

Old Palace Newsletter

December 2023

Christmas at Old Palace

Class RD



This December Old Palace hosted the annual festive activities! In the run up to December each year group designed and created some Christmas decorations, which were hung in the hall all of December to help spread the merry feeling of the festive season! The hall looked fantastic, filled with snowflakes, snowmen, Christmas trees, lanterns, stars and wreaths!

On Wednesday 20th December, year 1 performed the Christmas Festival Assembly, which included the nativity. They did a great job acting, singing and narrating the story in front of the whole school and lots of parents! Prior to this, the chil-



dren had visited Bow Church to learn about the features of a church and the things that Christians do to celebrate Christmas. Then at lunchtime, Christmas dinner was served. Staff joined the children to enjoy a traditional yuletide feast including turkey and all the trimmings. The dining hall felt very festive, with the Christmas music and decorations. The children joined in singing Jingle Bells!

On Thursday 21st December, we had our annual holiday parties! Staff and pupils were invited to dress up in their party clothes or Christmas jumpers in the afternoon for their parties. For years 1-6, the parties took place in classrooms. The children played games and enjoyed the fruit platters and other party food provided. Children in Reception had their party in the school hall and were joined by parents and an extra special visitor—Santa Claus himself!

We hope everyone has a safe and restful break during the school holidays and a Happy New Year! We look forward to welcoming you back to school on Monday 8th January 2024!

Class RP



IMPORTANT DATES



RETURN TO SCHOOL SPRING TERM
Return to school Monday 8th January 2024

SPRING HALF TERM HOLIDAYS
School finishes Friday 9th February 2024
Return to school Monday 19th February 2024

END OF SPRING TERM HOLIDAYS
School finishes Thursday 28th March 2024
Return to school Tuesday 16th April 2024

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

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CALENDAR PRINTING



All the children have created beautiful calendars using a variety of printing techniques for their families to enjoy all year round. Reception have explored different vegetables to make their prints, Year 1 and 2 did leaf prints and created repeated patterns. Year 3 made collagraphy printing boards using collage materials, Year 4 made relief prints using foam boards. In year 5, the children created mono prints using acetate and in Year 6 the children made lino printing blocks.

ART EXHIBITION



We hope that you had a chance to see the children's amazing artwork on display in our Parents Evening Exhibition last week. We had a range of outcomes from KS1 and KS2. In Year 1, the children had been learning about the life and work of Van Gogh and created their own landscape painting in his style. In Year 2, the children had been studying narrative art and created their own pieces telling the story of the Great Fire of London. In Year 3, the children had been drawing portraits using the correct proportions and then practiced drawing in a Cubist style after learning about Picasso. In Year 5, the children had been exploring different drawing techniques and have learnt about the work and life of Stephen Wiltshire as well as 1 and 2 point perspective. They created their own London landmarks, combining all of this learning.

PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

Please refer to table below for questions and outcomes from the Parent Council Meeting last month.

Year group	Year group	Action agreed
Foundation Stage	Job share in RD	Staff to create visuals so the children will be aware of which teacher will be in class. Miss Millward sent a letter to RD parents about the return of Ms Duong in January 2024.
	Coats/hats - children should be reminded and made to wear suitable clothing when playing outdoors - especially in this cold weather.	Staff to remind and check children have their coats zipped up for outside, along with any other hat and gloves
	Dirty toilets and the door left open	Staff to check toilets at certain points in the day to ensure there is no water on the floor. When a child is in the toilet, another child will stand outside to ensure the door doesn't open
	Home time - waiting too long	Reception to trial being collected outside from spring term like Year 1&2
	Assembly on courage	Drop in appointments made available for parents to see the powerpoint on the 27th and 28th November.
	Fundraising for Gaza	Tuesday 5th December there was a Parent Voice coffee morning 9:15am in the community room to discuss humanitarian registered charities, supporting areas in crisis.
	Toilets – children shy to express, toilets not clean	Reminder in phase assemblies about use of toilets. Introduce toilet monitors for KS1 and Reception lunchtime.
Year 1	Toilets – children shy to express, toilets not clean	Speak to the staff about reminding children to go to the toilet. Reminder in phase assemblies about use of toilets. Introduce toilet monitors for KS1 and Reception lunchtime.
	Using a coach for trips	Other trips coming up are straight forward and public transport can be used. Coaches will raise the cost of trips considerably, time of travel in rush hour traffic and potentially travel sickness too. Miss Millward will
	Packed lunches- can cookies be provided	A healthy snack list will be provided in the year group newsletter to help parents send in snacks on trip days. School will speak to the kitchen about alternating fruit and adding in low sugar biscuits.
	Access to water bottles	Staff to remind children water bottles are on the side. Children also take water bottles out in the playground and place them in their class box.
	Science Museum trip-could be half day as there were no workshops	It is self led due to no appropriate workshop for that age linked to their topic. However, the team will review the timings and self-led walk for next year.
Year 3	What is a healthy snack for break time?	List of healthy snacks will be in the newsletter and year group newsletter to remind parents
	PE- can children wear long sleeve jumpers or hoodies	Yes, as the weather is getting colder. The website has been updated
	Fundraising for Gaza	Tuesday 5th December there was a Parent Voice coffee morning 9:15am in the community room to discuss humanitarian registered
	Assembly on courage	See above
	Lunch- children do not like the new menu	Children will do a survey in spring to see what they like and the menu can be reviewed.
Year 4	Toilet smelly, water on floor, window faulty	Phase assembly for all children on respecting space & cleaning after ourselves. Premises Manager to check the window.
Year 5	Swimming – not enough time to shower and apply medication	To arrange for those to leave a couple of minutes earlier to wash and apply medication
	Parent who are doing the TA accredited course would like to Volunteer	Review the school policy next year.
	Snacks	Children can bring in healthy snacks for break time.
	Children In Need- Some parents cannot afford to pay for all the activities, especially if they have more than 1 child	Each child could get a colouring sheet and then those that donate will be part of the competition.
	Charity- fundraising for after school creative clubs	Coffee morning will be arranged to discuss after school clubs with Michele and Miss Millward in Spring 1.
	Assembly on Courage	See above
	School bag- children were not given any due to Covid.	The Spring newsletter will be updated for children to collect a book bag (40 left) on a first come basis.
Year 6	Homework – can that be paper as the children's handwriting is getting really bad	The spellings will be sent out as paper, with lines to practice their handwriting on.

WINTER READING CHALLENGE

If your child loves curling up on the sofa with good book during winter, they will love the Idea Store Winter Challenge! All they need to do is read 4 (or more) books this winter and they will receive a beautiful Winter Reading Challenge certificate. So please encourage your child to take up the challenge, as a great way to continue practicing their reading this December.

DAD'S COFFEE MORNING



On Thursday 14th December, Dads were invited to attend our Dad's only Coffee Morning. During the session Dad's chatted amongst themselves and played some Board Games whilst enjoying a hot brew. We would like to thank the dads who attended the session. We aim to hold at least 1 session for dad's every

term. All dad's are welcome to the next session on the 8th February 2024.

HEALTH & WELL BEING WALKING GROUP

On Monday 18th December our Parent Support Workers planned to go to London's iconic bridge, Tower Bridge. Unfortunately, due to lots of children being unwell and being off school, parents were not able to go. The visit has been postponed to the New Year. We have had a good half term with lots of chats with the parents who attended. This group is open to all parents. We meet at 9am at the school gate every Monday, no need to book.

YEAR 1 TOY MUSEUM

In Year 1 we had our own Toy Museum in our classes where we brought our favourite toys to school. We invited members of the families to come in and share their toys from their childhood. We talked about our toys, what they are made from, where we play with them and shared our posters. Some children even read information about all the different toys we have learnt about over the years to the class. It was great to see so many family members come along and join in! Thank you!



DATES FOR THE DIARY

ESOL Class

Thursday 11th January 2024

Walking Group

Recommences on Monday 15th January 2024

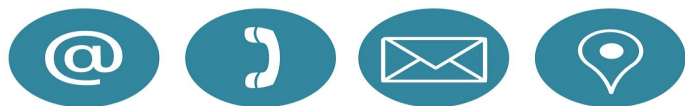
Visit to Tower Bridge

Monday 15th January 2024

Year 3 & 4 Open Conversation 3 week course

Starting 17th January 2024

TEXTING SERVICE



Reminder: Please do not download the Teacher2Parent App. If you download the App, messages will only appear in the App, rather than you receiving a text. This means you will only see them when your next open the App. Also if you change your mobile number, please ensure that the office is aware, so that this can be updated.

CORE VALUE AWARD - DECEMBER 2023

The value of the month for December was

ORIGINALITY Congratulations to:

Reception RD Abrar & RP Zahraa
Year One 1O Amina & 1W Afreen
Year Two 2B Areesha & 2H Isam
Year Three 3H Sana & 3K Rujhan
Year Four 4D Abul & 4T Safiyyah
Year Five 5D Sulayman & 5H Ariyana
Year Six 6A Zaina & 6W Sabrina

The value for January will be **FORGIVENESS**

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS



I hope this message finds you well despite the challenges we've faced throughout this tough year. As the holiday season approaches, I wanted to take a moment to reach out and extend my warmest wishes to you all. Let us take a moment to appreciate the moments of triumph and reflect on the positives. The Governors would like to wish you all a Happy holiday filled with moments of peace, warmth and the company of those dear to you. May the New Year bring opportunities for growth, happiness, and a fresh start.

FAIRWELL MRS HEPWORTH



It is with great sadness, that we are saying goodbye to Mrs Hepworth at the end of this term. Mrs Hepworth has been at Old Palace for 21 years! During this time, she has worked in a variety of year groups and also led French in KS2. Mrs Hepworth has always been a great team member, who enjoys getting involved in all aspects of school life, including the residential, which one year did result in her breaking her ankle! We will be sad to see Mrs Hepworth go but we thank her for all she has contributed in the last 21 years and wish her all the best in her new school.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Once again we will be offering the clubs free of charge to parents - these clubs will be sports based. Please make sure that you look out for this letter which will be sent via text and you will need to reply expressing interest for the clubs that your child(ren) are prepared to commit to for 4 weeks of next half term - clubs will start second week back (week beginning 15th January and will run until the end of half term, week ending Friday 9th February).

HAF HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD PROVISION

LBTH are offering Free Government-funded holiday clubs with healthy meals for families who are claiming benefit-related free school meals during the Christmas holidays. To apply for a FREE space, please download the HAF club activities list [HERE](#). Places will be offered on 1st come basis. For more information click [HERE](#).



STAR CITIZENS - AUTUMN B 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.

Rec Amine RD & Sumayyah RP
Y1 Hilary 1O & Ayan 1W
Y2 Tuba 2B & Hafsa 2H
Y3 Ismail 3H & Madiha 3K
Y4 Zakariyah 4D & Afreen 4T
Y5 Bilal 5D & Maryam F 5H
Y6 Ayana 6A & Hanna 6W

TOWER HAMLETS BOOK AWARD



Year 6 were invited to attend and perform at the Tower Hamlets Book Awards at Morpeth School. Over the last few months, some of our avid year 6 readers have been reading the books nominated for the Book Award and voted for the one they enjoyed the best. Furthermore, they wrote a script for a scene from their favourite book and performed this at the Book Awards, alongside other schools. Their comedic performance earned them the award of Best Characterisation! Finally, they had the chance to meet the authors, ask them about their books and get some books signed for the school. They had a fantastic time and gave an incredible performance! Well done!

YEAR 2 VISIT TOWER OF LONDON



This half term year 2 have been learning all about The Stuarts in their history topic including key figures and events such as the Gun Powder plot and The Great Fire of London. To build on their learning they visited the Tower of London, where they had the opportunity to see and explore the different towers and galleries including the Bloody Tower where Guy Fawkes was kept, The White Tower and the Jewel House, where the Crown Jewels and other artefacts including various crowns worn by different kings and queens are kept. They also attended a workshop called 'Fire Fire!' where the children explored what had happened during The Great Fire of London through re-enactment. The children really enjoyed their time at the Tower of London and learnt a lot more about life during the Stuart reign.

YEAR 4 VISIT SCIENCE MUSEUM



This half term year 4 have been learning all about electricity and sound. To further their learning they visited the Science Museum. At the museum they visited the 'Secret Life of the Home' object gallery where they found out about the different ways electricity has changed and developed our household appliances. This went from exploring automatic doors, burglar alarms, a coin slot, light bulbs and even how toilets worked! The children were able to answer so many questions just like true scientists! They really enjoyed exploring the museum and seeing how technology has changed overtime looking at household items from as early as the 18th century all the way up to now! With their new science knowledge and inspiration maybe they'll invent some of the appliances of the future!

YEAR 3 MAKE IT REAL PROJECT



This half term in Year 3, the children have been learning about life during the Stone Age, Iron Age and Bronze Age. They looked at different aspects of life during these times including shelter and food. The children learnt how in prehistoric Britain people needed to hunt and forage for food, they learnt that sometimes this could be difficult particularly at different times during the year. They also learnt that people needed to move around a lot, to be able to find food, shelter and to be safe. This meant that their homes were often temporary. To help the children link their learning to present day they discussed how some people still struggle with things like having enough food, having a safe place to live and even for some being able to see a doctor or get medicine if they are unwell. The children then looked at how we can help people who might be struggling with access to food, safety or medical care and researched a variety of different charities that work to help support people with this. The children then voted on the charity they would like to raise money for. The children selected the charity 'Doctors without Borders (MSF – Medecins Sans Frontieres). This is an international, independent medical humanitarian organisation, who work with countries to provide medical care and assistance to people affected by conflicts, epidemics, disasters or who are unable to have regular access to the health care they need. We reached out to the charity about where the donation would go and they stated the following:

By supporting us, you will be helping ensure we can respond to conflict situations around the world. We can guarantee that some of your donation will directly support MSF's response in Gaza.

To help raise money for Doctors without Borders, Year 3 brought out donation buckets in the morning and afterschool on Thursday 21st Dec and some parents kindly donated food and supported Shelly and Forida with prep and the selling of the food. We are extremely grateful to all of those who donated and supported year 3 in their fundraiser. In total, in just a few hours, we raised **£603.64!!**

Thank you!

GT GIRLS FOOTBALL



Old Palace year 5 and 6 girls have been participating for the last 5 weeks in a football league with Marner, Manorfield and St Johns. The girls have been improving their team working skills and have built their confidence through interacting with children from other schools. By participating they have not only improved their footballing skills but they have also displayed great sportsmanship. The girls have really enjoyed the past 5 weeks.

Congratulations to all the following children for Achieving 100% Attendance during the Autumn Term (5th September to 15th December 2023).

FS: Yusra, Yunus, Ece, Melissa, Maidah & Ayyub M.

Y1: Dawud, Azlan, Adam, Ayman & Musa.

Y2: Umayma, Sureya, Anas, Tianna, Ali, Arian, Taslim, Tuba, Ayman, Charis & Afia.

Y3: Madiha, Arithik, Ayana, Alisa, Kiaan, Taqwa, Tanzeela, Mahreen & Yara.

Y4: Imran, Ayra, Maisha, Iqra, Sofia, Nazir, Hasan, Anisa, Aaliyah, Chris, Yusuf Z, Safiyyah, Emily & Ayaan.

Y5: Alisha, Ahianul, Nasif, Rahil, Yahya, Nehrin, Adnan, Araf, Bilaal, Musab, Lilly, Mayam K, Elma, Jasmine & Safayat

Y6: Juhan, Sufian, Tayeeba, Saadat, Husni, Afsana, Flora, Kaysah, Alesha, Aria, Jumana, Tamim, Mahirul,