



AROUND THE PALACE

Dear all,

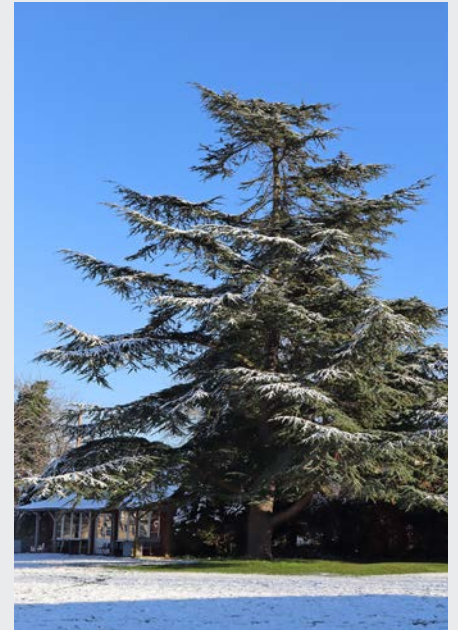
What a wonderful end to my first term at Old Palace Prep. This week has seen some incredible performances from the Prep girls; both at the Carol Service at the Croydon Minster on Tuesday and at the Key Stage 2 *A Celebration of Christmas* production, that so many of you will have enjoyed along with us. As a staff, we could not be more proud of your wonderful daughters and all they have achieved this term, on top of their hard work in lessons.

The Early Years pupils have also

enjoyed a great end to their first term, including their trip to the Churchill Theatre on Wednesday, where they were all impeccably behaved and enjoyed the magic of a live production of *Little Red Riding Hood*.

Wishing all our Prep families a restful winter break and we look forward to seeing you all again on **Thursday 5th January** for the start of the spring term.

Mrs Jodene Panteli
Head of Preparatory



Prep Has Fun in the Snow!



Years 3 - 6: A Celebration of Christmas Production









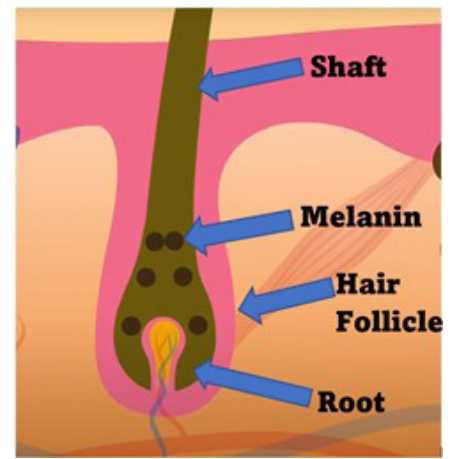
Why does Santa have White Hair?

Christmas is soon approaching and everywhere you look is merchandise of a little man in red with a famous white beard.

Santa is well known for his prominent snow-white hair but how did he get it?

When Santa was younger it's likely he had different coloured hair from black to ginger, just like you and me. The colour of your hair is determined by your genes, which you get from your mum and dad.

A strand of hair can be split into two parts, the shaft and the root. The shaft is the coloured part of your hair which we can see. The root is the bottom part which has the job of keeping the hair attached to your scalp. Every root is surrounded by a tube of tissue under the skin called the hair follicle. Each hair follicle contains pigment cells which make a chemical called melanin. The darker your hair is the more melanin your body creates, and the



lighter, the less. Melanin is the same chemical that gives your skin its colour.

But this doesn't answer our question of Santa having white hair...

As people get older, the pigment cells in our hair follicles gradually start to die. Dead pigment cells cannot create any melanin, so the strand of hair grows to be grey, silver or in Santa's

case white. Eventually all the pigment cells die and all the hair changes colour.

To conclude, Santa's thick shiny beard is a sign he is eating healthy and the colour white certainly tells us he is very old, although don't tell him that or you might get a sack of coal!

Rinii, Year 11

Prep Staff Surprise Pantomime

On the last day of term, the Prep staff treated the whole school to a surprise pantomime: Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. It really was the funniest show and the girls absolutely loved seeing their teachers hamming it up in the best theatrical tradition.



Prep Has Fun in the Snow!



Reception in the Snow

Reception made the most of the weather today and had great fun in the snow! We talked about the changing season and its impact on the natural world around us.



Year 3: Art

Pupils have spent several weeks creating these beautiful skater pictures.



Whole School Carol Service at Croydon Minster

It's quite something to think that, as a school, we were last able to hold a whole school, end of term Carol Service in 2019. Fast forward to December 2022 and it was such a joy to have Prep and Seniors back in Croydon Minster to celebrate the Festive season.

Prep pupils entertained us with songs from their KS2 production 'A Celebration of Christmas' whilst choirs from the Senior School sang some beautiful carols.

Our thanks go as always to Father Andrew and staff at The Minster, along with Mr Griffith, Miss Orr and Ms Fitzgerald.



Pre School & Reception: Little Red Riding Hood at the Churchill Theatre, Bromley

On Wednesday, Pre School & Reception pupils enjoyed a very entertaining visit to The Churchill Theatre in Bromley to see *Little Red Riding Hood*.

When the wolf hid in the wardrobe the girls couldn't resist telling Little Red Riding Hood's granny where he was. Of course she refused to believe them. It was pantomime fun at its best.



Year 1 & 2: French

Pupils in Years 1 and 2 spent an enjoyable French lesson making Galette des rois, which translates as 'King's cake.' This is a cake associated in many countries with Epiphany, which in France is celebrated on 6th January,

The girls had great fun decorating brioche bagels with icing and colourful, jewelled sweets to represent the King's crown.



House Christmas Party Time

To round off the last day of term, the girls enjoyed a fun morning of activities during House Christmas Party Time. It was lovely to see the older pupils helping the younger ones with the games and competitions.



Calling all Year 3 to Year 6 at Old Palace Prep!

Book a FREE audition workshop in January 2023

Take part in our exciting production of High School Musical Jr.

This project starts in January 2023 and there is a performance in Langley Performing Arts Centre on 1st and 2nd April 2023.

New faces are welcome to join the cast. If you would like your child (age 7-18 years) to take part please get in touch to book a **FREE** audition workshop.

There is nothing to prepare in advance. Our professional team will teach your child some choreography, songs and drama exercises during the audition workshop.

If your child does not already attend Spotlights classes please get in touch to book a free place at an audition workshop in January 2023.

Find us online @spotlightsuk

Call us on **0333 090 2501**
or email hello@spotlights.co.uk
to book a **FREE** audition workshop



AUDITION WORKSHOPS

7th January

Old Palace Prep from 10.00am

Book your **FREE** trial
now using this QR code



Our little stars...

...will be having an Arabian adventure this term with Aladdin, Princess Jasmine and all their friends. Your own Little Star can join the fun at our classes for 4-7 year olds. Each week our creative classes will introduce your child to special songs and dances based on this classic story. At the end of term you can see for yourself how much fun they have had by coming to watch your child's Aladdin show.

Classes at Old Palace Prep on Saturday mornings
for Reception to Year 2

FREE trial class for new faces

Saturday 7th Jan – 9.00am to 10.00am
Book your **FREE** trial using this QR code



Call us on **0333 090 2501** or
visit spotlights.co.uk for details

Aladdin



Be-Wild Club

Be-Wild Club refused to let the freezing temperatures prevent them from toasting marshmallows round the fire and using their explorer head lights as the sun set.



Year 13 Sports Leaders Visit Prep

At the beginning of December, the Year 13 Sports Leaders visited the Prep School to run a fun Christmas-themed session with our Year 6 students. The girls did all the planning and delivery themselves. The session consisted of a fun, active warm up and then a team obstacle race based on Christmas, such as dropping the present down the chimney, turning into a bauble, feeding the reindeer and moving the snow!

The Year 6 pupils were great – a bit noisy but very involved! Well done to Abhirrha, Amy, Alyssa, Emily and Inaaya in Year 13.

