



AROUND THE PALACE

Dear all,



What a wonderful celebration of learning and life at Old Palace Prep, this bulletin represents. The photographs of smiling faces, together with the looks of awe and wonder, as our Prep girls try out BMX stunts or revel in nature at Kew Gardens is just fantastic to see, as I sit and reflect on another short period of time in the life of Prep pupils.

With many thanks to all the staff who have organised such wonderful events, arranged the visits and visitors and also joined in and modelled perseverance and resilience to the girls, as they undertook the challenges and

experiences themselves.

Music has filled the air at Prep and once again, I am reminded of the extraordinary talent we have at Old Palace. I hope you enjoy looking through this week's bulletin as much as I have.

Finally, I would just like to thank the PTA for their very generous gift of a beautiful Coronation badge to all the girls at Prep. I'm sure it is something they will treasure.

Wishing you all a sunny and restful weekend.

Mrs Jodene Panteli
Head of Preparatory

Year 5: STEM Challenge at Seniors



Prep Music Competition Update

During the last two weeks Miss Fitzgerald and Mrs Newlands have been treated to some accomplished performances during the second and third heats for the annual Prep Music Competition.



Instrumental Competitors

Year 1	Cecilia (Violin), Marley (Violin), Imani (Violin)
Year 3	Lana (Oboe), Alice (Clarinet), Alice (Harp), Elena ('Cello), Alexandra (Trumpet), Victoria (Oboe), Victoria (Violin), Libby (Violin), Anika (Violin), Eileen (violin), Sonia (Violin), Kezia ('Cello)
Year 4	Safah (Violin), Harriet (Flute), Ellie (Violin), Ellie (Viola), Abigail (Violin), Aideen ('Cello), Kirstie (Violin)
Year 5	Alyнна (Clarinet), Ariel ('Cello), Aanya (Clarinet), Hiru (Violin), Sofia (Oboe), Lottie (Trumpet), Aashna (Flute), Aashna (Violin), Anokhi (Violin), Anokhi (Flute), Kezia (Violin), Paavana (Violin), Elissia (Flute)
Year 6	Tamalia (Clarinet), Amelia (Violin), Avika (Flute), Fatima (Violin), Jasmine-Lee (Clarinet)

There were a record 77 entries (40 for instrumental as pictured and listed above and 37 for piano listed below) and from these 20 have been selected for their noteworthy performances to perform again at the finals next week.

The last group of finalists will be announced today and will be listed in the next bulletin. These girls will join eight vocal finalists and all students are now competing as a House to become the overall House champions, although a winner and runners up for the categories of 'Piano', 'Strings', 'Wind' and 'Vocal' will also be awarded.

Piano Competitors

Year 1	Ananya, Myra, Eliza, Arya B
Year 2	Amelia, Avia
Year 3	Lana, Alice, Elena, Alexandra, Victoria, Saanvi, Amelie, Anika, Ayla, Kezia, Kiyana
Year 4	Safah, Harriet, Jaycee, Ellie, Aadya, Abigail, Kirstie, Aideen
Year 5	Mya, Olivia B, Olivia A, Holly, Paavana, Anokhi, Arya
Year 6	Sarah, Tamalia, Avika, Jovien, Fatima

Each competitor will receive merits for their House which will be calculated after the finals.

A special mention should also be given at this point to the girls who have competed on more than one instrument. Those girls will each receive a small prize for their hard work.

Good luck to the finalists and congratulations to all competitors. Your talents have been noticed!



Year 5: STEM Challenge at Seniors

On the 9th May, Year 5 pupils and their parents were invited to spend a taster morning at the Senior School. Whilst parents enjoyed a talk from Mrs Burton and one of our new Head Girls, Chitleen, the girls participated in a very exciting egg-o-naut STEM challenge.

This is a challenge which holds so many similarities to the landing of real life satellites and probes, which was evident amongst the students. They engaged in the design, building and testing of a structure to protect an egg-o-naut - using limited resources. It was a great session for them to experience the sequence in any engineering process and to be creative in their approach. The session ended with some parachute drop experiments under the gleeful watch of the 'engineers'.



Well Done Aiyana!



Readers may remember that Aiyana in Year 2 took the brave decision to have her long hair cut off to raise money for the Little Princess Trust.

We are delighted to learn that her fundraising efforts raised the very impressive sum of £1,377.

Aiyana donated her hair which will be made into a wig for a child who has lost her own hair through cancer.

Well done Aiyana!



English Schools Primary Relay Regional Event



Preparatory swimmers Anokhi, Aanya, Hiru Year 5 and Tamalia Year 6 took part in the annual English Schools Primary Relay regional rounds on Wednesday 3rd May. The event was held at JAGS Sports Centre in Dulwich, with local teams and many from further afield competing.

The Medley Relay was the first event with Old Palace racing in the small schools category. Medley Relays start with Backstroke, swum by Hiru, followed by Aanya on the Breaststroke leg, Tamalia Freestyle and Anokhi bringing the team home on the fourth and final Frontcrawl length. Traditionally the third swimmers swims Butterfly; however, we found out on the day that it had been listed as Freestyle, which means any stroke. As this was the case Tamalia took the opportunity to swim Frontcrawl as it is the fastest stroke. Old Palace finished fourth in their heat.

The Freestyle Relay followed with all students swimming Frontcrawl. Old Palace came fourth in that heat too with a slight change in order, Tamalia, Aanya, Hiru and Anokhi. The first and third swimmers are able to dive using the starting blocks, with the second and fourth swimmers starting from a push start in the water at the shallow end of the pool. The team swam really well with Anokhi swimming a great final length.

We are now looking forward to the London Schools Individual Championship heats at JAGS next Wednesday.



Wrap Around Care - May Half Term

Calling all Jungle Explorers

Are you good at finding things?
Come along on our Jungle Expedition to
discover the secrets of the jungle.

Who will you meet? What will you see?

Come join in the fun!

Monday, 29 May

Bank Holiday CLOSED

Tuesday, 30 May

- Getting to know the jungle animals
- Making your own binoculars ready for the Jungle Expedition
- Finger painting
- Face painting

Wednesday, 31 May

- Jungle Expedition
- Jungle Gym
- Face painting - learning how to create your jungle animal
- Learning to draw your favourite jungle animal

Thursday, 1 June

- Face painting – What animal will you be?
- Creating our own Jungle scene
- Jungle races Lions v Tigers
- Board games
- Colour by numbers

Friday, 2 June

- Marble run
- Making jungle treats
- Mindful colouring
- Jungle Beat: The Movie
(Popcorn provided)



Due to popularity, be quick to book a place at Holiday Club
as places are going fast! **Booking closes on 23 May**

Email: PStearn@oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk

Bookings after this date are subject to availability, book early to avoid disappointment.

Year 1 Meteorologist Visit

As part of the Year 1 'Splendid Skies' topic, Meteorologist, BBC weather presenter and former Old Palace student Helen Young, came into school to talk about the weather and her exciting job.

Mrs Young showed us different types of clouds and we went cloud spotting.

Some of us spotted cumulus clouds and were able to use our new learnt vocabulary confidently.

We learnt about climate change by carrying out a polar bear experiment to show melting ice caps. In our topic, we are also learning about extreme weather and made a tornado in a

bottle. The biggest storm of all is a hurricane and we learnt about the eye of the storm and enjoyed making a giant hurricane by joining hands and spinning around quickly. The experiments really brought all of our topic learning to life and allowed us to further develop our knowledge of the weather.



Year 5: Chessington World of Adventures

On 5th May, 5J spent the day at Chessington World of Adventures to complement our topic - Scream Machine - which focuses on forces.

We had a fantastic time. Despite an unsettled forecast, we enjoyed warm sunny weather and incredibly queues of no more than five minutes for every ride! We managed to go on the Monkey Swingers, Tomb Blaster, Kobra, The Blue Barnacle, Vampire and Tiger Rock – some of them twice!

As well as the rides, we also participated in a workshop which taught us about the use of forces on some of the main rides at the attraction and completed an investigation about friction to identify the best material for brakes.



Year 3-6: Growth Mindset Workshops



Our Year 3-6 pupils have enjoyed an amazing workshop on Growth Mindset this week.

The BMX academy was in school for two days this week delivering inspiring lessons on "I can" and "I really can" attitudes. Girls took part in either inline skating or trying the BMX bikes.

The workshops were super inspiring and they learnt so many amazing tricks and skills.



Year 2 and Year 6 Eco Prefects Trip to Kew Gardens



Last Friday, Year 2 and the Year 6 Eco prefects enjoyed a day at Kew Gardens. This exciting full day of learning included a 90 minute workshop 'Become a Kew Horticulturalist' as well as time in the Palm House and the Children's Playground.

'My favourite part was getting to be outside all day with my friends because usually we learn inside!' **Amelia**

'I found out that the yellow centre of a

daisy is actually lots of individual tiny flowers!' **Avia**

'I looked through a microscope and saw the teeny tiny flowers inside the middle of the daisy!' **Lyla**

'I learnt lots. Did you know that the hairs on the stem of a plant help stop the minibeasts from piercing in and sucking all of the nutrients?' **Aiyana**

'My favourite part was the Palm House because I discovered many unusual



plants and flowers.' **Michaella**

'I enjoyed eating lunch in a huge tent and visiting the four different playgrounds!' **Sienna**

'I found out that carrot seeds are one of the smallest seeds in the world!' **Katherine**

'Arabella and I held a huge coco de mer seed – I think it's the world's largest seed!' **Avia**



Introducing our new Senior Deputy Head – Mr Christie

At the start of the summer term, we were delighted to welcome our new Senior Deputy Head, Mr Andrew Christie, to Old Palace.

Senior Deputy Head is a new and wide-ranging role within the School; as well as deputising for Mrs Burton when required, Mr Christie will be responsible for curriculum development, the implementation of the new IT infrastructure, assisting with the formation and implementation of school strategy and overseeing certain whole-school projects. He also has a great interest in co-curricular - he is a Sub-Lieutenant in the CCF (Royal Navy) and hopes to be involved with our successful CCF.



Coronation Badges



Thank you to the PTA for the Coronation badges they kindly gave to Year 7, Year 8 and Prep.



SAVE THE DATE

Summer Fair

Saturday
24 June
11am - 2pm

Open Morning Meet the Head + tour of the school



Pre School to Year 6

Thursday 15 June: 9.00am-10.30am

To book, go to: www.oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk/admissions/open-days

RIP Liz Hayward

The Old Palace community is extremely saddened by the news that Liz Hayward, who worked at Old Palace for 16 years, passed away unexpectedly on Friday.

Liz joined Old Palace in 2004 and was with us for 16 years, leaving in summer 2020. She was a valued colleague and caring teacher, who taught across a whole range of subjects at Seniors and Prep, including RS (as head of department), History, Maths and Expanding Horizons. Liz will be fondly remembered by many across the school community.

We have set up an electronic Book of Condolence for Liz and if you would like to contribute to this then please use this link:

<https://rememberancebook.net/book/elizabeth-hayward/>