



# AROUND THE PALACE

Dear all,



We hope you all enjoyed the opportunity to look through your daughter's books this week, talk to them about what they have been learning and speak to their teachers about their progress, achievements and next steps.

As you will see from this bulletin, we have had another exciting and action-packed time at Prep recently; from STEM workshops, maths quizzes, production rehearsals and an inspirational visitor for International Women's Day.

We ended this week by raising money for Red Nose Day and it was lovely to

hear laughter filling the classrooms this morning, as the pupils told each other jokes during form time. Thank you for your generous donations for such an important charity!

If you would still like to donate, please follow the link to the Just Giving page: [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rednoseday23-old-palace-school-of-john-whitgift-school-6a0ef45f-c410-43f5-b546-1481cfbfe1bb](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rednoseday23-old-palace-school-of-john-whitgift-school-6a0ef45f-c410-43f5-b546-1481cfbfe1bb)

Wishing you all a restful weekend.

**Mrs Jodene Panteli**  
Head of Preparatory

## Year 3 RS: Lenten Pretzels



## Author Caroline Blok Visits Prep



On Friday, we were delighted to welcome children's author Caroline Blok to the Prep School as we continued to celebrate World Book Day.

Caroline is the author of *The Handbag Mice* (a charming story about two little mice who find themselves trapped in the Queen's handbag), but she also worked at Old Palace as a primary school teacher for 18 years.

Caroline spent the day with us reading stories and running creative writing sessions. The girls so enjoyed themselves and we would like to thank Caroline for helping them discover their inner writing talents.



## International Women's Day



International Women's Day

Prep were incredibly fortunate to have been visited by the inspiring Nicolina Andall, marking the very important International Women's Day.

Nicola was once an Old Palace pupil herself and she delighted the pupils with her tales of life at Old Palace in the past. She then took the pupils on a journey of what it means to be a powerful woman, using the acronym POWER and all pupils from Pre School to

Year 6 learned about the importance of lifting others, empowering others and being positive, even in the face of adversity or set backs.

Nicolina is a very busy and successful solicitor and we are grateful that she found time to visit us at Prep to share the benefit of her knowledge and experience.

**Mrs Jodene Panteli**, Head of Preparatory



## Prep Assembly Celebrates 'Holi'

This morning, our assembly at Prep was about the Hindu festival of 'Holi'.

Last half term, Year 5 learnt about 'Holi' as part of their RS lessons. They learnt about the significance of this festival, wrote acrostic poems on Holi, made traditional sweets and replicated the custom of throwing coloured powder using paints, on body silhouettes.

### What is 'Holi'?

Hindus celebrate the popular festival of Holi to welcome the arrival of spring and to celebrate the victory of good over evil. The Festival lasts for two days in most countries and is celebrated with coloured powder and water, music, dance and lots of tasty things to eat!

Covering each other with coloured powder or water is the most enjoyable part of Holi celebrations. In many countries, Holi celebrates the life of Lord Krishna, who is one of the most widely revered deities in Hinduism.



## World Maths Day

As Wednesday 5th May was World Maths Day, the girls in 3J celebrated by having some fun with maths.

First they played a three in a row game with a partner. They needed to think carefully about properties of shapes and demonstrate their understanding of the mathematical language: parallel, perpendicular, acute, obtuse and right angles. Using a 0-9 spinner they took it in turns to cover a shape which met the criteria stated for the number of their spin.

*'I really enjoyed playing 3 in a row and I won!' Fatemah*



*'It was fun and I really had to think a lot before I covered a shape with my counter.' Hiru*

Later, in the IT room, the girls in 3J logged in to their Mathletics accounts to take part in the special World Maths Day activities playing against other children around the World!

*'I played against someone in Italy!' Sofia*

*'It was hard to answer the questions quickly to compete against the other players!' Aanya*



Each member of staff was given a special badge to wear with a number on it. The badges were different mathematical shapes too. Mrs Wallis took photos of all the staff for the girls to see. Everyone from Pre-School to Year 6 then took part in special quizzes with very mathematical themed questions:

Draw the same number of spots on the Ladybird as Mrs Noel's number.

Miss Hawkes's number +  
Mrs Wellington's number?

Mrs Wallis's number multiplied by the number of sides on Miss Jenkin's shape.

During the day, the girls from Reception to Year 6 also had the

opportunity to use Mathletics to play different activities. The girls in Year 1 to 6 could earn points for the school by playing 20 'Live' games across different levels of ability. Mathletics is used around the world and on Wednesday over 296,000 students worldwide participated and together played over 2.5 million rounds of live maths!

Year 3 also enjoyed using stopwatches on World Maths Day as part of our focus on the topic of Time to record how long it took their maths partners to do a variety of activities ranging from doing ten star jumps to writing out the words to Happy Birthday!

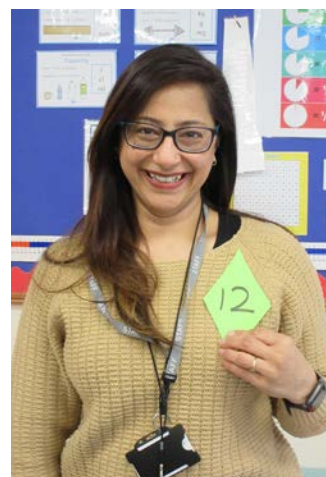
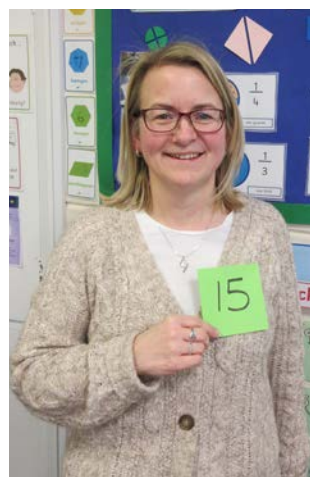
It was a very busy day celebrating maths and learning and shortly after the event Mrs Wallis learnt some very exciting news.

Year 3 and Year 5 did particularly well on the Live Mathletics!

Year 3 were ranked 8th in the Country and 73rd across the World out of all the Year 3 groups who entered.

Year 5 were ranked 14th in the Country and 93rd across the World out of all the Year 5 groups who entered.

Congratulations to all the girls in Year 3 and Year 5 and well done to all the girls in Prep who participated. Your certificates are on their way!

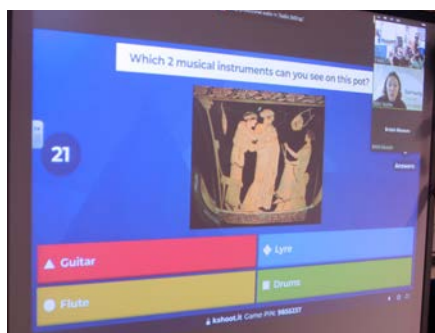
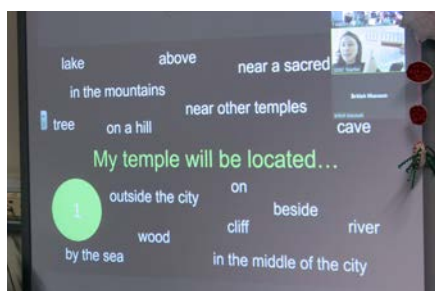


## Year 3: Virtual British Museum Workshop

On Friday the girls in Year 3 had a Virtual Workshop with the British Museum about Greek Temples to conclude their topic of Gods and Mortals from last half term.

It began with a quiz where they were able to show off their knowledge to the host, Alex. They then went on a virtual tour, to help them make decisions and design their own temple. The girls looked at different locations for their temple, types of columns – Ionic and Doric. They looked at the many Greek Gods and their symbols and the different festivals, celebrations or ways of worshipping the Gods which the Greeks believed in.

The girls really enjoyed the workshop and Mrs Wallis was very impressed with how much the girls had remembered about the topic.

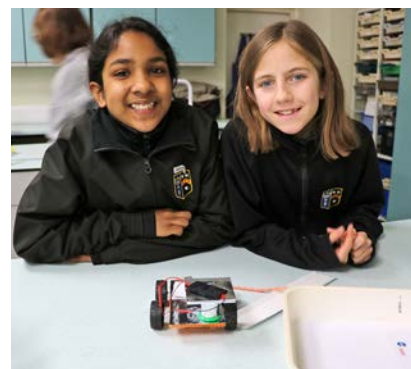
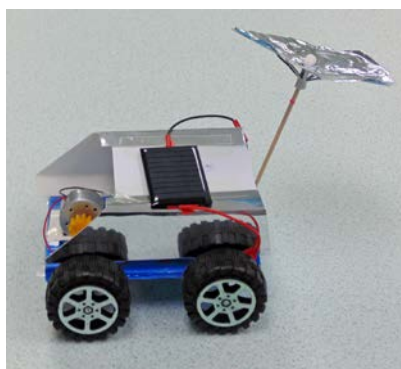


## Year 5: STEM Workshop at Seniors

Year 5 pupils visited the Senior School on Wednesday to take part in a STEM workshop.

They were involved in making film cannister rockets, building a moon rover and using 'astronaut' gloves to 'work in space'.

The girls were very excited to discover the possibilities that studying a STEM subject can offer in Year 7.



## Pre School: Puddles and Rainbows

Pre School enjoyed a wild and windy welly walk to Lloyd Park to find out more about natural phenomena. The weather was particularly windy which was ideal and very exciting as they had windmills, streamers and windsocks to test out!

The girls held streamers up as high

as they could and noticed that they all blew in one direction. Staff let the windsock out on a long string and it also flew the same way, some of them commented that it was like a kite. Using windmills they noticed that they could make them spin very fast if they faced them into the wind and stop them if they turned them around!

There were also muddy puddles to splash in and the park equipment to explore where they could slide, swing and climb. Back in the classroom they were encouraged to express their ideas and feelings about their experience using full sentences and enjoyed freely accessing the wind resources.



## Year 3 RS: Lenten Pretzels

During their RS lesson with Mrs Coster, Year 3 pupils learnt how to make pretzels. Did you know that a young monk baked the first pretzel – making a Lenten bread of water, flour and salt, forming the dough into the prayer position and baking it as soft bread. They can be savoury or sweet.

The girls made and shaped the dough into crosses before Mrs Coster boiled them all in hot water for 1 minute. Then they covered them in either salt or sugar before putting them into the oven for 10 minutes. The last step was to sprinkle icing on top. They were surprisingly delicious!





## Year 1: Bright Lights, Big City

Last week, Year 1 had a 'Bright Lights, Big City' topic day. We started the morning in the cookery room, where we made scones for our own cream tea. We weighed and measured all our ingredients before we began. Once they were baked, it was time to eat them!



In Art, we looked at cityscapes and painted our own London silhouettes.

In Geography, we completed a London city orienteering activity. We used directional language to describe the location of features on a map.



 **Old Palace of John Whitgift School**  
Independent Girls' School

*Free*  
**Easter Workshop**  
(parent and child)  
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 Suitable for **girls**  
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**Monday 27th March**  
Time: 8.45am-9.45am

RSVP  
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**Open Morning Reception (4+)**



**Talk & Tour:**  
**Thursday 27 April: 9.00am-10.30am**  
To book, go to: [www.oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk/admissions/open-days](http://www.oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk/admissions/open-days)

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