



Old Palace Newsletter

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GOODBYE YEAR 6

This is the time of year, when sadly we need to say good bye to our year 6 pupils. On Monday, the year 6 children visited Adventure Island in Southend-on-Sea for their end of year



6A Academic Year 2023-24
Old Palace Primary School

trip. The day was packed with excitement, as the children explored the thrilling rides and attractions at the park. The children braved even the scariest roller coasters, had a blast on the water slides, and enjoyed playing games - some even won prizes! The trip was a perfect way to celebrate their achievements and to create some lasting memories with their friends before moving on to secondary school. On



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Wednesday, each class performed a contemporary version of Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' as their Leavers' Performance. They impressed the audience with their superb acting and exceptional singing, which brought a tear to the eye. The children worked incredibly hard and should be very proud of the performance they delivered. Please join me in thanking all the staff who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to support the children.

Later in the day, the year 6 children were invited to a special farewell party. The children got to dine with their friends, followed by games, activities and lots of opportunities for selfies. The party conclude with a staff v pupils water fight! We couldn't be more proud of our year 6 pupils and the fantastic SATs result which they achieved—exceeding the national average in all subjects. Here are the provisional results: We have not yet been told the threshold for High Score. However should this remain at 110, the percentage of pupils

| % Achieving Expected | Old Palace 2024 | National 2024 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Maths | 85 | 73 |
| Reading | 81 | 74 |
| Writing (teacher assessed) | 85 | 72 |
| Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling | 73 | 72 |
| Combined (R,W & M) | 80 | 61 |

achieving 'high score' (also called Greater Depth) would be as follows: **Reading: 44%, Writing: 40%, GPS: 39%, Maths: 46% & Combined: 25%**. These percentages are significantly above the national averages for 2023, which for Combined was just 8%.

We wish the children every success at their new secondary school, secure in the knowledge that they have gained an excellent start to their education at Old Palace. Good luck!

IMPORTANT DATES



END OF SUMMER TERM HOLIDAYS
School finishes 2pm Friday 19th July 2024

ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-25
Return Tuesday 3rd September 2024

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

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS



I would like to congratulate the year 6 children on their fantastic results. The governors know how hard the children have worked and wish them all the best in their new schools. We would also like to thank all the staff, because we know it is the consistent support from staff—from the moment the children arrive to their final year—that ensures the children make such

great progress at school Old Palace.

As I am retiring from teaching this year, I have also decided to resign from the Governing Body. The role has been extremely rewarding and I have really enjoyed supporting and working with all the staff and parents

I would like to welcome Charles Barrows your new Chair of Governors. I know he is looking forward to working with you all. Have a great summer and take care.

Natalie Davis

Message from Charles Barrows—new Chair of Governors



"I am delighted to have been elected as the Chair of Governors of Old Palace School. It is a wonderful, well run school and I very much look forward to working with Mr Palmer and his team and to meeting the staff, parents and pupils over the coming months. I am a retired accountant having worked for PwC and Aviva for most of my career. I live in London and have also lived in Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong

over the years. I have been a school governor before in Norfolk and I am associated with the Worshipful Company of Needle-makers, which provides financial support to the school. Natalie Davis has been an excellent Chair and I wish her all the very best for the future. She will certainly be a hard act to follow!"

ART EXHIBITION



During parents evening, we displayed some of the children's art work from the Spring and Summer terms, in the foyer. There was a selection of drawing, painting, textiles and 3D work on display. The exhibition included drawings of animals from the Reception children, self portraits paintings by Year 1, clay tiles inspired by their trip to the seaside from the Year 2 children, landscape painting inspired by the Impressionist artists from Year 3, abstract art pieces and landscape paintings of London during the Blitz (in the style of Lowry) from Year 4, Surrealist landscapes, inspired by artists such as Salvador Dali from Year 5 as well as collaborate tie dye and stitched textile pieces and displayed mixed media cityscapes from Year 6. The children really enjoy showing their work to their parents and everyone agreed this was a brilliant way to celebrate the amazing art work that has been created this year.



RECEPTION GRADUATION

Reception children welcomed their parents to an end of term picnic to celebrate their achievements in the Foundation stage. Each child received a special graduation scroll from Mr Palmer, before enjoying a lovely afternoon picnic in the Reception playground - we had glorious weather and lots of delicious food. The children also planned a special surprise for both Ms Dawson and Ms Duong for their farewell. They sang a beautiful song and presented them with lots of special messages. Thank you to all the parents who donated snacks for the picnic and attended the celebration.



SUMMER READING CHALLENGE



At Old Palace we are encouraging children to take part in the Summer Reading Challenge called 'Marvellous Makers', which is run by the Idea Store for children aged 4 - 11 years old. It's fun, free and easy to take part in.

Step 1: Sign up

Register online or visit any Idea Store or library in Tower Hamlets and register for free - just have proof of address.

When you join you'll get:

A Marvellous Makers booklet to fill with stickers as you progress and log the books you have read

Step 2: Read books

The challenge is to read at least six books, two books at a time, over the summer holidays.

Step 3: Win prizes!

After 2 books—Your first set of stickers

After 4 books—Crayons and a colouring or a notebook and a second set of stickers

When you have finished all six books, you will receive a Marvellous Makers certificate, a medal and your third set of stickers.

Children who take part in the Summer Reading Challenge are:

- More enthusiastic about reading
- Maintain their reading confidence over the holidays
- Boost their confidence and self-esteem

HEALTHY SCHOOLS GOLD AWARD



Four school councillors; Iqra A, Yusuf Z, Hasan and Sofia were selected to attend the Healthy Lives Award ceremony held at the Town Hall in Whitechapel on 14th June. They accompanied Mrs Rahman to collect a Healthy Schools London Gold Award, in recognition of the work completed by the school to support emotional wellbeing. Our school councillors were so gracious when receiving the award from the directors of education.

Congratulation to all the staff involved in the project—the use of breathing exercises, has now become part of our daily routine, helping the children to self regulate.



SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

attendance MATTERS

You may be aware, under the previous government, changes have been made to improve attendance nationally following the pandemic, which has seen a worldwide rise in absence. In light of this, we have updated our attendance policy. The key changes that have been made by the government and implemented nationally, can be seen below:

- A fine to parents must be considered if a child misses 5 days (10 sessions) of school due to unauthorised absence.
- Costs for a penalty notice (fine) will increase to £160 (per parent per child), which will be reduced to £80 (per parent per child), if paid within 21 days.
- If within 3 years, a child misses school a second time for more than 5 days of unauthorised leave, the parents will be automatically fined the higher rate of £160 (per parent per child),
- If any additional unauthorised absences occur within 3 years, the family will be referred to the courts. This could result in a fine of £2500 or up to 3 months in prison. If a parent is found guilty in court, they will also receive a criminal conviction.
- The school does not receive the money from Penalty Fines. The money raised is used by the local authority to cover the costs of administering the system, and to fund attendance support. Any extra money is returned to the government.
- The new arrangements will come into effect from August 2024. The school will send out an information leaflet

SCHOOL UNIFORM REMINDER

As Parents may be buying items of uniform over the summer, we wished to provide a reminder of our school uniform. More details can be found [HERE](#)

The uniform consists of the following:

- SCARLET jumper, kameez, sweatshirts or cardigans.
- PLAIN WHITE Shirt or Polo shirt
- BLACK or GREY trousers, skirts, salwar and jilbaab (girls) or the kurta and topi (boys).
- PLAIN head scarves white, black, grey or navy.
- PLAIN BLACK, grey or white socks.
- PLAIN BLACK shoes or plain black trainers (non-branded/ without logos)
- During the summer, gingham style dresses or tailored grey shorts can be worn. Plain sandals with socks, may be worn as long as they are sturdy and are fitted with a heel strap. Plain sun hats and non-branded sun glasses are also permitted.

Book Bag

- Upon admission to Reception and Year 3 pupils receive a free book bag
- Pupils should not deface their book bags or add additional accessories to them
- Pupils are not required to bring pencil cases into school.

Congratulations to all the following children for Achieving 100% Attendance during the Academic Year 2023-24 (5th September 2023 to 12th July 2024)

- ★ **Y1:** Adam & Azlan
- ★ **Y2:** Charis
- ★ **Y3:** Tanzeela & Kiaan
- ★ **Y4:** Maisha & Emily
- ★ **Y5:** Araf & Bilal
- ★ **Y6:** Aria, Juhan, Sufian, Tamim H, Anisha, Ayana & Flora

★ **In addition to receiving the annual attendance certificate and a gold pencil. Mr Palmer has surprised the children with a £10 gift voucher.**

What do your attendance figures actually mean?

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

ONLINE SAFETY



Thank you to all the parents who attended the online safety workshop on 18th July. At the meeting Mrs Bowley showed some of the common Apps used by pupils such as Roblox, TikTok & JusTalk and demonstrated how easy it was to set up fake accounts. She also discussed the importance of setting up parental controls and demonstrated how parents can check the 'history' on devices to monitor their child's digital life.

With the summer holidays just around the corner now is a great time for parents/carers to talk with their children and set ground rules, boundaries and expectations around tech use. The easiest way to do this is via a digital family agreement and London Grid for Learning have a really useful template which is free for anyone. <https://parentsafe.lgfl.net/digital-family-agreement>

With so much out there online, choosing the right apps that are safe for your child to play can be overwhelming. The following link discusses ways to select apps for your child and suggestions what they can play, in a safe way. <https://www.internetmatters.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/How-to-choose-apps-for-kids-guide-Internet-Matters-July23.pdf>

If you are concerned by something your child sees online, over the school holidays, the NSPCC offers advice on ways to report the content or person and support available for yourself and your child. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-reporting/>

STAFFING CHANGES IN SEPTEMBER



Miss Kurup is taking early retirement and so sadly will be leaving at the end of term. She has done an amazing job as the school's SENDCo helping to ensure that our SEND pupils receive the academic and pastoral support they need to thrive, despite significant cuts in funding. Please join me in thanking her for the dedication she has shown to the school—she will be greatly missed!

Earlier in the year we advertised nationally for a second Deputy Head to work alongside Mrs Bowley. Following the recruitment process, governors appointed Mrs Rahman, who will take up her new post in September. To help reduce spending, the second Deputy Head will also be the school's SENDCo. In preparation, Mrs Rahman has already visited some other schools to learn about how they make use of alternative provision to support their SEND pupils. She has also met with the SEND TAs and already knows many of the pupils from their time in Reception. Congratulations, Mrs Rahman. We know you will do a great job!



ANNUAL SUMMER FETE



This year, our annual Summer Fete was held on 16th July. The day was packed full of fun activities for children, which included the much loved bouncy castle, basketball shot, face painting, tombola, food and brick-a-brack stalls. We were luckier with the weather this year, with the rain holding off until 4pm.

This was the first time we used tokens, with the option to buy in advance online. The system appeared to work well removing the need to handle cash. The aim is for next year's Summer Fete to be cashless, so if you would like to provide any feedback on how we can improve the token system, please speak to the office or your Parent Councillor.



The day was a great success and allowed us to raise our biggest total to date—a whopping **£1868.82**. The money has been banked in our school fund account and we will consult with Parent Councillors in the autumn, regarding ideas on how best to spend this to support the children's learning.

The Summer Fete is not possible without the contributions from parents and staff. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped us throughout the day, including all the volunteers, parents and children for making the day such a success. And finally, we would also like to say a Special thank you to the following local businesses who donated wonderful prizes and gifts to be sold or to be used as part of our adult and children's raffles:

EdEx Recruitment Agency, Vision Teaching, Rahim Brothers, Vikings Direct and SND Cleaning Ltd.



We are delighted to inform you that we have received a letter from Doctors Without Borders, dated 28th June, confirming the acceptance of **£808.82** raised through your generous help and support. This crucial contribution will be directed towards providing emergency relief and essential medicine where it is most needed. For more information, please click [HERE](#).