



# AROUND THE PALACE

Dear all,



As the spring term draws to a spectacular close and we prepare for the start of the summer term and some much needed warmth and sunshine, let's take a moment to reflect on some of the highlights of recent weeks.

From the Pre School, all the way through to Year 6, the girls have embraced getting involved in everything Old Palace Prep has to offer, from the day to day themed learning and co-curricular clubs to the wonderful programme of trips, visits and workshops, sporting events and musical performances and exams. It never ceases to amaze me just how much the

dedicated Old Palace Prep team manage to squeeze into each half term. In this final week alone, we have seen showcases, performances, exams, fun runs, Easter hunts and theme days and it is with very many thanks to each and every member of staff, pupil and their supportive parents and the PTA, that all of this is possible.

Wishing you a lovely break, whatever your plans, and I am sure I will see many of the girls at holiday club!

**Mrs Jodene Panteli**  
Head of Preparatory

## Success in the Croydon Schools Primary Swimming Championships



## Success in the Croydon Schools Primary Swimming Championships

Huge congratulations to Hiru, Anya and Anokhi in Year 5, Sarah and Tamalia in Year 6 and Lana in Year 3, who competed in the prestigious Croydon Schools Primary Swimming Championship finals last Friday evening.

The girls all swam tremendously well and collected a massive haul of thirteen medals between them!

Hiru was triumphant in the Year 5 Backstroke, securing a fantastic new Championship record and beating the existing record set in 2016 by 0.08 of

a second! She also came fourth in the Open Butterfly.

Anya swam a great race, winning the Year 5 Breaststroke in a nail-bitingly close finish. Lana, who is only in Year 3, swam a magnificent race - winning the combined Year 3 & 4 Breaststroke.

She held her beautiful stroke for the whole 25 metres to touch ahead of her rivals. Our Medley Relay, comprising of Hiru (Backstroke), Anya (Breaststroke) and Tamalia (Freestyle), swam their hearts out, touching in a great second place, having qualified in fourth position. Anokhi was third in the Year 5

Freestyle, finishing a place ahead of her qualifying position. Our Freestyle relay of Tamalia, Sarah, Hiru and Anokhi bettered their entry position too, finishing in a hard-earned bronze medal place. Tamalia was also fourth in her Year 6 Freestyle.

Old Palace records show that this year is the first time we have had three champions in one evening since 2007! Old Palace were also girls runners up overall. Mrs Tamplin was delighted with the results and very proud of each and every one of the swimmers.



## Year 2: Coastline's RNLI Workshop



Last Thursday, the girls in Year 2 enjoyed a special visit from Mick, a member of the RNLI. The RNLI workshop brought to life the learning in the Cornerstones topic, Coastline.

He explained how the RNLI was founded by Sir William Hillary in 1824. Next year, the organisation will be celebrating its 200th birthday! The girls particularly enjoyed using an interactive map to locate the life boat

stations around the UK and watching clips of rescues at sea. Mick was so impressed with the knowledge, understanding and enquiring questions from the class. Sienna and Amelia made cards to thank Mick and his colleagues for their bravery and dedication.

If you would like to find out more about this charity, please visit:

<https://rnli.org/about-us/our-history>



## Prep Soloists Concert



Last Thursday there was a wonderful Prep Soloists Concert held in the Assembly Hall. Thirty girls from Years 2-6 performed on a range of instruments and delighted us with their solo performances. There was something for everyone with traditional folk songs, musical theatre, opera, familiar classics, a concerto and some jazz and blues pieces. For some students it was the very first time they had performed in public!

Thank you very much to the large number of parents who came to watch and congratulations to everyone who took part.

**Miss Fitzgerald**



Prep Soloists Concert *continued*



## Helen Young, Weather Presenter, Forecasts Rain at Prep!



Pre School and Reception were thrilled to receive a visit from Meteorologist and former BBC lead weather presenter Helen Young.

Helen, who was an Old Palace girl, arrived with a bag full of interesting items including a hair dryer and ping pong balls which she used to demonstrate how hail bounces up and down in a cloud. Each time this happens it increases in size!

The girls learnt all about the job of a weather presenter, and the huge variety of weather we have in the UK.

At the end of the session, Helen delivered a live weather forecast and answered some interesting questions such as: "Why are clouds different shapes?" and "Why can't we always see the sun?"



## Reception and Pre School's Easter Showcase



Our Pre School and Reception children arrived on Thursday morning in the most beautiful Easter hats. We were just amazed at how creative they were (thank you parents!) and how excited the girls were to be wearing them.

Our joyful Easter Showcase began with Reception and Pre

School singing four songs – all illustrating this term's topic: Puddles and Rainbows.

Then parents were invited to look around their daughter's classroom and see what the girls have been learning since half term on the fascinating subject of 'the weather'.



## Year 3 and 4: Wiz, Wham Alakazam!



WOW! Year 3 and Year 4 really wowed us with their magical Easter production - 'Wiz, Wham Alakazam'!

This musical about teamwork and togetherness was beautifully told by the girls through their expressive speaking, acting, singing, gymnastics, dancing and playing.

The production centres around the theme of the Wizards needing to work together in spite of having different talents. Wizard 'Notyet' is yet to

discover her talent and through the play we see her journey to work out what hers might be. When the sun goes out and the evil ice creatures appear, the Wizards soon realise they must act as a team and what a fabulous team of Wizards they made!

The music was expertly accompanied by Mrs Newlands on the piano and also by three of our Year 3 students who played their instruments for scene changes and to add more colour to the drama at certain points in the play.

Well done Victoria, Anika and Alice, very professionally done!

Also special thanks to Mrs Tooze for the central set painting, Mrs Anderson for her help with the set, Miss James for the lighting (critical in a play about the sun going out!) and Mrs Wallis and Mrs Coster for help with just about everything! Congratulations to the cast and Teeeeeeeam Old Palace!!!

**Miss Fitzgerald**

*More photos in the next bulletin*



## Easter Bunny Hop

On Thursday, parents joined their daughters for an early morning Easter Bunny Hop around the field. What a fun way to start the day!



## Senior Digital Leaders Run e-safety Competition at Prep!

When we went over to Prep recently, we announced the Digital Design competition with the theme of Internet Safety.

Students could submit a creative item they wanted on the theme of being safe online; this could range from a song, a poem, a design, a poster, a painting, a play to pretty much any interesting thing!

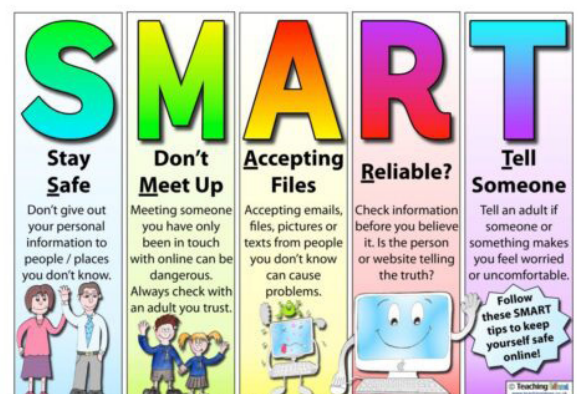
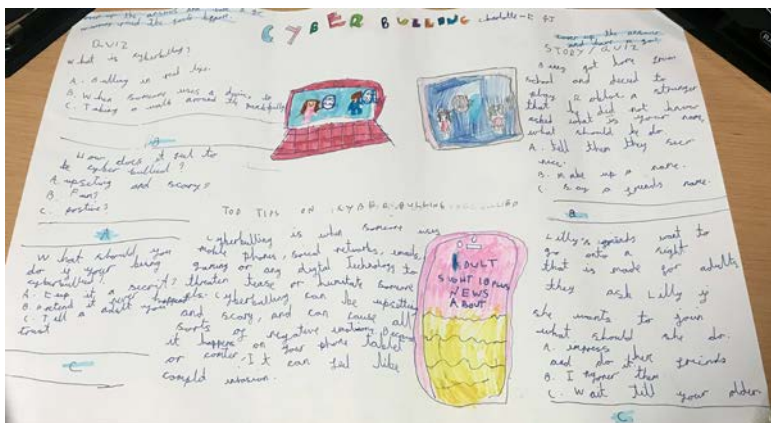
Now that we have received the entries, we have taken the time to judge them in depth. It was an extremely difficult

decision between the many entries. They were very creative and clearly a lot of effort had been put into making them. In the end, we decided to give first prize to the song created by Lottie, Anaya and Mya. This song was in a rap-style with one of the students doing the backing track. It won because it was the most unique of all the entries.

We gave second prize to the poster by Charlotte. This poster was also amazing as it included a quiz, a story to go along with the quiz, top tips on cyberbullying and some beautiful drawings.

Each winner received an Amazon voucher. Even if you submitted an entry but didn't win, we would still like to applaud and celebrate your efforts. Overall, the standard was very high indeed!

**Charlotte and Jana**, on behalf of the Year 9 Digital Leaders





## Red Nose Day



Pupils were asked to wear 'something that brings you joy' whilst fundraising for Red Nose Day.

## Year 1: Polka Theatre



Year 1 went to see *Jack v Giant* at the Polka Theatre. The musical is about a brave young girl who defeats the Giant. The reimagined version of the classic fairytale was brought to life through beautiful puppetry and music.



**Growth Mindset**  
**YEAR 3 AND 4**  
**WOW!**  
**BMX WORKSHOP**  
**WEDNESDAY 17TH MAY**  
AT OLD PALACE PREP *See Mrs Croster for more info*  
CANT RIDE A BIKE? - NO PROBLEM - ALL ABILITIES CAN TAKE PART  
**Book your space NOW!**  
**£15.50 Pay on Wise pay**



On 24th March, Year 5 visited Hever Castle to complement their studies on the Tudors. As the childhood home of Anne Boleyn, a focus of our topic, it was the perfect venue. The castle was also a gift to Anne of Cleves from Henry VIII after Anne Boleyn's family had been disgraced. Anne Boleyn's and Katherine of Aragon's Latin prayer books were also on display, brought together for the first time in 500 years for the current exhibition.

During our tour of the castle, we all had multimedia guides which told us about

each of the rooms including the Great Hall and Long Gallery where long-ago they played tennis and entertained. The guides also had games relating to Tudor cures for illnesses and delicacies that they enjoyed eating. We saw the room in which Anne successfully battled against the sweating sickness and examples of brutal instruments used for punishing crime!

Despite a terrible weather forecast, the weather held and we were able to enjoy free time in the amazing adventure playground, complete with

death slide and a castle, as well as lunch by the lake.

Many of us are planning a return trip in the summer to enjoy the yew maze (which was waterlogged), the water maze and jousting display!

On Thursday this week, we are dressing up as Tudors for a day of fun activities – dancing, cooking, music, handwriting using quills and a tour of Seniors led by the Year 12s to show us all the parts related to the Tudors. More to follow!

## Year 4: Visit Morden Snuff Mill

This week, Year 4 visited Morden Hall's Snuff Mill as part of their topic, Misty Mountain, Winding River. The River Wandle flows through Morden Park and the girls investigated various aspects of the river.



**Nia:** One of my favourite parts was the river dipping. I got to see new invertebrates that I didn't know about, including water shrimps and water spiders.

**Charlotte K:** My favourite part was definitely fishing out the invertebrates. These are small animals without backbones.

We caught a baby fish called a fry which has huge eyes and a tiny tail. They are a bit bigger than the invertebrates and can't survive in shallow water so we put it straight back in the river.

**Ellie:** Morden Hall Park was amazing. We explored the shallow, narrow, speedy river by the water mill and the deeper, wider, peaceful section. We looked at the beautiful meanders that curved perfectly in and out of the rose garden. To prove that the outer side of the river was faster than the inner side we did an experiment with dog biscuits. We dropped one on the outer side and one on the inner and noticed the outer one moved much faster.

We then chose two sites along the river and measured how deep the water was, the temperature, oxygen levels and speed of the water.

After lunch, we did some river dipping at each site, taking it in turns to go to the edge of the river and stick a net in, hoping there would be something good inside it. Those waiting used a key to identify the invertebrates that had just been caught.



# Open Morning Reception (4+)

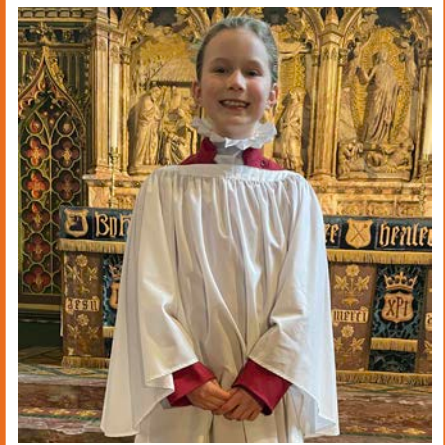


## Talk & Tour:

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)

## Congratulations Ellie



Many congratulations to Ellie in Year 4, who was admitted into the Croydon Girls Choir last week.

## Year 5: CSSP Inspire Lacrosse Festival

Some of our Year 5 pupils participated in the CSSP Inspire Lacrosse Festival at Oasis Academy Coulsdon.

The girls learnt new skills, played games and enjoyed all the competition!



## Coronation Workshop

Join us for a FREE Coronation Workshop on Thursday, 4th May at 8.45am. Suitable for girls aged 4 and under.

Make a crown, create your own bunting and take part in a special coronation hunt (a bit like an Easter-egg hunt but with coronation-themed prizes!).

To reserve your place, please email: [admissions@oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:admissions@oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk)



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

## Coronation Workshop

Suitable for **girls** aged 4 and under

**Thursday 4th May**  
Time: 8.45am-9.45am

RSVP  
email: [admissions@oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:admissions@oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk)



## Safah Awarded Prize at Croydon Music Festival

Congratulations to Safah in Year 4 who came first in the Piano Duet category for under 14s at the Croydon Music Festival held at Trinity School on the 18 March.

She obtained a Distinction for her piece and has been awarded the Minola Kirby Cup!



## Good Luck to all the Old Palace pupils on Sunday, 23rd April competing in the Restless Development Triathlon

50+ Old Place Prep Girls are taking part in this unique sporting event designed especially for young people.

Children get into teams of 4 and come up with a fun creative team name.

Then they fundraise a minimum of £50.

On the day, the three sports are completed in a relay format, allowing each team member to swim, cycle and run before crossing the finish line as a team.

All abilities are welcome to take part in this event!

The Knight Frank Schools Triathlon is all about taking part and giving back to the wider community.

