



Old Palace Newsletter

December 2024

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS AT OLD PALACE



As December arrived, our Dining hall was transformed into a winter wonderland, adorned with snowflakes, snowmen, Christmas trees, lanterns, stars, and wreaths, spreading a joyful festive atmosphere—all thanks to the children who worked hard to design and create decorations to celebrate the festive period. On Wednesday morning, Year 1 performed the Christmas Festival Assembly, which included a heartwarming nativity performance. The children excelled in acting, singing, and narrating the Christmas story, impressing the entire school and many proud parents with their performance skills. The assembly also included photos from their visit to Bow Church earlier in the month, to find out more about why Christmas is important to Christians and how this is celebrated. Later on Wednesday, it was time for our annual Christmas Lunch, when children, staff and visitors gathered to tuck into a Christmas feast. The cook and her staff prepared an amazing Christmas spread, including turkey, stuffing, roast



potatoes and of course—Brussel sprouts! The kitchen staff went above and beyond, working extra hours to make sure everything was perfect—please join us in thanking them for all their extra effort—it is much appreciated! The festivities continued yesterday with our Christmas parties! Staff and pupils came dressed in their best party clothes or Christmas jumpers to enjoy an afternoon of fun. For Years 2-6, the parties took place in classrooms, where children played games and enjoyed delicious fruit platters and other party treats. Reception and Year 1 held their celebration in the school hall, joined by parents and a very special guest—Santa Claus himself! Meanwhile in the dining hall, our Parent Councillors hosted the parents' party. The atmosphere was delightful, as parents and staff mingled, enjoying the delicious food and party games, including a very competitive game of dads' musical chairs! Thank you to Forida, Shelly and the Parent Councillors for organizing the event and to all the families who donated food for the parties. We were blown away by your generosity. As we wrap up this festive season, we wish everyone a safe and restful holiday and a happy Christmas to all those who will be celebrating. We wish everyone a very happy New Year and look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Tuesday, 7th January 2025!



IMPORTANT DATES



END OF AUTUMN TERM

School finishes Friday 20th December 2024 @ 2PM

Return to school Tuesday 7th January 2025

SPRING HALF TERM HOLIDAY

**School finishes Friday 14th February 2025
Return to school Monday 24th February 2025**

END OF SPRING TERM

**School finishes Friday 4th April 2025
Return to school Tuesday 22nd April 2025**

Please visit our school website for a full list of term dates for 2024-25 www.oldpalaceprimary.co.uk



FEDERATION WITH CHILDREN'S HOUSE

Thank you to all parents who fed back on our consultation to federate Old Palace and Children's House Schools. We are delighted to inform you that, following positive community feedback, Old Palace and Children's House Governing Bodies unanimously agreed that we will become a Federation with a single governing body, from September 1st 2025. We are excited by the opportunity to working more closely together and look forward to building on the strengths of each school. A full report on the consultation will be available on the school website in the New Year

STAR CITIZENS - AUTUMN 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.

Reception:	RB Alina & RP Baiyu
Year 1:	1C Ayyub & 1T Abrar
Year 2:	2H Maryam & 2O Aliza
Year 3:	3K Maria & 3S Sofia
Year 4:	4D Aleshah & 4M Mufliha
Year 5:	5D Imran & 5H Manha
Year 6:	6A Rayan & 6G Musab

PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

COFFEE MORNINGS & WORKSHOPS

Coffee Morning: Board Games

On November 7th, we hosted a Board Games Coffee Morning, designed to offer parents an opportunity to socialise and boost their confidence in English. Those attending, enjoyed playing Snakes and Ladders, as well as the opportunity to make new connections.

Coffee Morning: Anxiety & Worries



Holly Sampson, our School Therapist, led an insightful workshop on November 21st focused on managing worries and anxieties. During the session, participants explored the importance of

allowing children to express themselves and their emotions freely. Holly emphasized that children should be encouraged to identify and label their feelings, as this helps them better understand and manage their emotions. By communicating their feelings to a trusted adult, children can receive the support they need. The feedback from the session was overwhelmingly positive, with many attendees expressing appreciation for the valuable strategies shared. If you were unable to attend this session, don't worry—another coffee morning is scheduled for February 6th. We hope to see you there!

Coffee Morning: African families



Parents from African backgrounds were invited to connect with other families in the school who share a similar cultural heritage. This initiative aimed to create a comfortable, community-oriented environment. It offered parents the opportunity to build relationships

with one another, gain a better understanding of the education system, and learn how to support their children's learning at home. This strengthens the sense of belonging for both parents and children, fostering a collaborative and an inclusive school community. This Coffee Morning is open to all families in the school.

Coffee Morning: Connecting Communities

Parents involved in the Connecting Communities project were invited to school for a valuable session led by Abdullahi, our IT Support specialist, and Florida, our Parent Support Worker. During the session, parents were guided through the process of creating online accounts and setting up email addresses. This workshop aimed to empower parents with essential digital skills, helping them stay connected and better support their children's learning. The session was well-received, with parents expressing their appreciation for the practical knowledge shared. We look forward to offering more opportunities like this in the future. Mark your calendars for Thursday 30th January!

Coffee Morning: Christmas Card Making



During our Coffee Morning On Thursday 12th December, parents were invited to join us to make Christmas cards. We were truly amazed by the enthusiasm and creativity of the parents, many of whom shared

that they found the activity therapeutic and enjoyable. The session was a wonderful opportunity for parents to come together and get into the festive spirit.

Bug Club Workshop

On 13th November, we held a workshop for Reception parents to introduce them to Bug Club, the online reading resource used by the school to support reading in Reception, KS1, and LKS2. During the session, parents learned what Bug Club is, how to access it with their child, and how to provide effective reading support at home. They also received helpful resources to further aid their child's reading journey. It was wonderful to see so many Reception parents eager to learn more ways to support their children's reading at home. Mrs. Sangeeta, in Reception, is available to assist any parents who may need additional help with using Bug Club.

Parent Volunteers Workshop

On December 12th, Mrs Rahman, one of the school's Deputy Headteachers delivered a workshop for those interested in becoming a parent volunteer on school trips. During the session, she explained the roles and responsibilities of trip volunteers and their important role in supporting health and safety. We had a great turnout, with many parents expressing interest in helping the school. Forms were distributed to all attendees—please complete and return these to Shelly or the school office by 9th January. We appreciate your support and look forward to working with you as a member of our dedicated team of volunteers!

Oracy workshop

We recently held a creative Oracy workshop for parents, where we promoted the importance of Oracy in building children's confidence and giving them a voice. The session helped parents learn ways to support their child's oracy and also shared how we use targets in school to support the children becoming confident speakers. The workshop included interactive activities, where parents engaged in discussions on various topics and had the opportunity to speak in groups of 3. They learned tips on how to make storytelling more creative, connected with one another, and shared experiences. We also shared strategies to support EAL children and tips for practicing Oracy at home. Parents left with helpful resources, including discussion questions, debate cards, and question prompts to use at home. Thank you to everyone who joined us for this valuable session. We look forward to seeing the impact of all this additional practice at home on the children's progress. Keep up the great work!

Year 6 Puberty Workshop

Mr Heighington & Mrs Bowley provided onsite and online workshops for year 6 parents before the delivery of lessons to pupils. This allowed parents to ask questions and to view the resources we planned to use. Following the statutory requirements, the year 6 puberty lesson is taught to support the wellbeing of boys and girls, helping them to understand the changes that happen to their body as they grow. A separate lesson on conception is also delivered, however parents are able to choose to withdraw their child from this session.

Parenting Course

On December 4th, Florida and the School Social Worker, Shannaz Choudhury, delivered a parenting course focused on boundaries, routines, and positive behaviour. The session provided parents with practical strategies for establishing healthy boundaries and consistent routines, while also addressing effective behaviour techniques. This course aimed to empower parents with the tools and knowledge to support their children's development and well-being in a positive and structured environment. Those who attended felt it was useful, as it allowed them to share experiences and take away ideas.

ESOL

Thank you to all the parents who completed the 6-week ESOL course. Class have been taking place every Monday and Thursday from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM in the Community Room, delivered by Twinn. If you missed out, don't worry—there will be another opportunity to enrol in January. The initial assessment day will take place on Thursday 9th January from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM in the Community Room. For more information, please speak to Shelly.



Old Palace Primary School

0 likes • 1 follower

Primary School located in Tower Hamlets

COMING SOON...

Thank you to all the parents who responded to our text consultation on which social media platform to use instead of X/Twitter. Parents preferred Facebook & Instagram, so we will be launching an Old Palace

Facebook page when we return in January. During parent consultations, parents/ cares were asked to give their consent for us to share photos of their child's learning on our new page. If you have not had change to do this, please contact the school office. We know the children love seeing their work celebrated online, so are very excited about our new page. **Why not sign up now using our online consent form [HERE](#)**

Sky Garden Parent trip



On 9th October, the walking group visited the Sky Garden in , Fenchurch Street. The parents who attended loved the lush indoor garden and were in awe at the breathtaking views across London, seen from the 43rd floor.! A big thank you to DLR Ambassador, Sabina Alam , for providing free DLR travel tickets for this trip.

ROOF GARDEN PARENTS TRIP

For our end-of-term trip, parents joined the Parent Councillors, along with the Walking and Badminton groups, for a delightful outing to the Canary Wharf Roof Garden and the Crossrail Place Bridge. The group wandered through the stunning gardens, admiring the exotic plants, and took time to relax on the benches nestled within the peaceful, hidden pathways. Parents thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to connect with each other, while exploring a local venue that they can also visit with their children during the upcoming school holiday. Again, thank you to DLR for providing free travel. This was a wonderful way to end the term, creating new friendships and shared experiences.

NHS Pharmacy First Service

What is Pharmacy First?

The NHS-funded service enables children and adults to get convenient access to advice and treatment where appropriate for seven common conditions, without the potential delay of having to wait for a GP appointment. Accessing the service may mean that children feel better and get back to school as quickly as possible, as well as supporting parents/carers to also get better if they are unwell with one of the conditions covered under the service. There is no need to make an appointment; parents or carers can pop into their local pharmacy with their child and just ask for help. This service supports with the following conditions for people in the age groups specified below:

- ✦ Earache (aged 1 to 17 years)
- ✦ Impetigo (aged 1 year and over)
- ✦ Infected insect bites and stings (aged 1 year and over)
- ✦ Sore throats (aged 5 years and over)
- ✦ Sinusitis (aged 12 years and over)
- ✦ Uncomplicated urinary tract infections (UTIs) in women (aged 16 to 64 years)
- + Shingles (aged 18 years and over)

Should the pharmacist be unable to help, they will direct the patient to their GP surgery or another healthcare professional, as appropriate.

TOWER HAMLETS BOOK AWARDS:



Earlier this month, some of our Year 6 pupils attended the Tower Hamlets Book Awards Ceremony. Over the last few months, some of our avid year 6 readers have been reading the books written by the authors nominated for

the Book Award and voted for the one they enjoyed the most, which was "City of Stolen Magic" by Nazneen Ahmed Pathak. They then produced a film clip in which they explained why they loved this book so much. The award ceremony took place on Friday 29th November at Genesis Cinema, where the children got to meet all the authors of the nominated books. There was much excitement as the winning book was announced: it was "Final year" by Matt Goodfellow, a poetic story about a boy's last year in primary school. As part of the event, there was also a screening of the film the children had produced—the author loved it so much that she asked the school's permission to use the film to promote her book. This is a fantastic achievement, so very well done to all those involved—you have made us proud!

23 NOVEMBER - 4 JANUARY

WINTER READING Challenge

Read 4 books during the challenge and receive a certificate for being a superstar!

GET YOUR MITI ON SOME BOOKS TODAY!

Visit ideastore.co.uk for more information.

Vaccination and Catch-up Programme

This year, flu rates are highest among school-aged children, with those under 5 experiencing some of the highest hospitalisation rates. As we reach the height of flu season, the school aged immunisation provider (**Vaccination UK**) will be holding community clinics for any children who may have missed their flu vaccinations. One of the clinics will be held at the East London Mosque where they will be providing **gelatine-free flu** vaccinations.

Missed vaccination

If your child has missed the school session and you would like to attend a clinic, please either email appointments@v-uk.co.uk or call **0203 343 2400** Gough Walk GP Practice 21 Newby Place E14 0EY

LONDON JAGUARS PRESENTS

KIDS WINTER Holiday Club 2024

FREE WITH HAF CODE

A 7-days Winter Event Filled with Fun & Excitement

23 Dec 2024- 3rd Jan 2025
Excluding 25th/26th Dec/1st Jan

Kingsley Hall, E3 3HJ

Activities Include:
Ice Skating, Cinema, Educational workshops, Sports, Nutrition, Etc

Club 1: 10AM-2PM
Club 2: 2pm-6pm

CONTACT LONDON JAGUARS FOR MORE INFO AT
07342 481010 | ljca.org@gmail.com

Registered Charity: 1190533

FREE FOR BENEFIT CHILDREN PSN OR E3 DAILY

AUTUMN FUND RAISING



This year we once again helped to raise funds for Children in Need & Doctors Without Borders. The newly elected School Council ran events across the week, including: a design a Pudsey competition, a penalty shootout out competition, a bake sale and a non-uniform day, alongside selling Children in Need merchandise. In total, due to the hard work of the School Council and the generosity of our families and staff, we raised £547.20 for Children in Need and £254.46 for Doctors Without Borders— a whopping total of £801.66!



The results are in....

Congratulations to our winning Pudsey entries:

UKS2 Winners: Nabila 6G and Aniyah 6G

LKS2 Winners: Thaifa 3S and Amelia 3S

KS1 Winners: Yamna 1T and Ruqia 2H

EYFS Winners: Zakariya RP and Yahya RP



We were also blown away with the effort and resilience shown by all who entered the penalty shoot-out! It was great to see the children getting active and having fun competing. A big well done to our winners of the Penalty Shoot Out:

KS2 Winner: Imran 5D

KS1 Winners: Hilary 2O

EYFS Winners: Dloovan, Nehan, Adedoyin, Iman



Thank you so much to all who took part in our events throughout the week; to the parents, carers and staff who donated baked goods for our cake sale; to our Parent Councillors who helped decorate the Children in Need biscuits and to the School Council for doing such a great job organizing all the events. The money raised will help make a difference to the lives of children all around the world.

YEAR 5 & 6 Online Safety Workshop

Year 5 and 6 recently took part in an important workshop on how to stay safe online. Two local Police Officers visited the school to talk to the children about some of the dangers of being online and the best ways to stay safe. The children had the opportunity to ask questions, and the Officers provided helpful answers and advice. It was a valuable session that gave the children the knowledge they need to navigate the online world safely and responsibly.

They informed the children that from the age of 10 someone can be reported to the police for harassment if they have targeted another person online, more than once within a 6 month period. Usually police will offer a youth offenders programme or other ways of support before convicting them. The Police also informed the school that there has been a rise in Money Muling amongst young people. Money muling is when someone transfers stolen money through their bank account on behalf of someone else and is paid for doing so. Criminals use money mules to launder the profits of their crimes. Young people are often unaware that acting as a money mule is illegal. They are approached to take part online or in person, including through social media, at school, or through external clubs.

Technology over the Holidays

The holiday period is a great time to take stock of the devices you have and ensure they are set up correctly with parental controls set appropriate for your child.

One frustrating issue is that the available features and how you set devices up differ, so to help parents Internet Matters have a really good, non-techie guides which you can follow as part of their ABC Checklist. ABC stands for:

- A - Activate parental controls.
- B - Balance screen time.
- C - Check and chat.

You can find a full explanation, set up guides and advice below:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/abc-online-safety-checklist/>

Please keep a close eye on your child/ren's online activity and gaming this holiday to help ensure that all pupils remain safe.

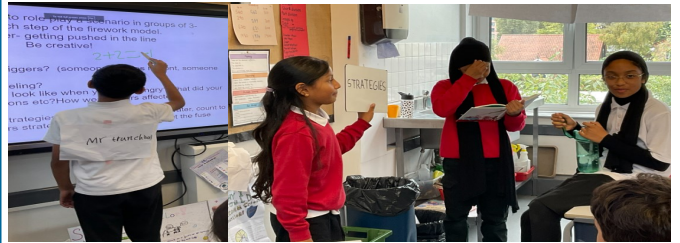
YEAR 6 JUNIOR CITIZENSHIP WORKSHOP

Earlier this term, Year 6 students visited Shadwell Fire Station to take part in The Junior Citizenship Workshop. They had the chance to learn important life skills from different organizations like the Met Police, London Fire Brigade, London Ambulance Service, and Transport for London. The children took part in fun, interactive activi-

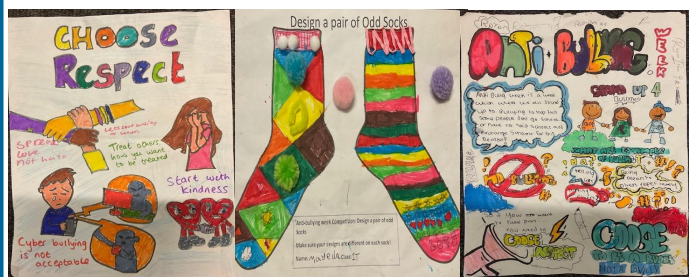


ties that helped them learn how to live safely and responsibly, especially when travelling independently in the city. Growing older comes with many new responsibilities and this day certainly helped the children to be more aware of potential dangers and how best to avoid them.

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK



Anti-Bullying week took place from Mon 11th– Fri 15th November this year and as ever the school provided a range of activities throughout the week. One focus was helping the children to identify and tackle bullying, using activities such as role play. For children in KS2 there was also an opportunity to create a 'good digital citizen' poster highlighting how to tackle and report bullying online. As the theme this year was 'Choose Respect' the children ended the week by considering what we mean by respect and disrespect, and how upstanding can be used to direct, delegate, distract, delay, and document disrespectful behaviour. Mrs Bowley also led a workshop for



parents, going through the procedures we have in place to support behavior and how we investigate, track, record and report incidents. She also clarified the definition of bullying and how this would include a series of events, rather than a one off incident. During the week we also took part in Odd Sock Day, designed to celebrate our differences. As well as wearing their odd socks, the children also got to take part in an odd sock poster competition, submitting some fantastic entries, some of which can be seen above.

2025 CALENDARS



When making their calendars this year, the children used a variety of different printing techniques. In Reception, the children used shapes to create different patterns and effects. Children in KS1, built on this to

explore different textures and effects using leaf printing. In Year 3, the children made calligraphy printing blocks using a range of different collage materials, such as cotton wool, lolly sticks and bubble wrap. The children in Year 4, used printing blocks made from foam boards. In Year 5, the children used mono printing. And finally in year 6, the children did lino cutting to make printing blocks.



NSPCC WORKSHOP

On the 10th December, we were fortunate to be visited by the NSPCC to talk to Year 2, 5 and 6 about 'Speaking Out. Staying Safe.' They met with each year group separately, so the content could be pitched appropriately to the children's age and understanding. Topic included:

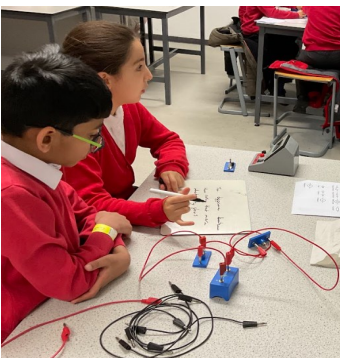
- abuse in all its forms and how to recognise the signs of these
- that abuse is never a child's fault and they have the right to be safe
- where to get help and the sources of help available to them, including [CHILDLINE](#)
- Before the session, the children had an assembly to go over the key messages and also a work booklet to complete after the workshop to identify who they could talk to if they didn't feel safe.



The NSPCC have shared some important information below on wider NSPCC resources and the support they provide to help keep children safe:

- [Keeping children safe](#)
- [Activities for kids](#)
- [Keeping children safe online](#)
- [Have you talked PANTS yet?](#)

YEAR 4 SCIENCE PROJECT AT BOW SCHOOL



This half term 4M had the chance to visit Bow School to take part in a science lesson in their science labs! The lesson was run by one of the Bow school teachers, who is also an electrical engineer. The children got to learn more about simple circuits. Looking at the different components in a circuit, as well as the symbols used to represent each of these. Children used these symbols to be able to re-

create a single bulb circuit and a circuit with two bulbs. The children were then able to talk about how in a two bulb circuit the light bulbs had to share the energy, meaning the bulb was less bright. The children really enjoyed their lesson with Mr Siu, and 4D are really looking forward to their visit after the end of term break!

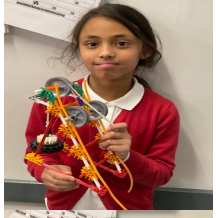
YEAR 6 VISIT THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM



Year 6 visited the Natural History Museum this half term to take part in an exciting Evolution Workshop. During the session, the children learned about the fascinating concept of evolution and how animals and plants adapt to their environments over time. They explored different examples of adaptation in the animal kingdom and gained a deeper understanding of how species change and evolve. It was a fantastic learning experience that brought science to life

and sparked lots of curiosity and discussion among the children!

MECHANISMS



For our Autumn Design and Technology day we focused on Mechanisms. Children across the school focused on different mechanisms, how they work and what they are useful for. As part of their learning, the children in Years 1 to 3 researched, designed and made their own mechanical toys using tech-card. Year 4, 5 and 6 used the construction kit 'K'Nex' to build upon their knowledge from previous years, using wheels, axels, linkages, cams and screws. Year 6 even brought in elements of electricity by making desk fans attached to an electric motor! Once the children had finished creating their design, they evaluated their product to see if they could make it even better next time. The children really enjoyed taking part in DT day as they get to explore their creativity, develop their use of tools and materials and gain the knowledge to understand how things work.



At Old Palace we always wish to ensure we are doing the best we can. We therefore buy into Challenge Partners, which provides the school with an annual review carried out by senior school leaders from across the country (copies of our previous reports are available on the school website). This also gives senior leaders from Old Palace the chance to review other schools and to learn from their practice. Over the last few years there has been much debate regarding whether Ofsted is fit for purpose. In our case, the Independent Complaints Adjudication Service for Ofsted (ICASO) found that reading at the school should be re-inspected as the lead inspector had not followed procedure, placing the children at a disadvantage. Despite this ruling, Ofsted chose not to return.

Ofsted now has a new leader, Sir Martyn Oliver, who is looking to make important changes to how Ofsted inspects schools. In order to do this, Sir Martin is looking at other models of accountability, such as the reviews carried out by Challenge Partners. To do this, he and his colleague, Kirsty Godfrey (who wrote the Ofsted English Review) attended the Challenge Partners review of North Primary school in Southall in November, where Mr Palmer was part of the review team. Mr Palmer had the opportunity to observe and feedback on a Maths lesson alongside Sir Martin and on an English lesson with Kirsty. Mr Palmer reported that this was a very positive experience, as he felt that Ofsted took a real interest in how the Challenge Partners process worked and the quality of challenge that it provide to the school being reviewed. It is likely that in January Ofsted will be making an announcement on changes to how it inspections schools.



Originality

Core Value Award : December 2024



The value for the month of December was "ORIGINALITY". The following children were nominated for being excellent role models:

- **Reception: Ayan & Wildan**
- **Year 1: Amelia & Inara**
- **Year 2: Amirah & Mahrin**
- **Year 3: Afia & Idriss**
- **Year 4: Madiha & Rayyan**
- **Year 5: Abul & Sameeha H**
- **Year 6: Ayah & Noelle**

PARENT COUNCIL MEETING



This half term, Parent Councils met with Mr Palmer and our Deputy Headteachers: Mrs Bowley and Mr Rahman. Mr Palmer shared the areas that the school is hoping to develop this year and Mrs Bowley fed back upon on trends regarding attendance and behaviour specific to each year group. This was then followed by an

- opportunity for the Parent Councillors to raise any issues brought forward by parents. We would like to thank the
- Parent Councillors for giving up their time and for sharing their suggestions with the school.

100% Attendance Award Autumn Term 2024-25 (3rd September to 13th December 2024)

Congratulations to the following children for achieving 100% attendance for Autumn Term

- **Reception:** Musa Usayd, Abrar, Arianna, Adedoyin, Muhammad H, Yahya H, Juairiya, Uzair, Baiyu, Ahnaf, Arham & Rayyan.
- **Year 1:** Yusra, Ece, Javid, Safa, Abrar, Mayeda, Nyomi, Khadijah, Ishaq, Isaiah-King & Wen-Xin.
- **Year 2:** Amanah, Ayaan, Azlan Ul, Aaria, Hazira, Musa, Arhab & Ayla.
- **Year 3:** Rayyan, Tachin, Nafees, Areesha, Taslim, Eduard, Anas, Rayan, Charis, Aleena, Safa, Ali, Liyaanah & Arian.
- **Year 4:** Deyana, Rayyan, Maghfir, Arithik, Hamza, Aryan, Aadam, Tanzeela, Yaqub, Aneesah, Sana, Kiaan, Humaira, Inaaya, Arshita, Yara & Khaira.
- **Year 5:** Munim, Imran, Ruqayyah, Yusuf Zayd, Ghena, Zohha, Ayra, Maisha, Manha, Safiyyah, Emily, Sabrina, Elisha, Hasan, Anisa, Aaliyah & Sameeha
- **Year 6:** Alisha, Yahya, Irfan, Shazana, Rayan, Nabila, Bilaal, Ahianul, Mikail, Lilly, Maryam, Nasif, Rahil, Yahya, Elma & Jasmine

RECEPTION VISIT THE DISCOVERY CENTRE



After an exciting journey on the D8 bus, the Reception children arrived at the Discovery story room. Here, they were introduced to Hootah, and the story of the squiggly-diggily. The children were then asked to explore the environment to gain inspiration for creating their very own story. There were letters on the floating clouds high up. There was a miniature mine, where the children put on the lights and found ruby coloured gems. The children ran through the jelly forest and up the ship slide, escaping the pirates. The children enjoyed exploring the book area, and they were mesmerised by the beautiful display of planets and moons high up in the midnight sky. Following their exploration, the children sat together and created their own story. It was great to hear the children sharing all their imaginative ideas, which they later put to good use in their writing, back in the classroom. Well done Reception!

YEAR 1 VISIT THE RAGGED SCHOOL MUSEUM



Our Year 1 children enjoyed a fantastic trip to the Ragged School Museum near Mile End. The children stepped back in time to experience what life was like for Victorian school children. They had the unique opportunity to participate in a traditional Victorian school lesson, sitting at wooden desks and using slate boards. They also got to hear about other artefacts from Victorian times and even got to see a Victorian room! The great learning continued back at school, when parents brought in toys from their childhood for our 'toy museum'. Not only was this great fun, but it also helped the children to develop a sense of chronology. A big thank you to all the parents who took part!

YEAR 5 VISIT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY

Year 5 were lucky enough to visit the Royal observatory and Planetarium in Greenwich to support their Science topic on Space & Forces. As they went into the planetarium, the children saw projections and listened to a presentation about our solar system. They saw how the planets orbit the sun and got a

close up view of Venus and Mars, which are rocky planets and of Saturn and Jupiter, which are giant balls of gas. They also got to see how many stars we can see in the universe and tried to imagine how many planets there might be in the universe if every star has at least one planet orbiting it. Before returning to school, they also got to see the meridian line (which represents zero degrees Longitude) at one time, an important navigation tool and the origin of Greenwich Mean Time.



YEAR 3 VISIT GUNNERSBURY MUSEUM



This half term year 3 visited Gunnersbury Museum to help consolidate their learning on Prehistoric Britain. They explored many exhibits including early tools, clothes and even jewellery! The children also got help from the experts at Gunnersbury to build their own Stone Age shelters outside. The children particularly enjoyed using some of the prehistoric hunting tools to try and catch some wild prey. It was a great day, which really helped to bring the children's learning to life.

YEAR 2 VISIT THE TOWER OF LONDON

This half term, Year 2 have been learning about the Stuart era, exploring significant figures and events like the Gunpowder Plot and the Great Fire of London. To enrich their understanding, the children visited the Tower of London, where they had the chance to explore its towers and galleries. Highlights included the Bloody Tower, where Guy Fawkes was imprisoned, the



White Tower, and the Jewel House, home to the Crown Jewels and other historical artefacts. The trip also featured a workshop titled 'Fire, Fire!', where actors brought the events of the Great Fire of London to life. The children thoroughly enjoyed their visit and gained a deeper understanding of the events they had been studying.

YEAR 4 VISIT THE SCIENCE MUSEUM

Year 4 had an amazing trip to the Science Museum, where the children explored electricity and sound. A highlight of the day was discovering how vibrations create sound, with the chance to put their hands in a



special box to *feel* the air moving inside! They were also intrigued by the particle detector, spotting and identifying different particles as they appeared. The children were also challenged to work together and apply their classroom knowledge, by create circuits to light a bulb. They rose to the challenge and did an amazing job! The children had a great day—they were excited to apply their skills in a new environment and loved interacting with the exhibits!