

Issue number: 13

Our school values: **Respect. Honesty. Responsibility. Equality. Resilience.**

Message from the Headteacher

As you can see from this newsletter, it has been an incredibly busy half-term. Every year group has been involved in exciting activities, both outside and inside the school.

What has been so amazing has been the support of the parents and carers for the school – volunteering on trips, supporting charity fund raising events such as Children in Need Day or helping your children with their learning at home. The relaunch of the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) has been a huge success and I am really grateful for your organisation of the Christmas Fair. Thank you to all our wonderful parents and carers! I have loved everything that has been going on in the lead-up to Christmas. My personal highlight – amongst many – were the nativity performances and carol concerts at St Alban's Church. The confident, clear voices of the readers and actors and the beautiful singing filling the church made it a very special event.

COVID-19 is, of course, still with us, not least with the emergence of the omicron variant. I would encourage all of you to follow the Director of Public Health's advice to arrange a test for your child before they return after Christmas. So far we have been more fortunate than other schools in the number of positive cases we have had – let's all take steps to try and keep it that way. In the meantime, I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. I look forward to seeing everyone back on 5th January.

Best wishes,

Mr Wilson



Nativities and Carol Concert at St Alban's Church

We were delighted to resume our Christmas Concerts again this year in the local church, St Alban's. The week of the 6th December saw three Nativities take place and two Carol Concerts.

It was a great opportunity for parents to support their children and a chance for the school to develop their community links. The children had put a lot of effort into their singing, reading and acting, resulting in splendid performances. Our thanks to Reverend Bailey for allowing us to use her church.



Bikeability for year 5



Some Year 5 children have recently completed the Bikeability cycle course which equips them with cycling safely on the road. Congratulations to Dhaneen, Mohammed, Deina, Bobby, Chukwuemeka Hazel, Ariana, Ayan and Cata for completing the training.

The Barking and Dagenham Christmas Band

Tuesday 15th December was an exciting time for our KS2 children as the professional music teachers of Barking and Dagenham came together as a twelve piece orchestra to perform a range of songs for them. The wonderful sounds of *Jingle Bells*, *A Million Dreams*, *The Snow Maiden* and *Don't Stop Me Now*, floated out of the hall.

The children were encouraged to participate with singing, naming of instruments and musical vocabulary, and questions of their own. The children left the concert in high spirits, many with musical ambitions of their own.



Year 6 Aztec Workshop

Year 6 children participated in an immersive Aztec workshop. During this workshop, children learnt about the daily lives of Aztec people: they were given opportunities to be in the role of Aztec market traders, slaves and rich nobles to experience the differences in standards of living. As well as this, children found out about the importance the Aztecs placed on their Gods, acting out different scenarios in role of Aztec Gods.

Year 6 children thoroughly enjoyed this experience and they were able to show off their own knowledge of the Aztecs, which really impressed the facilitator. Children got to practise and improve their drama skills, understanding and knowledge of the Aztecs and communication skills with each other.

Year 6 Mexican Cultural Day

Year 6 children participated in a Mexican Cultural day where they were given the opportunity to prepare, cook and taste a variety of traditional Mexican dishes. The children used techniques learned in Design and Technology to chop vegetables in a safe and efficient manner. After the cooking experience, children explored the Aztec Mathematics board games.



Anti-Bullying Week 15th to 19th November 2021

The theme for Anti-Bullying Week this year was 'one kind word'.

The week kicked off on the Monday with 'Odd Socks Day':

Year 4



Year 6



Reception



Anti-bullying activities then continued throughout the week. Year 1 identified kind words and what they could do if they felt they were being bullied.



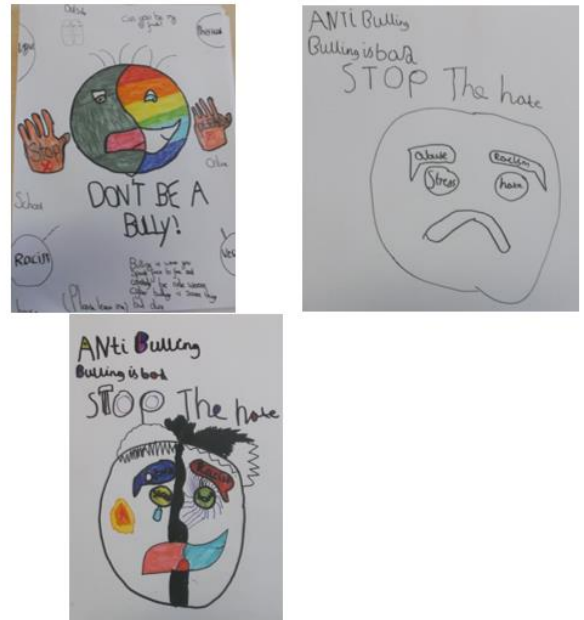
Meanwhile, years 3 and 4 choose their kind word and wrote them on stones. We placed the stones in the entrance to the school to help us remember every day that we need to use kind words.



Years 5 and 6 used their kind words to create pictures called Word art.



The CPC created Anti-bullying posters:



Year 4 trip to Hindu temple

This half term, in RE, year 4 children reinforced what they had learnt about the Hindu faith by visiting a Mandir (temple). The children were able to understand how Hindu people worship and experience what it is like to be inside a temple. They recognised the different features of the Mandirs and identified the different Murtis (images).

It was fascinating listening to stories about the Hindu God and being able to ask lots of questions. The people of the Hindu Temple were very welcoming and the children were very respectful as well as having a wonderful time.



Year 3 Diwali Assembly

This half term, Year 3 have enjoyed learning about the symbolism of light in religion. We learnt about the Hindu festival of Diwali. We made Diya lamps and Rangoli to decorate and welcome the Goddess Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth. We had fun learning a Bollywood dance too.

We would like to thank all those year 3 parents who came to our Diwali assembly – we hope you enjoyed it!

Police Talks

We were fortunate to have some police officers come and visit the school. They discussed important topics with each year group to help keep the children safe and to make sensible choices as they grow older.

The topics were:

Year 1 - Stranger Danger

Year 2 - What do the police do for us?

Years 3 and CPC - Online safety

Year 4 - Crime and Consequences

Year 5 - Gangs

Year 6 - Knife crime

Here are a few pictures of the children who were able to try on some of their uniform:



Year 2 museum of London trip

This half term in history, year 2 have been learning all about The Great Fire of London. We had a fantastic trip to the Museum of London to visit the fire of London exhibition. It gave the children an insight into what London was like before the fire and how the great fire changed how London looks today.

The children were very excited to go on the train and were mesmerised by the tall buildings in central London. They were exceptionally well behaved in the museum and really enjoyed completing their activities. What a great day out we all had! Well done year 2: we are super proud of you all.



Year 1 trip to Science Museum

Year 1 visited the Science Museum as part of our 'materials' topic in science. We had a great time exploring 'The Secret Life of The Home' looking at how household appliances have changed over the years in terms of how the materials have changed making them better now. We also visited 'The Garden' and explored a range of objects and why these objects were made from the material.

All the children had a great time and we would thoroughly recommend it to other families for somewhere to visit for free during the holidays!



Year 3 Stone Age experience

Year 3 travelled back in time with their Stone Age to Iron Age workshop as part of their history this half term. We travelled back 200,000 years and learned about the Old Stone Age (Palaeolithic), Middle Stone Age (Mesolithic) and New Stone Age (Neolithic) era. We learnt how people lived in those times, and what evidence there is to show this.

We even learnt about Stonehenge and debated what Stonehenge was used for. We acted out different ways that people lived, and worked in groups to form the shape of Stonehenge. It was a great visit and we all really enjoyed it!



Ten Pin Bowling Competition

On Monday 29th November, James Cambell took a team of 6 children to compete in the Barking and Dagenham Ten Pin Bowling competition, as an extension of the School Sports Primary Panathlon. The children had an amazing time and were able to take home medals and certificates for their efforts. We are extremely proud of the children for representing the school in such a wonderful way and look forward to competing in more borough competitions in the future.



Year 6 Football Club

The Year 6 boys and girls football teams participated in football matches this term. They were cheered on by amazing spectators and supporting parents. The children have all attended training throughout the two terms and a significant improvement in football skills and team bonding has led to impressive results. Football club will resume after the Christmas holidays where children will be participating in competitive league and cup fixtures.

Photograph below: On 9th November, our Year 6 football team had a great win yesterday over Godwin Primary. Final score 3-1.



Is your child due to start school in September 2022?

If your child was born between **1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018**, they can start school in September 2022, and you should apply for their place by Saturday 15 January 2022.

If you missed the memo, don't panic, there is still time and you can apply by visiting www.lbbd.gov.uk/school-admissions.

It's important to know that getting your child a place at school is not an automatic process, so you still have to apply, even if they are already at a school nursery or they have a brother or sister at that school.

If you need to apply, head to the [school admissions page](#) now.

You can also check out this [Primary School Admissions Tips - YouTube](#) to help you through the process.

COVID-19

The Director of Public Health has written to all parents in Barking and Dagenham to recommend that your child has a COVID test before they return to school after the holiday. Details on how to arrange this are set out in his letter on the school website which you can find here: <http://www.jamescambell.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Letter-to-Parents-Asymptomatic-Testing-January-2022.pdf>

Key Dates for next term

Key Dates- January 2022

5th January – First Day of the Spring Term
5th January – Year 1 Big Freeze Day
7th January – Year 4- India Experience Day
14th January-Years 5 & 6 Athletics at Sydney Russell
14th January- Year 2 Florence Nightingale Workshop
17th January- Reception Animal Visit
18th January- Year 5 Egyptian Day

Term Dates

Thursday 2 nd September 2021	Start of the School Year
Monday 25 th October 2021	Half Term
Friday 17 th December 2021	Last Day of the Autumn Term
Wednesday 5 th January 2022	First Day of the Spring Term
Monday 14 th February – Friday 18 th February 2022	Half Term
Friday 1 st April 2022	Last Day of the Spring Term
Tuesday 19 th April 2022	First Day of the Summer Term
Tuesday 3 rd May 2022	May Day Holiday
Tuesday 31 st May 2022-Friday 3 rd June 2021	Half Term
Wednesday 20 th July 2022	Last Day of the School Year



A huge thank you to the wonderful James Cambell PTA for the absolutely brilliant Christmas Fair! Great fun was had by all and due to the PTA's organisation and tireless commitment to the school, they have managed to raise a lot of money that will be used to support the children at school.

Merry Christmas everyone!