OPCH Federation Newsletter

Sep/Oct 2025

STRONGER TOGETHER

This has been the first half term of the federation between Children's House Nursery and Old Palace Primary School. The federation has allowed us to bring together the knowledge and expertise that both schools have gained through decades of serving the local community. This is an exciting time for both schools and we hope that you will enjoy reading about the learning that has taken place this half term.

Please also visit our new federation website OPCHfederation.co.uk for more information, including term dates and policies.

You can also view Old Palace year group pages HERE and follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

Since September, Children's House has welcomed 69 new children! A huge thank you to all our families for your support, patience, and trust during the settling in period. Your involvement has made a real difference, and we are pleased to share that all our new starters are now settled, happy, and fully engaged in their learning.

The first few weeks are always a big step for both children and families, and our team have worked together to create a warm, nurturing, and welcoming environment. From exploring new activities to making friends and learning routines, the children have embraced their new surroundings with curiosity and enthusiasm.

Throughout this term, your children have been involved in a wide range of exciting learning experiences, from creative play and sensory exploration to early literacy and numeracy activities. These experiences are designed to foster independence, confidence, and a love of learning.

Meanwhile, at Old Palace it has been a pleasure to welcome our new Reception pupils. The children have settled in very well and are enjoying their new classrooms and our large outdoor area. We appreciate that starting Reception is a big milestone for children

and parents alike, so we aim to make the transition as smooth as possible. In the first 7 weeks of school, staff have established routines and relationships with the children to make sure they feel happy, safe and secure in school. In addition, the teachers have completed the statutory Reception Baseline Assessment, which records the children's attainment and skills upon their entry to Reception. After half term we will be setting up your child's online journal on Tapestry, please look out for the activation email. This will allow you to view all the amazing work your child does in Reception, so be sure to sign up once you receive the email.

IMPORTANT DATES

AUTUMN HALF TERM

School finishes Friday 17th October 2025

Return to school Monday 3rd November 2025

END OF AUTUMN HALF TERM

School finishes Friday 19th December 2025

Return to school Tuesday 6th January 2026

SPRING HALF TERM

School finishes Friday 12th February 2026

Return to school Monday 23rd February 2026

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

OPCHfederation.co.uk

INTRODUCING…TUESDAY CLUB NIGHT

Next half term we will be expanding our after school clubs. For 5 weeks, we would like all Old Palace pupils to stay at school until **4pm on a Tuesday evening.**

From 3.15-4pm we will be running a series of free clubs, including cookery and arts clubs, which parents have been requesting. By holding all the clubs on the same evening, we hope to support parents, as they will not need to come back to collect the children later. Teachers have already talked to the children about which clubs they can join, so as long as parents are happy for them to stay until 4pm, the children will get to enjoy these activities. We are very grateful to the teachers and support staff for agreeing to run the clubs as this will allow the children to try a range of activities, which they do not normally get to try during the normal school day. If parents still wish to

collect their child/ren at 3.30pm this is fine, but we would like as many children as possible to stay until 4pm so they can benefit from these free activities. **The school will be open until 4pm for all pupils on Tuesday 11, 18, 25 November & 2, 9 December.** If this works well, we plan to repeat the clubs for 5 weeks in February/March and for 5 weeks in June/July.

We are also in talks with a local charity regarding running a **Saturday Morning Club** – we are hoping to confirm details after half term.

PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

COFFEE MORNINGS, WORKSHOPS & COURSES

With the start of the federation we have been able to extend the support we offer to include the families at Children's House. Each Tuesday, Forida has held a coffee morning at Children's House These sessions have been a fantastic opportunity for parents to find out about the learning their children are taking part in at nursery and to experience some of the activities first-hand. As well as having fun, parents have been able to take away practical ideas and tips to support their child's learning at home. Some of the sessions have included a Nature Walk, making playdough, tasting vegetables, and sharing stories. It has been great to meet new families as well as to see familiar faces from Old Palace. If you have not attended already, please come along next term!

Children's House families are very welcome to join the Thursday Coffee Morning at Old Palace.

This half they have included:

Board Games
Our first Coffee Morning of the term welcomed parents for a relaxed and friendly session of board games. These gatherings aim to encourage socialising, and for some, offer a supportive space to practise and build confidence in speaking English. This time, parents chose to play *Headbandz* and *Connect 4*, sparking plenty of fun, laughter, and conversation. It was also a great opportunity for everyone to catch up and share stories from the summer holidays.

Free School Meals
On 25th September, parents had the opportunity to learn more about applying for Free School Meals (FSM) and how it benefits both families and the school. Forida was on hand to offer support. Parents can check their eligibility by visiting the LBTH website HERE And entering their name and National Insurance details.

Minor Ailments and When to See a Pharmacist
On 16th October, we welcomed Dr Rebecca Scott, a GP and Clinical Lead from Bromley by Bow Health Centre, who joined us for an informative session on managing minor illnesses. She explained that many minor conditions can be safely and effectively managed by a pharmacist — saving time and often avoiding the need to book a GP appointment or take children out of school. If the pharmacist thinks a second opinion is necessary, they will advise parents to see their GP. Remember at Old Palace we are also able to administer non-prescription medication, as long as parents sign to provide their consent.

Parent Council
On **2nd October**, some of last year's Parent Councillors attended an Information Coffee Morning to speak with parents considering putting their names forward to become an Old Palace Parent Councillor for this academic year. They highlighted the positive impact the Parent Council had on improving the school and answered questions. If you were unable to attend but are interested in becoming a Parent Councillor, please speak to **Shelly** for more information and to register your interest.

Monday Walk & Talk Group
Join our friendly **Walking Group** every **Monday from 9:00 –10:30am** for a relaxed walk around the local area. The group is lead by Shelly, our Parent Support Worker, and offers a great opportunity to chat, connect with others, and enjoy some light exercise.

So far, we have explored beautiful routes by the canal side, Three Mills Park, and the Stratford area — discovering local sights and enjoying the fresh air together.
Why walking is good for us: Walking regularly is one of the simplest and most effective ways to improve both physical and mental health. It helps boost your mood, supports heart health, improves circulation, and can even enhance brain function. Being outdoors and socialising also benefits mental wellbeing.
If you'd like to join us, please meet at the **school gate at 9:00am**. Everyone is welcome!

Welcome Meetings: 4th–12th September
At the start of the academic year, Old Palace parents were invited to attend a *Welcome Meeting* for each year group. These sessions provided an opportunity to meet the year group leads, learn about the curriculum for the year ahead, and be reminded of key school expectations — including those related to homework, safeguarding, attendance, and behaviour.
Parents also received information about upcoming topics and any planned educational trips. The presentations delivered by the year leaders are available HERE
We believe that by working in partnership, we can support every pupil to achieve their full potential.

Meet the Professionals
On 24th September, we hosted a workshop to introduce some of the key professionals who work closely with Old Palace to support families and improve outcomes for our pupils.
Shanaz Choudhury, our School Social Worker, shared how she supports the school with safeguarding, as well as promoting the welfare and wellbeing of children. Her work focuses on improving outcomes for vulnerable pupils and their families. Shanaz also co-delivers parenting courses in partnership with our Parent Support Workers.

Year 6 Transition Information Workshop
On 22nd September, we held our Year 6 Transition Workshop led by Aleha Khanum from the LBTH. During the session, Aleha covered key topics including how to apply online, what to look for when visiting secondary schools, how places are allocated, notification dates, and the appeals process. She also provided important information for families of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), particularly those with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), as the application process for these pupils differs slightly. Following the workshop, Forida offered drop-in and 1:1 support sessions for parents who needed help completing the online application.

Reminder: The deadline to submit your online secondary school application is **Friday, 31st October**. Please ensure your application is completed and submitted by this date.

Celebrating Old Palace Parent Councillors

On Wednesday 1st October, we held a special whole-school assembly to recognise and thank last year's Par-

ent Councillors for their valuable contributions to school life. Mr Palmer presented them with a certificate.
Following the assembly, the councillors were treated to a lovely buffet arranged by Shelly as a token of our appreciation for their ongoing support and dedication.
We truly value the role of the Parent Council in strengthening parental engagement and helping to organise key community events – including our much-loved parent parties.

Speaking English with Confidence

This course runs every **Monday from 2:00–3:15pm** in the Community Room. Shelly facilitates the **SPEC (Speaking English with Confidence)** class. This is a supportive and friendly space where parents can practise their English and build their confidence in everyday communication. The parents attending are working hard to improve their language skills, grow in confidence, and many have also formed new friendships along the way.
If you would like to join the class, please speak to Shelly

ESOL Registration at School – Support for Parents

Representatives from the Idea Store visited our school on 9th & 16th October to support parents in registering for their **ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages)** courses. Parents who attended were guided through the registration process, followed by a short assessment to determine the most suitable ESOL course for their level.

Why learn English?

Improving your English can have a big impact on your daily life and your child's education. Benefits include:

- Helping with homework and understanding school communications
- Gaining confidence when speaking to teachers and attending school meetings
- Supporting your child's reading and learning at home
- Increasing access to work, volunteering, and training opportunities

This is a great opportunity to build your skills and feel more confident in supporting your child's education.

OLD PALACE AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

After School **Sports Clubs** will be held on Mon, Wed, Thurs and Friday next half term from 3.30-4.30pm. We will send out details of the clubs after half term, so parents can sign up their children in the normal way.

Parent Governor Vacancies

Now that Children House Nursery and Old Palace have entered a federation, one Governing Body will oversee both schools. On the board there will be three parent governors – two posts for parents of pupils at Old Palace and one post for a parent of a child at Children's House.

We are now looking for nominations for these posts Children's House Parents should make nominations HERE. Old Palace Parents should use this LINK
Nominations need to be received by **12pm on Wednesday 5th November 2025.**

If there are more nominations than vacancies, elections will be held the following week.

The Governing Body has an important role; it oversees the strategic development of the school to ensure that children have the best education possible. It decides how the budget is allocated, agrees the aims and school policies, makes plans for the future and ensures that decisions are followed through. Governors works as a team, in partnership with the executive headteacher and other stakeholders to promote continuous improvement. Full Governing Body Meetings are held once a term and governors are also expected to serve on a Committee, which also meet termly.

We look forward to receiving your nominations!

Flu Immunisation at Old Palace

Vaccination UK visited the school on Thursday 16th October to administer the annual free flu vaccines to all eligible children from reception to year 6. This year, the NHS offered gelatine free vaccination, which has been approved by the Muslim Council of Britain. If you haven't yet consented to the vaccination please click **HERE** to complete the form. The school nurses will be returning for the catch-up programme on **Wednesday 19th November**

Children's House parents should approach their GP regarding vaccination

Dates for your diary

Mondays will alternate between our popular **Walking Group** and a brand new **Dads' Badminton** session.

Come along for some fun, fitness, and a great chance to connect with other dads in the school community.
Walking 3rd,24th Nov, 8th Dec
Badminton, 10th Nov, 1st Dec, 15th Dec,

Monday 8th December
DLR trip with Parent Councillors & the Walk n Talk group
Thursday 06th November
Coffee Morning- General information/Board Games
Community Room
9-10:00am

Thursday Coffee Mornings
13th November: Early Help Services
20th November: Wellbeing/Emotions
27th November: Dads Only
4th December: Cost of Living
11th December: Christmas Card making

ONLINE SAFETY

Screen Time:
There is a big focus on screen time and it is something that is becoming a common worry for parents. It is important to think about what your children are doing online and when! You can use the control settings to monitor this. Controls for Apple devices can be found HERE
It is recommended that you follow the Children's Commissioner's 'Digital 5 A Day' and help your children aim for each of the targets in this pie chart. This campaign gives children and parents easy to follow, practical steps to achieve a healthy and balanced digital diet. You can also find more information on this via the following website: https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/digital/5-a-day/
As technology is constantly evolving and it is hard to keep on top of different trends, safety features and what is appropriate. Common Sense Media is a useful website that gives reviews and age rating on apps, tv, movies, games and podcasts so you can get an understanding of what your child is accessing online: https://www.commonsensemedia.org/.

HEALTHY EARLY YEARS LONDON AWARD

Exciting news - Children's House has signed up for the 'Healthy Early Years London' Award, Sam will be taking the lead on the programme.

What the awards focus on:

- Healthy eating and oral health
- Physical health and activity
- Early cognitive development
- Emotional wellbeing and mental health

This term we had a big focus on healthy eating, the children have been learning all about different vegetables through lots of fun activities. They explored a variety of vegetables by smelling, touching, and tasting them, and it was lovely to hear their conversations about the colours, shapes, and textures of each vegetable. The children had the opportunity to cut and prepare some vegetables themselves, learning which ones can be eaten raw and

which need to be cooked. It was wonderful to see many children trying raw vegetables for the first time! These activities encouraged curiosity, supported language as children described what they saw and felt, and helped them learn about healthy eating.
To achieve this award, we need your support in promoting healthy habits both at nursery and at home. You can help by bringing a healthy snack at pick up time, ensuring packed lunches follow our school policy click here, and encouraging children to walk or scoot to school. Walking and active travel are not only great for children's physical health, it also supports their independence, coordination, and confidence. Unless there are special circumstances, we kindly ask that buggies are not brought to school, so that children can enjoy the benefits of being active on their journey to nursery.

YEAR 6 CITIZENSHIP WORKSHOP

Our Year 6 pupils enjoyed an exciting and informative trip to Shadwell Fire Station. The children took part in a series of hands-on workshops covering fire safety, road safety, first aid, and drug awareness. They learned how to stay safe at home and in the community, and even practised what to do in an emergency if someone is injured. The firefighters were fantastic hosts, showing the pupils around the station and the equipment they use every day. Everyone came away with new knowledge, useful life skills, and a real appreciation for the work our local firefighters do to keep us safe.

EVERY DAY COUNTS! ATTENDANCE PUNCTUALITY

At Old Palace and Children's House every school day matters! Attending school regularly and arriving on time helps children stay confident, keep up with learning, and build habits for life.
We understand that sometimes children might not feel their best. For minor illnesses such as a blocked nose or mild cold, children are still able to come to school — often once they're here and engaged in the day, they start to feel much better. Leave during term time should only be taken in cases of emergency. If you are planning any leave, please complete an Extended Leave Application Form before your trip. You'll need to provide travel details and evidence of when the tickets were booked; if the travel was for medical reasons, please submit evidence of the medical appointment upon your return.
If pupils take a second period of unauthorized leave **within 3 years,** this will result in a penalty fine being automatically applied. To help children stay healthy and ready to learn, please make sure they are dressed appropriately for the weather — warm coats, hats, and waterproof shoes are especially important during the colder, wetter months.
Thank you for working with us to make sure our pupils are present, and ready for learning each day!

AFTER SCHOOL CARE

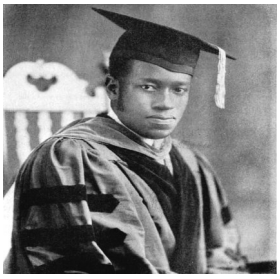
This half term we started to offer after school care until 5.45pm on Mon-Thurs.
The club takes place at Children's House and is open to all Old Palace pupils and Children's House pupils aged 3+
The club costs £8 per session, which includes a snack. Places need to be booked one week in advance.
At the moment we have a good numbers of pupils attending on Mondays and Tuesdays, but numbers are low on the other days, which means we are not covering staffing costs. Despite this, we will continue the club for the rest of the Autumn term, in the hope that numbers will increase. We know that for a small number of families this is an essential service, so we hope that it will be able to continue.
Old Palace host a **free Breakfast Club from 8.00-8.30 am everyday**. Pupils arriving between these times will be provided with a free breakfast and get to enjoy a range of activities.

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

This half term, the federation celebrated Black History Month. This year's theme is *'Standing Firm in Power and Pride.'*
At Children's House, the children enjoyed an exciting drumming workshop led by the IROKO Theatre Company. During the session, the children explored a variety of traditional African drums and rhythms and discovered how sounds can be created by tapping, patting, and striking the drums in different ways.
IROKO is a vibrant African arts and drumming company that brings music, rhythm, and storytelling to life through fun and interactive learning. The children were introduced to traditional African songs and rhythms, exploring different beats and sounds whilst developing their listening and coordination skills.

The IROKO team inspired creativity, confidence, and a love of rhythm in every child, making it a truly engaging and memorable experience!

Mean while at Old Palace, Year 1 & 4 explored Black Excellence in the Arts, studying figures like Aretha Franklin and Grace Nichols. Year 2 & 5 focused on Future in Focus, learning about pioneers such as Mae Jemison and Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson. Year 3 & 6 studied Pride and Power in Our Roots and Icons of Influence, highlighting Sojourner Truth and Doreen Lawrence. Pupils created poems, celebrating creativity, innovation, and leadership while gaining inspiration from these remarkable figures.
The children were given the opportunity to share their poems and these will be displayed in the school for everyone to enjoy.



In addition Year 5 pupils also took part 5 took part in the Black Heroes of Mathematics Youth Festival, marking 100 years since Dr Elbert Cox became the first Black person in the world to earn a PhD in Mathematics. The children joined a live online session with inspiring mathematicians Dr Nira Chamberlain and Elbert Lucien Cox Jr. Dr Chamberlain, one of the UK's leading mathematicians, shared how maths can solve real-world problems. Elbert Lucien Cox Jr told the story of his grandfather, Dr Elbert Cox, whose groundbreaking achievement in 1925 continues to inspire young mathematicians today.

CORE VALUE AWARD - OCTOBER 2025
The value of the month for October was **COLLABORATION**.
Congratulations to:

Reception:	**RK Aria** & **RN Sumaya**
Year 1:	**1B Dlovan** & **1C Aisha**
Year 2:	**2S Yamna** & **2T Adeeba**
Year 3:	**3E Eliza** & **3H Azlan**
Year 4:	**4M Zunairah** & **4O Aleena**
Year 5:	**5A Humaira** & **5H Aleshah**
Year 6:	**6D Sabrina** & **6K Fatima**

PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS

Across the federation we have been working hard to improve our playground spaces. At Children's House, the 2-year-old play area has been revamped! The developers of Stroudley Walk, McAleer & Rushe, worked closely with our nursery team to create an even more engaging and inspiring space for our youngest learners.

The play area now features a new sandpit and beautiful planters, they also kindly donated a selection of fun sand toys for the children. These new areas have already sparked curiosity among our young explorers, providing endless opportunities for play and learning.

We would like to say a huge thank you to Leanne, Mark, Blain and the wider team from McAleer & Rushe for their kindness, hard work, and commitment to supporting our nursery community. Their contribution has made a wonderful difference to the children's outdoor play and learning experiences.

Meanwhile, at Old Palace we have been improving our Key Stage 1 playground. The playground is zoned into different areas, which allow us to provide a range of activities over the lunchtime break. We have added a cycle track for balance bikes and scooters and added a wobble bridge, a tunnel and a slide to further support the children's gross motor skills and risk taking.
More work is due to take place over the half term. This will include adding a new pergola and additional planting beds next the grassed zone. This will provide added shade in the summer, over the picnic tables where the children like to read and draw. We are also adding a messy play area next to the gate into the Key Stage 2 playground. This will include a mud kitchen, water play equipment and a digging area. Play is an important part of learning for our younger pupils, so providing this area will further support the children's curiosity and exploration, helping to support their communication skills and their mathematical and scientific understanding.

CHILDREN'S HOUSE VISIT VICTORIA PARK

Children's House friends went on a trip to Victoria park to explore seasonal changes, with an emphasis on Autumn and interactions with children. Parents had a wonderful time with their children, engaging in activities together. They explored the natural environment, took part in a nature hunt, created beautiful pictures using natural materials and collected natural treasure such as sticks, leaves, seeds, twigs to show their friends at school. Nature play is one of the best kinds of open-ended play available to children.

YEAR 1 VISIT THE MUSEUM OF HOME

Year 1 had a fantastic trip to the Museum of the Home, exploring how houses and everyday life have changed over the centuries. They stepped into rooms from the 1600s all the way to modern times, marveling at the different furniture, decorations, and ways people lived. The children were full of questions and loved comparing the homes of the past with the ones they know today. It was a fun and inspiring experience that really brought history to life for them, sparking curiosity and lots of conversation!

YEAR 4 THE TATE MODERN TRIP

To consolidate their learning in Geography, year 4 visited the Tate Modern. They explored the work of European artists and observed a variety of artworks, including work by French painter Henri Matisse. The children worked in pairs to answer questions, discussing the techniques used by the artists and how the pieces made them feel. They had a fantastic afternoon, opening their eyes and minds to the wonderful European art we have here in London!

YEAR 6 VISIT THE DOCKLANDS MUSEUM

Year 6 visited the Docklands Museum to support their learning about the Industrial Revolution. The children explored some of the galleries, deepening their learning from some of our topic sessions, including walking through Sailor Town to experience what the gloomy cobbled streets were like. The children then took part in a workshop where they investigated a variety of artefacts from life in the docks during the Victorian times. The children discussed what these could have been, what they were used for and matched them to the modern day items. It was a brilliant and educational trip!

YEAR 2 TEMPLE TRIP

Year 2 enjoyed an exciting visit to a local temple, exploring how people pray and the role of temples in daily life. They admired the colourful decorations and observed fascinating rituals, making connections to their classroom learning about temples and prayer. Year 2 will be performing the Diwali Festival Assembly on Wednesday 12th November when they will share what they learned on the trip about Diwali and how it is celebrated.

YEAR 3 VISIT THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

This half-term, the children visited the Natural History Museum, as part of their Topic learning about Dinosaurs and Rocks. They took part in a Dino Dig workshop, where they collaborated in groups to dig and identify bones of different dinosaurs. In addition, the children explored many of the museum's galleries, including mammals, minibeasts, dinosaurs and fossils. During which, they saw skeletons of different animals and ancient fossils. The children most enjoyed seeing a life-like T-Rex, especially when it gave a loud ROARRR!

YEAR 5 VISIT DOCKLANDS PADEL

Year 5 had an exciting trip to Canary Wharf where they tried their hand at Padel for the first time! The children thoroughly enjoyed learning the rules of this fast-paced sport and showed great teamwork and enthusiasm on the court. It was a fantastic opportunity to develop new skills, stay active and have fun together in a new environment. Padel also helped the children improve their hand-eye coordination, as they practised quick reactions and ball control.

YEAR 4 VISIT WANSTEAD FIELDS

For their Make it Real Project, Year 4 set off on a geography field trip around Wanstead. The children navigated their way through the local area, using compass directions to work out which way they were heading and identifying key locations along the route.

In class the children had been learning how to use Ordnance Survey maps, so this trip provided a fantastic opportunity for Year 4 to apply their mapping skills in a real life setting.

RECEPTION LOCAL WALK TRIP

As part of our first trip in Reception, we took a local walk to explore and learn about various places within our community. During the walk, we discovered key local landmarks including Bow Church, several local shops and market stalls and also a busy construction site. Children demonstrated excellent awareness of road safety, carefully using zebra crossings under adult supervision. The walk continued through Bobs Park and the communal garden, where the children were able to appreciate natural surroundings and reflect on how these spaces contribute to the local area.
During our walk, we made connections to our reading by comparing what we saw with the story *"Baby Goes to Market".* Just like Baby and Mama in the book, we spotted some of the same items they found, such as oil, bananas and oranges! It was exciting to bring the story to life and see how our own local market had similarities to the one in the book. This trip helped us learn more about the area we live in and appreciate the different places that make up our community.

EARLY WORDS TOGETHER

On Wednesday 15th October, we were delighted to start our Early Words Together Sessions at Children's House. This exciting six-week programme is an opportunity for parents and carers to take part in hands on learning experiences with their children, supporting the development of early communication, language, and literacy skills. The programme is led by our trained Early Literacy Champions, and offers families a range of practical ideas and fun activities to help them enjoy stories, songs, and conversations together at home. These shared experiences not only help children to build confidence in listening, speaking, and early reading, but also empower parents and carers with strategies to make everyday moments more language-rich and fun. For our first session the story was 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt', which we brought to life with a wonderful session in the park! The children and their parents joined in with the actions 'swishy-swashing through the grass'.

STAR CITIZEN—AUTUMN A 2025

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:	**RK Amayah** & **RN Layla**
Year 1:	**1B Wasima** & **1C Ahnaf**
Year 2:	**2S Safa** & **2T Eliza**
Year 3:	**3E Saifan** & **3H Hilary**
Year 4:	**4M Sureya** & **4O Aydaan**
Year 5:	**5A Arithik** & **5H Kiaan**
Year 6:	**6D Zohha** & **6K Ruqayyah**

CITY HARVEST FOOD DRIVE

From October 1st to October 16th, Old Palace and Children's House came together to support the annual Food Drive for City Harvest London. This is an incredible charity that helps people and families across the city who are struggling to access food. Each month, they provide more than 1.3 million meals to those in need — a staggering number only made possible through the generosity of communities like ours.
At Children's House, our families were very generous bringing in lots of food to support less fortunate families
At Old Palace the School Council took a leading role. Pupils from every year group rolled up their sleeves and took part in a friendly competition to see which year group could bring in the most donations of long-life food. The spirit of giving spread quickly, and soon our collection tables were overflowing with tins, packets, and boxes — a wonderful sight to see!
By the end of the drive, we had gathered an amazing 443 donations for City Harvest London. It was a close race, but in the end, the winning year group was year 4 with 104 donations.

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed. Your kindness and teamwork will make a real difference to families across London this autumn.

KS2 MATHS IN THE REAL WORLD ASSEMBLY,

This half term, KS2 were treated to a special visit from Nabila Kauser, an auditor from EY, who came to share her inspiring story about how maths has shaped her life.
Nabila told the children that, even though she sometimes found maths tricky when she was younger, her teachers helped her see just how important it is in everyday life. Over time, she began to enjoy the challenge of maths and discovered how fascinating it can be to explore the stories that numbers tell.

She described her job as being like a "number detective" — using maths to check that the stories businesses tell through their numbers, add up correctly. The children were fascinated to hear how she uses maths every single day, not just at work but in her daily life too — from budgeting and shopping to keeping on time and finding directions.
Our KS2 pupils asked thoughtful questions and shared how they use maths in their own lives. It was a truly inspiring assembly, showing our children that maths isn't just about numbers on a page — it's a skill that helps us make sense of the world around us.