OPCH Federation Newsletter

March 2026

CELEBRATING EASTER FESTIVAL

Year 5 pupils took to the stage to deliver a dramatic retelling of the Easter story. From the joyful streets of Jerusalem to the quiet reflection of the empty tomb, the children captivated their audience with a performance that combined historical learning with powerful storytelling. It was wonderful to see the children apply their speaking and listening skills so confidently. Their ability to convey complex emotions—from the anger of the priests to the confusion of the disciples—showed a deep understanding of this significant religious event. A huge thank you to all the parents who attended and to the Year 5 team for their hard work in rehearsing such a polished and professional production. As part of their preparation for their festival assembly the Year 5 children visited Bow Baptist Church. Whilst there, they participated in the 'Easter experience' where they took part in an interactive exploration of what the Bible says about Easter, to support their R.E. learning. They then looked at features of a Church and their purpose and symbolism. We would like to thank the Church for allowing the children to visit and to deepen their understanding of what Easter means for Christians around the world. We would like to thank all the staff who donated an Easter Egg to our annual Easter Raffle. In total we had 51 Easter Eggs waiting to be won during the Friday raffle draw. Congratulations to the winners and a big thank you to all the children who purchased raffle tickets, by doing so they helped to support our school fund. For those celebrating, have a Happy Easter!

Easter Bonnet Parade

Children from Reception and Children's House proudly designed and created their own beautiful Easter bonnets at home. From bright spring flowers and fluffy chicks to chocolate eggs and bunny ears, each hat was unique and full of imagination. Each parade was an exciting event, with children walking confidently and showcasing their fantastic creations to their friends, teachers, and families. Everyone clapped and cheered for all the wonderful hats while the children performed Easter songs. Congratulations to the winners and a huge thank you to all the families who supported their children in making such amazing bonnets.

IMPORTANT DATES

END OF SPRING HALF TERM

School finishes Friday 27th March 2026

Return to school Monday 13th April 2026

MAY BANK HOLIDAY

Monday 4th May 2026

SUMMER HALF TERM

School finishes Friday 22nd May 2026

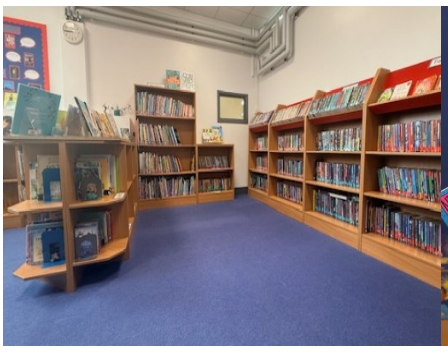
Return to school Monday 1st June 2026

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

OPCHfederation.co.uk

LIBRARY OPENING

Our school now has a wonderful new library right in the middle of the building! The old library had to close to make space for our ARC SEND provision, but we were determined not to lose our library. Therefore a new space was found and Miss Rahela, together with Ms Davies and our Reading Ambassadors worked incredibly hard to set this up and organise all the books into easy-to-find categories. The official opening took place on March 17th and we were lucky to be joined by award winning children's author Chitra Soundar who officially cut the ribbon. Chitra spoke to the children about the many books she has written including the 'Nikhil & Jay' stories which are now a BBC series. We are so grateful to everyone who helped create this special space and look forward to it providing may years of reading pleasure.



EID CELEBRATIONS

Eid is a special and joyful celebration for many Muslim families around the world. It marks the end of Ramadan, a time for reflection, kindness, and helping others. On 18th March, our Reception children proudly performed a fantastic Eid assembly for the whole school. They spoke beautifully about the importance of Ramadan and confidently explained the Five Pillars of Islam. The children also shared their learning about other festivals from around the world, including Holi, Sukkot, Vaisakhi, St Patrick's Day, and Raksha Bandhan; celebrating the rich diversity within our community.

On Monday 23rd March, both schools held Eid Parties for their pupils. The children were excited to talk about their Eid celebrations and the family members they had been visiting over the weekend. It was lovely to hear them

share their experiences and excitement with their friends. The children had fun playing party games and dancing, and were treated to lots of delicious party food. It was a wonderful afternoon full of laughter and joy.

At 2pm, parents from both schools gathered in the lower hall at Old Palace for the Parents' Party. We provided catering from Stroudley Grill, including a range of delicious, authentic Bangladeshi dishes. This was supplemented by donations from the community, for which we are very thankful. It was a truly memorable celebration that brought our school community together.

BOOK WEEK CELEBRATIONS

We had great fun celebrating World Book Day this year. At Children's house, we provided a range of activities:

- an author visit by Marissa Webb, who shared her book, 'Hide and Seek'.
- A book sale
- And an opportunity for parents to stay and share a book with the children

Meanwhile at Old Palace, the theme was *"If you're into it, read into it"* encouraging the children to extend their reading by choosing to read books and online articles related to their interests and hobbies. Alongside this, the children also immersed themselves in the work of specific authors, such as Natalie Shireen and Phillip Pullman becoming "book detectives" In addition to lessons, we also provided a range of interactive events that brought the school community together:

- Bedtime Stories: Our Reception and Year 1 children returned to school in their pyjamas with their favorite soft toys. They gathered in small groups with staff to enjoy cozy tales, blankets, milk, and biscuits
- Reading Breakfasts: Our Key Stage 2 families were invited to two "Reading Breakfasts" from 8:00 am to 8:30 am, where parents and carers joined their children to share a book while enjoying a free breakfast
- Book Fair: Each year group was given a time to visit the book fair. In total our eager young readers spent over £800 on new books
- Author Visits: We were thrilled to welcome author Marissa Webb, who visited our Reception and Year 1 and Chitra Soundar Who visited Year 4. Meanwhile, Year 2 and Year 5 took exciting trips to Whitechapel Town Hall to meet authors Nicola Slater and Max Evans.

At both schools the week culminated in a spectacular Dress Up Day on Friday. It was wonderful to see all the children (and the staff!) dressed up as their favourite book characters. It was a wonderful way to celebrate our love of reading. We are already counting down the days until next year!

FREE CLUB NIGHT RETURNS

From 23rd April, Old Palace will again be providing free after school clubs. This time the club will take place on a Thursday, so all part-time staff get a chance to be involved. **The clubs will take place for 5 weeks on 23rd & 30th April & 7th, 14th & 21st May.** We hope that as many children as possible will be able to stay until 4pm, so that they get to take part. Children not participating can still be collected at 3.30pm. We will share more details in our year group newsletters after Easter.

YEAR 3 & 4 FOOTBALL TEAM UPDATE

Massive well done to the year 3&4 gifted and talented footballers who were selected to potentially represent Old Palace at future football tournaments. They turned up consistently, were excellent throughout our training sessions and showed much growth and understanding that we hope to build on and showcase when representing the school in the future.

YEAR 1 FARMERS MARKET

Year 1 recently hosted a successful farmers market where they sold homemade naan bread, fruit salad, and salad plates to parents. The children were actively involved in preparing the food, washing and chopping ingredients, and decorating the stalls with colourful signs. They confidently interacted with parents, explaining their work and handling money during the event. The children took great pride in their efforts, making the experience both enjoyable and rewarding for everyone.

YEAR 3 & 4 SINGING WORKSHOP

This half term, Year 3 and 4 took part in a singing workshop led by six singers from the BBC. As well as performing, they also encouraged the children to join in and sing along, and provided a chance for the children to ask questions. The children particularly enjoyed singing a fruit themed song, which involved them demonstrating a variety of actions. The musical inspiration didn't stop there, as later in the half term, the year 3 children delivered an African drumming performance to their parents. This was a fantastic opportunity for the children to showcase the amazing skills they had learnt in their music lessons this term. The audience was very impressed!

KEEPING THE SCHOOL UPDATED

Please remember, it is your responsibility to keep the school updated if you change your contact details, move address, change mobile phone number or email address.

Please email the change to:
admin@oldpalace.towerhamlets.sch.uk or
admin@childrenshouse.towerhamlets.sch.uk

PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

COFFEE MORNINGS, WORKSHOPS & COURSES

Coffee Morning: Book Week

On 26th February, Forida hosted a coffee morning to discuss Book Week. It provided a valuable opportunity to share additional information on the activities, to discuss ideas for custume making and to answer any questions parents the parents had. Thank you to everyone who attended.

Coffee Morning: Express and Manage Feelings

On 5th March, we discussed the importance of expressing and managing feelings. Children may not know what their feelings are or how to express them. It is the parents role to help them explore and understand their feelings. We need to teach our children that feeling are helpful, fear tells us we need to be alert sadness tells us we are feeling a loss of something, disgust tells us to reject something, joy tells us something feels right and anger tells us something doesn't feel right or fair. We received great feedback on the session, which helped some parents to see emotions/feelings in another light.

Coffee Morning: Healthy Eating

On 12th March, we held a coffee morning featuring guest speaker Halima Begum from the Parent & Family Support Practitioner Team, who shared information on 'Healthy Celebration Foods'. During the session, parents explored healthier food choices for Sehri, Iftar, and Eid, along with practical ways to make traditional celebration dishes healthier by adapting ingredients and cooking methods. The session was both informative and engaging, and parents shared that they found it very useful.

Coffee Morning: Making Eid cards

On 19th March, Forida facilitated an Eid card-making session for parents. The morning provided a warm and welcoming space where parents shared their Ramadan experiences, as well as their plans for Eid, including preparations, clothing, and gifts for their children. Some parents reflected on how they miss the vibrant atmosphere of Eid celebrations in Bangladesh, where large gatherings are common, and spoke about how celebrations in London can feel smaller in comparison. These shared memories sparked meaningful conversations and connections among the group. Parents thoroughly enjoyed the card-making activity, finding it both creative and therapeutic, while also valuing the opportunity to connect with others who share similar experiences.

Coffee Morning: African Families

On 26th March, African families were invited to a coffee morning, providing a valuable opportunity to connect with others from their community. The session aimed to create a sense of belonging, helping to ensure that families do not feel isolated.
It was a wonderful way to bring families together, share experiences, and build supportive relationships within the school community. Parents also had the chance to learn about local services, stay informed about upcoming events and explore ways to get more involved.

Y6 SATs Workshop & CGP books

Year 6 parents were invited to attend a helpful SATs workshop designed to support them in preparing their children for the upcoming tests. During the session, parents were given an overview of key topics in English and Maths, explored examples of exam-style questions, and learned useful strategies to help their children revise effectively at home. The workshop also provided parents with the opportunity to ask questions and gain a clearer understanding of the SATs process, as well as to purchase discounted CGP revision books. Thank you to all who attended.

Children's House

Children's House parents are encouraged to come along to the events held at Old Palace. Events were also provided at Children's House to support the learning this half term:

Cityscape Collage Workshop

On 4th March, Shazna led a session focused on the local area. Parents discussed local amenities and their importance, such as doctors, parks and shops. Following this, parents and children worked together to create a cityscape of the local area. During the activity, there was a strong emphasis on supporting children's creativity and developing their fine motor skills through the use of a range of resources. It was lovely to see parents and children working together so enthusiastically and enjoying the activity.

Developing Fine Motor Skills Through Creativity

On 18th March, we held a parent workshop focused on the importance of developing fine motor skills through a range of different activities. We discussed how fine motor development helps to build muscle strength, control and dexterity, which are all important foundations for later writing. Parents and children then enjoyed making Eid cards, decorations and other creative models using a variety of materials and tools. Parents were encouraged to support their child with skills such as using scissors, handling ribbons and manipulating different resources. The workshop also highlighted ways families can continue supporting learning at home through simple creative activities.

Forida and Shelly are very experience at supporting families. This support can be provided 1to1 or delivered through some of the parenting and English classes we offer at Old Palace. They are also very knowledgeable about services in Tower Hamlets and how to access these. If you need support, please speak to Forida who is available at 9am at Children's House or Shelly who is there at lunchtimes. We all need support from time to time—so please reach out.

Digital IT Course

The school hosted a two month 'Connected Live Digital Inclusion project, run by the Bromely by Bow Centre. Our parents were fully engaged in the course, which involved signing up to the online portal 'learn my way'. As a result of the course they now have a better understanding of their digital devices and have signed up to use useful content, such as the NHS app. As part of the program the parents who attended the classes were loaned a brand-new Samsung tablet which also came with sim card that offered free data and calls for the next 6 months. Thank you to all the parents who attended all the session. We hope to be able to offer the course again in the future.

Oracy Workshop

Ms Hantar delivered an oracy workshop for Reception to Year 3 parents, where she explained the importance of oracy and how it supports children's communication, confidence and overall learning. During the session, parents were introduced to strategies to help their children speak more clearly and confidently. The discussion gestures and sentence starters used in school were shared and Ms Hantar highlighted the importance of reading to develop a rich vocabulary. Parents had the opportunity to apply some of these strategies themselves by participating in paired and small group discussions. The workshop also introduced a range of activities and resources (from the Old Palace website) which can be used at home to further develop children's speaking skills. At the end of the session, parents were invited to take home a pack of resources to support their children's oracy development.

SPEC

Every **Monday from 2:15–3:15pm**, 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.

ESOL

Jonathan Farningham, from the Idea Store, will continue to deliver the 'Family Introduction to ESOL' course to help develop confidence when speaking English in daily life. Parents get the chance to practice their writing skills, including improving their grammar and spelling. Classes take place every **Thursday from 13:30 to 15:30** at Old Palace. If you are interested in taking part, please speak to Shelly/Forida

Health & Wellbeing Update

Our Health & Wellbeing Group is currently running on a three-week rotation:

- Week 1: Walking Group
- Week 2: Mums' Badminton
- Week 3: Dads' Badminton

The aim of the group is to support fitness and overall wellbeing, while also bringing our school community together in a positive and enjoyable way. If you've not attended already—please come along and get involved.

Dates for your diary

- **Enroll for: ESOL & Digital Course 4 Weeks** Starting Tuesday 21st April 2026
- **Enroll for: Parenting Course 3 Weeks** Starting Wednesday 22nd April 2026
- **Parents trip—Venue TBC** Monday 4th May 2026

LOCAL GP MESSAGE

Vaccines are the most effective way to prevent many infectious diseases. Protecting yourself not only keeps you safe but also helps protect your family, friends, and wider community. Dr. Beccy Scott from the Bromley By Bow Centre has recently contacted the school with concerns about **measles** and **mumps**. These diseases are starting to reappear with cases on the rise in Tower Hamlets. The MMR vaccine is the best protection against both measles and mumps. Make sure your child is fully vaccinated to reduce their risk and help prevent outbreaks. You can watch Dr Scott's informative video about the MMR vaccine HERE

Recently meningitis has been in the news. The overall risk to people outside the Kent area remains low. For more information on meningitis and preventive measures, please click HERE

CORE VALUE AWARD - March 2026

The value of the month for February was **COURAGE**. Congratulations to:

Reception:	**RK Abdul** & **RN Uthman**
Year 1:	**1B Sara** & **1C Nahyaan**
Year 2:	**2S** Ehaan & **2T Ayrah**
Year 3:	**3E Salah** & **3H Najma**
Year 4:	**4M Amima** & **4O Ayaana**
Year 5:	**5A Yunus** & **5H Ibrahim**
Year 6:	**6D Yaqub** & **6K Sumaya**

HOLIDAY ACTIVIES AT OLD PALACE

We are pleased to inform you that, in collaboration with We Are Bow, we will be hosting Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF club) during the Easter holidays.

To be eligible for the HAF programme, families must be in receipt of benefit-related Free School Meals. You can check your eligibility using the relevant link provided by the school HERE.

Families not in receipt of FSM may also apply, but will only be contacted if we have any spaces left .

To register your child, please click HERE and select WE ARE BOW OLD PALACE

Programme Details:
Dates: Monday 30th March 2026 – Thursday 2nd April and Tuesday 7th—Friday 10th April
Time: 9:30am – 1:30pm
Location: Old Palace Primary School
Meals: A healthy lunch will be provided each day
Please note: by signing up you are committing to send you child on the selected day/s. If your child fails to attend, they are taking up a place which could have been offered to another family.

OUR LOCAL AREA AND PEOPLE WHO HELP US

This term at nursery, our learning has been focused on 'Our Local Area' and People Who Help Us. We began the topic by going on local walks and having discussions about the different landmarks and places in our community. These experiences helped the children to become more familiar with their surroundings and encouraged them to talk about places they know and visit with their families such as the local park, doctors, shops and schools.

Our first trip was to Tesco, which inspired great excitement among the children. During the visit, the children explored the aisles with their friends, looked carefully at the different items available and chose what they would like to buy to help set up our own Children's House Mini Market. They were especially interested in using the checkouts just like grown ups, which helped them to develop their understanding of real-life experiences through play.

Back at nursery, this interest continued as the children helped to create and use our mini market in the role play area. Through this, they developed their communication and language skills, shared resources with their friends and extended their imaginative play. The topic has provided many meaningful opportunities for children to learn more about their local community and the important people who help us in our everyday lives**.**

CITYSCAPE COLLAGE

Using the story 'Maisy Goes to the City' as our starting point, we talked with the children about what a city is and where we live. These discussions were supported by our local walks, where the children were able to look closely at the buildings and features in the area around them.

The children worked creatively to make a cityscape collage using a range of coloured paper and materials. They enjoyed cutting out different shapes and using them to create buildings like the ones they see around them every day. The children carefully added details such as windows, doors and house numbers, and some friends even drew themselves inside their homes.

It was lovely to see the children using their imagination and creativity while talking about their own homes and local environment. The activity also gave them a chance to explore shape, colour and design in a meaningful and enjoyable way.

VISIT TO IDEA STORE, CHRISP STREET

As part of our learning about the local area, Nursery visited the Idea Store in Chrisp Street to help children gain a better understanding of what a library is and what people do there. The visit gave children the opportunity to look at a variety of books and experience the enjoyment of sharing stories together. The visit also encouraged parents to register with the library and make use of this valuable local resource with their children. Promoting a love of books and reading is an important part of children's early learning, and visiting the library helps families to continue this at home and in the community.

VISIT FROM THE DENTIST

As part of our People Who Help Us topic, the children have been learning about dentists and the important role they play in helping us to keep our teeth healthy. The children talked about how to care for their teeth, discussed cavities and sorted foods into healthy and unhealthy choices.

They also enjoyed using a large model of teeth to practise brushing and learned more about how dentists help us to look after our teeth. As part of this work, our dentist visited nursery to carry out the fluoride varnish coating. Before the visit, the children took part in a range of preparation activities to help them understand what would happen and to make the experience feel familiar and reassuring. This helped the children to feel more confident and gave them a better understanding of how dentists help us to stay healthy.

OUR YOUNGEST LEARNERS

Our youngest learners in the two-year-old class also enjoyed local walks, where they were encouraged to notice what they could see and hear around them. They began to recognise familiar features in the environment and used simple words such as "car," "tree," "house" and "park" to describe what they noticed. During their visit to Bob's Park, the children showed a great interest in the flowers and flower beds, looking carefully at the different plants and learning to treat them gently and with care.

Later in the term, our 2 year old friends helped to set up the shopping stall in their class by sorting different vegetables into baskets. They enjoyed using the till and shopping baskets in their role-play, which supported turn-taking, sharing and helped to build their vocabulary. It was lovely to see the children growing in confidence as they talked about the food items in the shop and engaged in familiar real-life experiences through play.

This role-play then linked beautifully to our pizza-making activity, where the children used vegetables they had "bought" from the Children's House shop to make their own pizzas. They learned the names of different ingredients, practised holding a knife carefully to cut the vegetables and spread tomato purée onto their tortillas. The children then chose their own toppings, following simple instructions and talking about what they were doing. This gave them opportunities to use language such as "more" and "less" while building their confidence and independence.

The children also had fun making salt dough, using a recipe card to help them. They created their own fruit and vegetable models inspired by the class shop. The children enjoyed rolling, squeezing, kneading and mixing the dough while talking about what they were making. Great job!

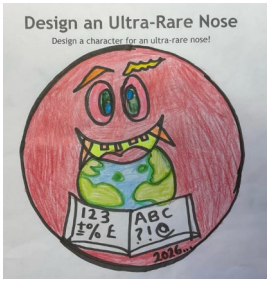
ONLINE SAFETY

As we head into the school break, we know many children will be looking forward to extra time on digital devices. To keep the holidays fun and stress-free, we encourage families to have a quick "digital check-in" before the term ends. Remind your children to keep personal information—like their full name, school, or home address—private, and to always check with an adult before downloading new apps or joining new platforms. Keep devices in a public space in the home, so content and conversation can be regularly monitored. Discourage children from using headsets or ear pods, which prevent you from hearing their conversations online.

Most importantly, encourage them to follow the **"Speak Up"** rule: if they see something that feels strange, mean, or uncomfortable, they should come and tell you straight away without fear of getting in trouble. A healthy balance of screen time and "green time" ensures everyone returns to school refreshed and ready to learn! It is recommended that children under 5 only have up to one hour day of screen-time a day. We have noticed an increase in children using 'chat groups' to keep in touch with their friends online. It is really important that these are regularly monitored as things can escalate very quickly, especially with the use of inappropriate language.
https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/have-a-conversation/ discuss how to approach your child about their online activity and keeping the conversations going.

MOTHERS DAY CELEBRATION

We had a wonderful time celebrating Mother's Day in Nursery and Reception. We welcoming mothers, grandmothers, aunties, and other special family members to join us for these memorable occasions. At Old Palace, indoors, there was plenty of creativity with biscuit decorating, henna application, nail painting, card making, and arts and crafts. Children and their families also enjoyed making flower bouquets and taking part in planting activities, creating special keepsakes to take home. Outdoors, the fun continued with laughter-filled games such as the egg-and-spoon race and the three-legged race. The children also had great fun playing with the parachute and making giant bubbles, adding to the joyful atmosphere. A special highlight of the celebration was when the Reception children proudly performed their Mother's Day poem, which they had been practising so carefully. It was a lovely moment that made everyone feel incredibly proud. The day was filled with excitement, laughter, and special memories for both the children and their families. A huge thank you to everyone who took the time to join us and for being such great sports. It was truly a memorable celebration, and we hope you all had a wonderful time.



RED NOSE DAY

We were delighted to take part in Red Nose Day this year and would like to thank everyone for their generous donations. Throughout the week, we raised money by selling Red Nose Day merchandise, including red noses and pin badges. It was wonderful to see so many children getting involved and taking part. We also held a Red Nose Design competition, where pupils had the chance to get creative and design their own red noses. The school council had a very difficult task choosing the winners. Finally a non-uniform day was held on Friday 27th March, the culmination of our fund raising efforts. We are very grateful for the enthusiasm and generosity shown by our school community. Once all donations have been counted, we will be excited to share the total amount raised. Thank you, as always, for your support.

YEAR 5 NEWSPAPER DAY

Old Palace News

The Big Battle Of Hastings

By Inaaya, Royal Reporter

In 1066,at the Battle of Hastings ,King Edward death set off a fierce conflict for the English throne. When he died (15 January 1066), he left no heir which meant he had nobody to pass his throne. The Battle of Hasting started in England. The reason why the Battle of Hasting started was because of King William of Normandy and King Harald Haralda who wanted to be King. So they both decided to start a Battle which is famous for the Battle of Hastings.

Harold's army was tired, exhausted and weak. While Harold was facing south king William was just crossing the English channel. King William's army was better prepared and had better weapons. The war was long, loud and very violent. Everyone knew that there could only be one King. Everybody knew thet there were going to be new laws, language and the way of life

The people of England did not accept king William because he was a Norman ruler. King William decided to build many castles around England for protection. An Anglo Saxon warrior reported that we all shall live in peace. Will people enjoy England now?

King Edward died 5th January 1066. He had no heir to his legacy. 3 powerful men wanted to be King which caused a big fight between them. Their names were Harold, William and Harald Haralda . King William thought that King Edward promised that he would be King. So far King Harold Godwinson was King of England for the time being until Harald Hardrada attacked the King of England. Sadly Hardrada died and lost the war. After that Harold faced the south of England .

Year 5 recently participated in an exhilarating Newspaper Day, where the children were transformed into professional journalists, reporting on the historic Battle of Hastings in 1066. We were honored to welcome members of the First News team, who provided invaluable real-world insights into the fast-paced world of journalism. After learning about essential features like headlines, bylines, and standfirsts, the children came to school dressed for the part and used Chromebooks to publish their own articles. The visitors from First News supported the pupils with expert advice on page layout and engagement, while their fascinating presentation on the editing and publishing process sparked a wave of inspiration, perfectly bridging the gap between 11th-century history and modern-day media.

NURSERY VISIT TO THE YOUNG V&A

The parents and children had a wonderful visit to the V&A Museum on 26th March, where they enjoyed exploring the different interactive exhibitions together. The children particularly enjoyed visiting the theatre area, where they had the opportunity to dress up and perform on stage for their friends. They also had great fun in the building zone, using their imagination and construction skills to create different models with the foam blocks. Parents enjoyed looking at the collection of toys from different time periods and discussing how childhood has changed over the years.

NURSERY LOCAL WALKS

This term, we enjoyed several local walks to explore our surroundings and observe the environment around us. During these walks, the children took part in a shape hunt, spotting both large shapes in buildings and smaller shapes on pavements, signs, and walls. This helped develop their observation skills and awareness of shapes in everyday life. We also visited a nearby construction site, which linked to the children's interests. They were fascinated watching builders at work, using both large machinery and smaller tools. Seeing the excavator and digger in action sparked lots of excitement and conversation. Back at nursery, the children used community blocks to recreate their local area, building shops, cafés, and other familiar places. They also enjoyed role-playing as builders, wearing hard hats and working together to construct their own buildings, making meaningful connections between their outdoor experiences and indoor

YEAR 1 SURRY DOCK FARM

Year 1 had a fantastic trip to Surrey Docks Farm, where they learned about farm animals, plants, and vegetables. They joined a workshop on how plants grow, explored different seeds, and labelled plant parts. Each child planted cress seeds to take back home where they can continue to grow. They also discovered how fruits and vegetables are grown and harvested. The highlight was meeting the farm animals, learning about their diets and homes, and even getting to feed them! It was a fun, hands-on learning experience that brought their classroom lessons to life.

YEAR 2 HYDE PARK DISCOVERY CENTRE

Our Year 2 explorers recently traded the classroom for the Hyde Park Discovery Centre, bringing our "Plants and Living Things" unit to life. From the thrill of pond dipping for water boatmen to hunting for "nature's recyclers" during a minibeast safari, the children displayed fantastic scientific inquiry and observation skills. Back at Old Palace, the children used these hands-on experiences to inspire their creative recounts. It was a wonderful day of discovery that truly highlighted the importance of London's green spaces!

YEAR 4 VISIT SOANES CENTRE

Year 4 had an exciting visit to the Soanes Centre as part of their 'Nature Around Us' topic. During their trip, they explored a range of habitats, including woodlands and grasslands, and applied their classroom learning to identify different leaves and plants. They also enjoyed pond dipping, where they discovered a variety of organisms and used identification keys to classify them. The visit brought their learning to life and supported their understanding back at school. This was especially evident during their local area walk, where pupils confidently identified features such as deciduous and coniferous trees/leaves, different habitats, and a range of living organisms.

YEAR 3 VISIT EYNSFORD VILLIAGE

As part of their Geography topic, 'Rivers & Settlements', the Year 3 children visited the village of Eynsford in Kent. The village is a five-time winner of the Best Kept Village Award and the South East in Bloom competition.
The children began their trip at the River Darent, where they observed key features such as the river banks, river bed, and floodplain. They then visited the ruins of Eynsford Castle, a Norman castle, where they learned about its history.
The highlight of the day for many was visiting Anthony Roper Primary School. There, they exchanged local area posters, discussed urban and rural differences, and enjoyed playing together.
To complete their fieldwork, the children tallied the number of houses, shops, parks, and stations they observed throughout the village which will help them back in school when doing their sketch maps and making comparisons.

YEAR 5 VISIT SOANES CENTRE

During their immersive visit to the Soanes Centre, Year 5 students stepped into the role of materials scientists to explore the fascinating properties of the physical world. Set within the unique environment of the nearby park, the children conducted hands-on experiments to classify objects based on hardness, solubility, transparency, and conductivity. By testing various natural and man-made resources, they gained a practical understanding of why specific materials are chosen for certain jobs—such as why metal is used for electrical circuits or why some polymers are designed to be waterproof. This trip perfectly bridged the gap between classroom theory and real-world application, allowing the children to observe how materials change, react, and endure in an outdoor laboratory setting.

YEAR 6 VISIT TATE MODERN

Our Year 6 students recently embarked on an inspiring journey through the Tate Modern, focusing on the Media Networks gallery and the Artist rooms. Acting as "Art Detectives," the children applied their prior knowledge of Picasso's Cubism and Salvador Dalí's Surrealism to decode the bold, commercial world of Pop Art. They explored the evolution of modern movements, comparing the vibrant, repetitive energy of Pop icons to the calm, infinite geometry of Agnes Martin's abstract grids. Throughout the day, the children captured their favorite pieces in sketches, summarized the impact of mass media on art, and evaluated how artists like Gerhard Richter continue to push the boundaries of style and scale.

RECEPTION VISIT HAINULT FOREST

To support children's learning about 'The Natural World', Reception visited Hainault Forest country park. It was a fun-packed day full of many different activities, which enabled children to be close to nature. They started off their visit with a walk around the beautiful lake, home to many geese and ducks. The children had the opportunity to feed the geese bread and the friendly birds were very happy to receive these. We then continued our walk into the main forest area where children had a wonderful time exploring the woodlands, climbing on the large climbing apparatus and building structures using twigs and sticks they collected. Throughout our walk, children participated in a scavenger hunt, excited to find natural items on their list! Following the activities, the children enjoyed a lovely picnic on the hill, before visiting the farm where children saw many different animals, such as horses, donkeys, sheep, alacapas and bunnies. The children ended their trip with some play in the outdoor adventure area, climbing on the equipment and rolling down a huge slide. Everyone had a wonderful time!

STAR CITIZEN—SPRING B 2026

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 Ameera & **RN** Abdullah
Year 1: **1B** Nehan & **1C** Yahya
Year 2: **2S** Nawshad & **2T** Mayeda
Year 3: **3E** Adam & **3H** Arfan
Year 4: **4M** Ali & **4O** Emre
Year 5: **5A** Sana & **5H** Aleshah
Year 6: **6D** Ghena & **6K** Imran

ATTENDANCE—EVERY DAY COUNTS

Coming to Nursery every day and arriving on time helps children feel happy and confident, settle into routines, and enjoy their learning. It also helps them build important habits that will support them as they grow. We understand that young children can get unwell. If your child has a minor illness such as a cold or cough, they can still attend nursery and often once they're busy and playing, they start to feel much better.

At Old Palace, 115 improved attendance slips were handed out this half term. Well done, it is great to see so many children on an upward trend as it really does make a difference being in school every day!

Please remember it is important that parents/carers contact the school by 10am on the first day of their child's absence and keep us updated every day after. If we cannot make contact with parents/ carers on the first day of absence, we will try the emergency contacts. A home visit may also be carried out in some cases.

If you have not done so already, please remember to download the Studybugs App. This is the fastest, way to let us know your child at Old Palace is ill and helps us track community illnesses to improve public health in our school. It also provides guidance on dealing with common illnesses.

Holidays should be taken during school holidays wherever possible. Time off during term time should only be requested in emergencies. If you do need to plan any leave, please complete an Extended Leave Application Form before your trip.

100% Attendance Award Spring Term 2025-26
(6th January—19th March 2026)

Congratulations to the following children for achieving 100% attendance at Old Palace for the Spring Term

First Floor: Layan , Alana , Aisha, Arushi, Yunus, Safiyyah, Eden & Sara
Ground Floor: Anna, Aariz, Naia, Aliza & Kanishk
Red Building: Musa
Reception: Aynan, Sumaya, Amani, Amina, Sarah, Seheratul, Perry, Hannah & Yusuf
Year 1: Nahyaan, Mohammad, Alina, Sofia, Abrar, Kawthar, Kabir, Melissa, Muhammad, Tyaiba, Arham, Yahya, Luke, Najah, Zakariya, Aadila, Dlovan & Nehan.
Year 2: Yusra, Melissa, Qailah, Rumaisa, Saadat, Fatima, Zakir, Safa, Nuraiz, Mayeda, Nyomi, Nawshad, Khadijah, Ayra, Ishaq, Abrar & Abdullah.
Year 3: Ayaan, Daud, Rahiid, Azlan, Rima, Ayman, Sami, Mabruk, Sara, Aariz, Adam, Hilary, Najma, Mehrama & Ruqaiya.
Year 4: Amirah, Rayyan, Umayma, Ilyanah, Nafees, Sureya, Alizah, Yahya, Tuba, Mustakim, Taslim, Charis, Aleena J, Aleena K, Alvi, Isah, Amima, Arian & Afia.
Year 5: Sairah, Aizah, Maryam, Mohammed, Deyana, Madiha, Maghfir, Hamza, Aryan, Shafayat, Ayana, Meherul, Sadia, Tanzeela, Aneesah, Sana, Kiaan, Humaira, Matiha, Yusra, Aleshah, Inaaya, Isra, Arshita & Aisha.
Year 6: Mumin, Ahyan, Imran, Taqub, Yaseen, Kaitlyn, Faiha, Safiyyah, Emily, Iqra, Elisha, Hasan, Musa, Yusuf, Anisa, Aaliyah, Ayaan & Sameeha.