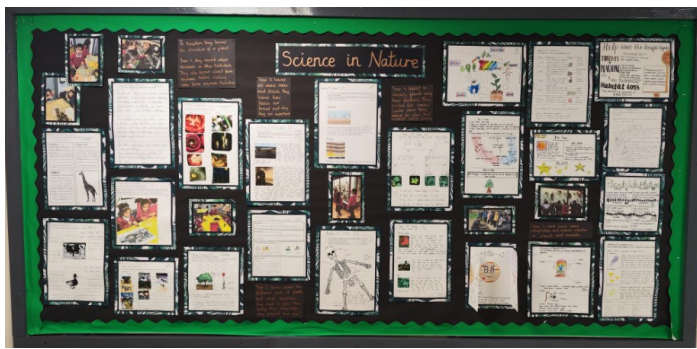
We would like to congratulate the following pupils for achieving the star citizen award this term. Well Done and keep up the good work.

FS:	RD Safaa & RP Safa
Y1:	10 Hazira & 1W Azlan
Y2:	2B Meeyad & 2H Sureya
Y3:	3H Mahamud & 3K Saudah
Y4:	4D Maisha & 4T Sameeha H
Y5:	5D Anisa & 5H MIkail
Y6:	6A Zaina & 6Y Tabiba



SCIENCE AWARD

Old Palace was awarded the PSQM Gilt award, to celebrate the solid foundation of quality science education at our school. PSQM is a professional development programme that effectively develops science leadership, ensuring teachers have the knowledge, capability and support they need to transform science education and shape future generations. Thank you to all the staff, parents, governors and children for working so hard to help us to achieve this and a special thanks to Ms Matin, our Science Leader, for all her fantastic work in leading the subject.



YEAR 5 THE POLLUTION SOLUTION WORKSHOP

The Big Wheel Theatre Company visited Year 5 recently to perform 'The Pollution Solution'. The performance was a show about school travel, transport choices and how they affect our health and the environment. The show looked at three key areas: Global warming – how our transport choices affect the world, The impact of traffic, air pollution and congestion in our local area and why walking, cycling and scooting are almost always the best way to get around and how to do this safely. The performance was interactive providing a great way for the children to get involved and demonstrate their knowledge on the topics covered.



HALF TERM SPORTS CAMP

Calling all child adventurers! Join us for an unforgettable winter at our Half Term Sports Camp filled with exciting indoor activities, with creative arts and crafts, sports and endless fun. Don't miss this fun to create lasting memories. Sign up now and let the adventure begin!

WELCOMING RECEPTION PUPILS & FAMILIES



At the start of September, we welcomed our new Reception pupils and their families to our school. The children were staggered in over two weeks to help them settle into the new environment and adapt to the school routine. Parents were invited to meet with their child's key-worker to discuss any concerns and share information to further support their child in school. Parents were given an activity pack to support at home with their children's learning in phonics, handwriting and early number work.

Baseline Assessments

By the end of this half term all reception pupils had to complete a statutory baseline assessment.

This is a short, interactive assessment carried out in the first 6 weeks of reception between a child and their teacher. The assessments are based on early number skills, phonological awareness, early language skills and reading comprehension. Click [Here](#) for more information about the Baseline Assessments.

OLD PALACE AMBASSADORS & PREFECTS

We are very proud of our prefects and ambassadors appointed for the first half half of the school year, following a rigorous application process to prove that they had what it takes to be upstanding members of the school community, exemplifying our core values. We have 12 prefects and 4 head prefects, who are in charge of making sure everyone is doing a good job. In addition we have 16 Ambassadors for Reading, Sport, IT and the environment. So far, everyone is carrying out their tasks effectively, helping to keep the playground safe, the games room organised and everything in between running without a hitch! We know the children value the support they receive from the prefects and the teachers really welcome the help the ambassadors provide. Well done everyone!



YEAR 4 G&T TRIP TO THE FRENCH INSTITUTE

A group of Year 4 pupils recently visited the French Institute for a day of Spooky Fun, practising their language skills whilst exploring a range of French bandes dessinées (cartoons). This included getting to know the weird and wonderful characters from the Le Petit Vampire (The Little Vampire), an action packed movie that we watched in the afternoon. We are immensely proud of our children, who impressed the maîtresse (teacher) with their politeness, enthusiasm and understanding of French vocabulary.

