



## CELEBRATING EASTER



Year 5 have been learning about Easter in their RE and English lessons this half term. As part of their learning, the children visited Bow church, to find out all about the true meaning of Easter. The children were able to explore the church and learn about the stories behind the stained glass windows. They also took part in an Easter hunt to find chapters of the Easter story, which they then pieced together to help them remember the events. Back at school, the children applied their learning by performing the Easter Festival Assembly, in which they explained why and how it is celebrated. The children were loud, clear and full of enthusiasm as they performed to the school. A special thanks to the year 5 team for all their hard work behind the scenes, and thanks to the parents for helping the children to learn all of their lines.



Meanwhile the children in Reception got to perform their very own Easter Bonnet parade, while the rain held off. There were some exceptional bonnets, with many showing great creativity and design flare. A big thank you to all our parents for their help with crafting such wonderful bonnets, which made the parade such a memorable event.



## CORE VALUE AWARD - FEBRUARY 2024

The value of the month for February was

**COLLABORATION.** Congratulations to:

- Reception: RD Adam & RP Inara
- Year 1: 1O Aisha & 1W Rima
- Year 2: 2B Amelia & 2H Hannah
- Year 3: 3K Safa & 3H Madiha
- Year 4: 4D Imran & 4T Faiha
- Year 5: 5D Adnan & 5H Ahianul
- Year 6: 6A Arissa & 6W Naomi

## IMPORTANT DATES



### END OF SPRING TERM HOLIDAYS

School finishes @ 2PM Thursday 28th March 2024  
Return to school Monday 15th April 2024

### BANK HOLIDAY

School Closed Monday 6th May 2024

### SUMMER HALF TERM HOLIDAYS

School finishes Friday 24th May 2024  
Return to school Monday 3rd June 2024

### EID CLOSURE T.B.C

Monday 17th June 2024

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

## RAMADAN FESTIVAL ASSEMBLY

On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, Reception children performed their very first festival assembly, sharing the importance of Ramadan and how Muslims observe fasting and prepare for the celebration of Eid ul Fitr. They also shared their learning on other festivals including: Chinese New Year, Vaisakhi, Raksha Bandhan and Mothers' Day.

The children delivered an outstanding performance, which was loved by the audience; there were even tears of joy amongst the large number of parents present. Thank you to everyone who came to watch the children perform and Eid Mubarak to all those celebrating! As Eid will fall within the holiday, we will save the Eid parties and lunch until June, when Eid-Al-Adha will be celebrated. We hope you will be able to join us then.



## STAFFING AND GOVERNOR UPDATE

Congratulations to our Deputy Headteacher, Ms Millward who recently got married. She will now be known as Mrs Bowley. Mr Palmer will be working full-time when we return from the holiday and we will welcome back Mr Manolo, in a part time post. Congratulation to Amina Begum who received the most votes in yesterday's Parent Governor election. She will now be appointed to the Governing Body. Also a big thank you to the other candidate, Naherun Nessa for the interest she expressed in the position.

# PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

## Coffee Mornings

### Board Games

On 22<sup>nd</sup> February, we held a coffee morning where parents could come along to try their skill at a range of board games. It was a fun coffee morning, with Connect 4 proving popular, as the parent worked out how to strategically place the counters in order to win. They said it's something easy that they can play with their children at home during quality family time.

## Minor Ailments

On 7<sup>th</sup> March, Dr Rebecca Scott GP, a Clinical Lead from the Bromley by Bow Health Centre, came along to discuss minor ailments. As an ice breaker parents were asked to sort minor illnesses into those that could be treated by a pharmacist and those which required a GP appointment. Parents were shocked to learn that most could be treated by the pharmacist, saving time as they did not need to go through the process of trying to get a GP appointment and taking the child out of school. Dr Scott explained that the pharmacist would give the exact same medical advice as a doctor. If the pharmacist thought a second opinion was needed, they would advise the parent to see their GP. Thank you to all the parents who attended. We have also arranged a coffee morning on asthma which will be led by a team from Bart's Hospital on 18th April.

## Healthier choices in Ramadan

On 4<sup>th</sup> March we held a coffee morning to explore healthy eating options during Ramadan. We discussed what everyone was eating before sunrise (Suhoor) and at sunset (Iftaar). A high number of parents signaled that they were cooking unhealthy food (well done for being honest) often because family members were requesting it. We looked at how food can be cooked in a healthier way, such as in the oven instead of being deep fried. Little changes, such as swapping fizzy sugary drinks for water and filling up on salad, can make a big difference! We wish everyone a health Ramadan this year.

## Digital Skills

On 28<sup>th</sup> March, Adeyinka Eletu, from Harca Champions visited to share the opportunity to sign up for free accredited basic digital skills classes in the local area. The classes will be running in the mornings, so the parents won't have to worry about childcare. If you would like further information please contact Riaz Ullah, Digital Skills Training Officer on 0207 510 5634.

## Puberty Workshop

Ms Millward led a year 4 parent workshop to share the content of the forthcoming year 4 lesson on puberty. As recommended by the Tower Hamlets Healthy Lives Team, the year 4 lesson is taught to support the wellbeing of girls so they understand the changes that happen to their body as they grow. Resources from the lesson were shared and any questions raised were answered. Thank you to all the parents who attended the workshop.

## SUGAR SMART

Last week, a team of Dental students from Queen Mary university, visited us to deliver workshops on oral hygiene across the whole school. They talked about being sugar smart and explained how there are hidden sugars in different food and drink, which can cause tooth decay. The workshop helped children understand the importance of oral hygiene and develop an awareness of sugar alternatives such as milk & water. Please talk to the children about what they learned and help them to apply this as part of a an active and healthy lifestyle.



## School Uniform



Please could we ask parents to check the school's uniform policy available [HERE](#). We have relaxed the policy on footwear to include black trainers, rather than the children having to wear shoes, but we have noticed that recently some

- children have started to wear trainers of a different colour, which are not allowed. We also remind parents that jewellery and accessories are not permitted due to the potential health and safety hazard that they pose; this includes badges.
- As the weather improves, some families may wish to change to our summer uniform. Details of this are also available on the [link](#). Please note that sandals must be plain, sturdy and fitted with a heel strap.
- If you could use the Spring Break to ensure that your child's school clothes meet the uniform requirements, it would be much appreciated.

## ONLINE SAFETY

With the holidays coming up, children may be wanting to spend more time on their devices. It is important to set clear rules for screen time and to think about the 'quality' of what the children are doing online. The right amount of screen time will be different for everyone, and will depend on your family's lifestyle. Children might enjoy a wide range of activities on their devices, like homework, online games and interaction with friends, which can support a young persons wellbeing. However screen time should not replace sleeping, eating, daily exercise, or get in the way of other hobbies.

A family agreement is a great way to start a conversation with your whole family about how you all use the internet, and to start discussions together around how to behave in a positive way when online, whether this is at home, at school or at a friend's to support their digital wellbeing. Please click [HERE](#) for the template

This week, Ms Millward also delivered an Online Safety assembly to KS2 on age restrictions, supporting their digital wellbeing, click [HERE](#) to view link to parent zone and how to be a good digital citizen and what to do if they see or hear something that makes them feel uncomfortable . You can find links about age restrictions and a document which you can use with your child/ren to discuss being a good online citizen [HERE](#).

## Dates for the diary

### Asthma information workshop for parents

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April  
9-9.30am

### Dads' badminton

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April  
9-10am

### Dads' coffee morning

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April  
9-10am

### Mental Health – Managing Worries

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May  
9-10am

### Idea Store- ESOL

ESOL Mohammed Rumi from the Idea Store continues to deliver our ESOL classes on site every Thursdays 1:30-3:30.

### Walking group

We will continue our mum's Monday morning local walks from 9-10:30am. These walks provide the physical benefits of exercise, as well as also supporting emotional well-being. Please come and join us.

## CELEBRATING WORLD BOOK WEEK



World Book Day celebrations began with lots of reading fun, based around the theme of authors. The children had the exciting opportunity to read a book by popular writers from all over the globe. Each year group had fun 'Tweeting' questions to their chosen author and designing an advert to promote one of their books. We had some fantastic entries to our competition, where the children told us who their favourite authors were and why. To further extend the children's knowledge of authors, we were able to arrange some visits. Adam Barron came into school to read extracts from his book and worked with our Year 5's on creating their own stories! Meanwhile, some children in year 4 got to meet Zanab Milan, author of



'Meet the Maliks' at the Genesis Cinema. In Reception & year 1, we promoted a love of reading, by asking the children to return to school at 4:30pm to share a bedtime story. They listened to teachers reading their favourite books aloud, lounging on beanbags and having milk and biscuits. The parents then had a chance to read with their children. The Reception children also took part in an event at the end of the week where they used story maps to retell the 'The Gruffolo' and 'Siba and Saba' to their parents. The Reading Parent Workshop was well attended with parents making book character masks and learning tips on how to make reading fun and part of the routine at home. To further support home reading and the use of the £1 book tokens, we also arranged a book fair, at which over £400 pounds worth of books were bought. After all that great fun, there was only one thing left to do... Book week assembly! Red-riding hoods, Peter Rabbits, Gangster grannies .... you name them, we had them! The hall was buzzing with the children's favourite characters everywhere. It was great seeing each year group share their author and all the interesting facts the children have learnt about them. Thank you to everyone who made this year's Book Week successful. We look forward to doing it all over again next year!



## DT WEEK—TEXTILES



This term, the focus for DT day was on textiles which the children used to make a range of products. As part of the DT day process, they conducted a 'product analysis' which enabled the children to research existing products 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, the children put their DT skills, such as stitching, gluing, printing and sewing to good use. In Reception, the children created gift bags using felt shapes. They thought about what shaped to include to create a repeated pattern. Children in year 1 designed finger puppets linked to their topic 'On the Farm', whilst year 2 children beautifully decorated their tote bag using printing. In year 3, the children made a purse from recycled leather off-cuts. Year 4 designed a drawstring backpack and created a patch pocket using a running stitch. Year 5 created a pannier bag that can be hung on to bike or scooter handlebars and year 6 created a multi-function felt pouch to hold a key-ring purse. They finished the day by evaluating their finished product against the design criteria. There were some fantastic products, so the children should be very proud of what they were able to achieve.

## COMIC RELIEF/DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS



This half term, School Council met to plan fundraising activities for Comic Relief and Doctors Without Borders. We managed to raise **£308.12** for Comic Relief through the sale of merchandise, biscuits and the design a red nose competition. Then the non-uniform day and cricket shoot-out raised an additional **£193.54** For Doctors Without Borders. Both charities support worthy causes in the UK and beyond, so a big thank you to everyone who contributed. Also thank you to the School Council for helping to arrange the activities and to the adults, who supported them.

**STAR CITIZENS - SPRING B 2024**

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

<b>Reception:</b>	<b>RD</b> Amelia & <b>RP</b> Amira
<b>Year 1:</b>	<b>10</b> Aliza & <b>1W</b> Mabruk
<b>Year 2:</b>	<b>2B</b> Zainab & <b>2H</b> Safiyah
<b>Year 3:</b>	<b>3K</b> Yusra & <b>3H</b> Inaaya H
<b>Year 4:</b>	<b>4D</b> Hasan & <b>4T</b> Aisha
<b>Year 5:</b>	<b>5D</b> Maryam & <b>5H</b> Safa
<b>Year 6:</b>	<b>6A</b> Anisha & <b>6W</b> Ayaana

## YEAR 3 VISIT EYNSFORD VILLAGE



As part of their Geography topic "Rivers and Settlements", Year 3 children visited Eynsford village, in Kent. There, they had the chance to identify different parts of a river, such as river banks, riverbed, flood plain and meander. The village is one of the few to include a ford over the River Darent, as well as a castle built by the Normans. On the way to Anthony Roper Primary School, children created tally charts in order to record the number of houses, parks, shops, churches, etc. that they saw. Upon reaching the school, our children presented posters, which they had created in school, to inform the other children about life in Bow. The fieldwork that the children completed helped them to create a sketch map of the village in order to compare rural and urban living. Although the children live in very different areas, they found that they had lots of things in common.

## YEAR 6 VISIT TATE MODERN

This half term, Year 6 visited Tate Modern to give them the opportunity to explore and analyse the painting styles of different artists. They were able to visit different exhibitions that reflected their learning on Pop Art, abstract art and renaissance art. They saw some fantastic art pieces by renown artists such as Jackson Pollock and Andy Warhol, as well as modern artists, such as Jannis Kounellis. As they walked around, they could appreciate the different styles that the artists had developed. They thought about what the artists were trying to express and shared their opinions on how the pieces of art made them feel. They were also encouraged to consider how they could implement the different styles in their own artwork this year and we look forward to sharing the results in our end of year exhibition.



## YEAR 1 VISIT SURREY DOCK FARM



Year 1 visited Surrey Dock farm to find out all about the different farm animals that live there. We got to join in a workshop about how plants and vegetables grow, looked at different seeds and did our own labelling of the parts of a plant. We then got to plant our own cress seeds, which we took back to school, where they continue to grow. We had a walk around the farm and found out about all the different vegetables and fruits that grow there, how they look after them and what they do with them once they are ready to harvest. The most exciting part of the trip was meeting the farm animals and finding out about where they live and what they like to eat. We were even allowed to touch and feed some of them. The children had a great day and were able to see many of the things they had been learning about.

## YEAR 2 VISIT THE DISCOVERY LOOKOUT CENTRE



This half-term, Year 2 visited Hyde Park. The children took part in a workshop about plants and seeds, during which they also learned about different tree species, including London plane and horse chestnut trees. They also used magnifying glasses to observe the various bits of nature around the park, and had a go at planting their own plants, which they got to take home. The workshop was very enjoyable, and supported the children's knowledge of growing and caring for plants. Following the workshop, the children saw the many wonderful sights that the park has to offer, such as the bright yellow daffodils, colourful birds and picturesque lake. The children really enjoyed their visit to the Hyde Park, and can't wait to return one day!

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## YEAR 4 & 5 VISIT SOANES CENTRE



This half term year 4 had the chance to use their scientific investigation skills on their trip to the Soane's Centre. Whilst there they had to use their observation skills to look for signs of animals, including insects, as well as identify the different plants. They were looking for things, such as prints, feathers and droppings left behind in order to see signs of animals that might have been there. After they went on their nature walk, they had the opportunity to go pond dipping, following which they were able to identify the animals and insects they had collected, before returning them to the pond.



In Year 5, as part of our Materials unit, we visited the Soane Centre for a workshop. The children explored the different materials that could be found in the park and discussed their properties. They carried out a sorting activity, deciding if materials were plastic, metal, glass, wood and also discussing the differences between man made and natural or animal materials. The children then collected wood to make a fire and watched the irreversible change of sticks being turned into charcoal.

**Congratulations to all the following children for Achieving 100% Attendance during the Spring Term (8th January to 26th March 2024).**

- FS:** Javid, Maidah Rumaisa, Amelia & Fatima.
- Y1:** Amina, Aariz, Azlan & Adam.
- Y2:** Tachin, Ilyanah, Charis, Maria, Nafees, Safiyah, Tianna, Majim, Aleena, Hannah & Arian.
- Y3:** Hamza, Aadam, Kiaan, Ridhwan, Maherul, Tanzeela, Yaqub, Emaad, Mahreen, Arshita & Yara.
- Y4:** Abdullah, Halima, Maisha, Ilyas, Nazir, Aaliyah, Amani & Emily.
- Y5:** Ahianul, Maryam, Sulayman, Irfan, Araf, Bilaal, Lilly, Elma & Jasmine.
- Y6:** Juhan, Sabrina, Sufian, Saadat, Abantika, Ihsan, Sky, Afsana, Ishaq, Flora, Aria, Maimuna, Tamim, Anisha, Munira, Ayana, Taherah, Rihan & Sidra.

What do your attendance figures actually mean?

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