



Newsletter

13th September 2019

Volume 19, Issue 01

Attendance

Our target is 96%.

Please note difference	W/B 05/09	W/B 09/09
Mango (Nur)	0%	%
Peach (Rec B)	87%	%
Apple (Rec N)	87%	%
Beech (1L)	93%	%
Maple (1S)	85%	%
Birch (2B)	95%	%
Ash (2C)	88%	%
Oak (3B)	97%	%
Lemon (3C)	89%	%
Aspen (4G)	92%	%
Spruce (4L)	84%	%
Palm (5D)	91%	%
Cherry (5S)	89%	%
Willow (6G)	90%	%
Cypress (6S)	96%	%

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we have focused on our value of **Enthusiasm** in school.

In Collective Worship on Tuesday, we celebrated the children who achieved the 'Highest Attainment' and 'Most Significant Progress' awards for Year 2 last year. It was a very tough decision for the Year 2 teachers last year to make however, after much consideration, congratulations were given to:

Danny Dimitrov Hubenov—Highest attaining Year 2 boy;

Kaisha Darquah—Highest attaining year 2 girl;

Calvin Brychczynski-Marchioro—Most significant progress;

Nadira Khan—Most significant progress.

Further children's enthusiasm was celebrated through their achievement of their Music Theory exams. 11 children worked each week, with one of our governors—Valentine Phillips, learning Music Theory and all of them passed their exams for Grade 1 and Grade 4, with 6 distinctions.

We were also delighted to find out that one of our teachers had been nominated for a 'Best Teacher Award' and had won! Thank you to Aria Khorsand-Martell for nominating her teacher and congratulations to, **Ms. Bell** for working so hard and being recognised as having such a positive impact on the children in her class.

As a school, with so much to celebrate, we were all reminded of what relentless enthusiasm, commitment and dedication can achieve and all of us look forward to the rewards that may bring, in the academic year that lies ahead.

Attendance

I am pleased to report that each day our overall whole school attendance has increased this week because at the beginning of the week, attendance was very poor.

Today, thank fully, as I am writing the newsletter, it is 96.2%. A cursory look at the figures on this front page demonstrates that last week, many classes fell short even of 90% - when intervention for persistent absence starts.

Hopefully now, all children have returned from their summer travels, and regular, daily attendance at school can continue. Often parents ask me what they can do to help the school improve—and a clear answer to that is, to help each other get children into school every day.

This year, please support the school by maintaining a high level of attendance. Each day matters for your child's learning. Any concerns, please come and have a chat—because I am sure we can help.

Music provision

A significant aspect of the school's provision is Music, and so Madame McLuca, who leads Music for the school, has kindly provided the following update:

Children in Year 1 to 6 will be starting their Tower Hamlets Arts and Music Education Service (THAMES) music lessons next week. These are as follows:

Year 1 and 2 classes - African Drumming (Wednesday a.m.)

Year 3 - Violin or cello (Monday p.m.)

Year 4 - Continuing with violin or cello if they wish (Monday p.m.)

Year 5 - Guitar and continuing with the same instrument as last year, violin or cello (Monday p.m.) or a brass

instrument (Tuesday p.m.)

Year 6 - Continuing with the same instrument as last year, guitar, violin, cello and/or brass

Children learning in a small group or on their own may have the opportunity to bring an instrument home to practise. Separate letters will be going home about this soon.

To fit in with the times which the THAMES tutors are visiting our school, there are sometimes a very limited number of places for lessons out of curriculum time which families pay for privately via the school office and liaise directly with the tutor for. These are currently full but please do arrange to speak to Mrs McLucas via the office if interested in future vacancies. Also, many external providers of extra-curricular private music tuition can be found online.

To enhance the work of the tutors, classes will also be learning about Music with their class teachers. We have purchased a new scheme called Music Express to support teachers in delivering this aspect of the curriculum and so hopefully later in the year, you will hear about children composing music as well as learning how to play it on an instrument! Watch this space.

Coming up

We have made a number of changes to the curriculum we are teaching this year, to improve it further, and I will focus on sharing those with you in our newsletter next week. We will also be reporting On Line Safety statistics and feeding back on how we intend to sharpen up charitable giving this year.

With best wishes, Rebecca Abrahams

Class catch-up

<p><u>Nursery</u></p> <p>This week in Nursery we welcomed our first group of children who have all had a wonderfully first week and are settling in nicely. The children have had loads of fun exploring their new environments and getting to know all the staff and making new friends. We look forward to meeting lots more new children next week.</p>	<p><u>Reception</u></p> <p>What a fantastic start to the new academic year we have had in Reception!! We are so very proud of all the children! They have settled in so well and so quickly. We are especially enjoying getting to know each one of them. Please remember to send in a family picture, one of their favorite books and a spare set of clothes on Monday. There won't be any swimming lessons this term due to pool maintenance. We are looking forward to working with you and your children in order to make this a very successful and exciting year. Have a great weekend.</p>	<p><u>Year 1</u></p> <p>We have had a great start to the year in year one! We have been reading The Gingerbread Man and retelling the story using puppets. We have even thought of our own adjectives to describe the different characters. In maths we have been counting and sorting groups of objects and placing numbers on a number line. We have started our topic on 'Toys'. We got to look through a suitcase of old toys and we drew our favourite toys that we like to play with today. In science we are beginning to think about the human body and labelling the different parts. We hope you have a great weekend!</p>	<p><u>Year 2</u></p> <p>What a busy week we've had in Year 2! The children have settled in well and they have definitely been showing us this week's school value of enthusiasm. In English, we have read The Day the Crayons Quit and written letters to our favourite colour crayon. In Maths, we have started our first block which will focus on place value using concrete resources to build our understanding. Our new History topic is Florence Nightingale and the children have enjoyed finding out about who she was and are delighted that we have an upcoming trip to the Florence Nightingale Museum. Have a wonderful weekend!</p>
<p><u>Year 3</u></p> <p>Year 3 have made an excellent start to the year. We have been having lots of fun investigating numbers through dice games which we would encourage you to try at home in order to improve their mental arithmetic skills. In English we have used role play and freeze frames to begin exploring traditional tales.</p>	<p><u>Year 4</u></p> <p>Welcome to Year 4! It has been a really great start for us all. In English, we have started exploring the book 'Zoo' through drama and we have begun writing diary entries. In maths, we have been studying number and place value. Our topic for this term is the Vikings. We have designed Viking shields and have created a Vikings fact file, full of information we already know and what we would like to research further. This will lead us to next week, exploring Viking invasions! Have a lovely weekend!</p>	<p><u>Year 5</u></p> <p>We have enjoyed a busy return to school this week here in Year 5. We have begun our class text of the Scottish play - Macbeth. Spells and potions were all aplenty whereby we created our own 'Song of the Witches'. In maths we have been testing our recall of times tables and place value. Our history topic is focusing on the dynamic Tudor period. We have already re-enacted the Battle of Bosworth! Ask your child about the war of the roses. Wishing you all great weekend.</p>	<p><u>Year 6</u></p> <p>It has been a great pleasure to welcome your children into Year 6. There has been a great deal of enthusiasm shown so far towards what will be a challenging but exciting year for them. While reading 'Goodnight Mr Tom' we have been considering the emotions William Beach would have felt as he was evacuated to the countryside during World War 2. In Maths our focus has been on further understanding number and place value in order to have a strong base to develop our knowledge of the four operations. Across the wider curriculum we have begun our new computing unit thinking about internet safety, revisited and extended key french phrases and in RE we have thought about the journey of life. Have a great weekend. Team Year 6.</p>

Community House News

Coffee Morning on Mondays from 9.00am in the Community House, please come along and join us for a coffee and a chat.

Keep Fit: on Thursdays 9.00-10.00 in school. Crèche available on site.

ESOL Life Skills Course: on every Thursday, To develop their English Language Skills for work, further learning and everyday life.

Employability Course: Mondays 9:00-11.30. This course is in preparation to getting back into work. Building skills and confidence.

Isle of Dogs' Children's Choir

THAMES offer the opportunity for children in Key Stage 2 to attend the Isle of Dogs Children's Choir at St Edmund's School on Wednesday evenings from 4-5pm starting on 18th September. If you are interested in this, please either apply at:

https://forms.towerhamlets.gov.uk/service/Isle_of_Dogs_Childrens_Choir_application_form,

Or email the attached proforma to Alison.Porter@towerhamlets.gov.uk or hand it to Alison Porter at the first session.

If we have enough children wishing to attend the choir from St. Luke's, we may be able to provide a member of St Luke's staff to accompany the children to St Edmund's but the children will need to be collected from the IoD choir leaders at St Edmund's at 5pm by a nominated parent / carer. We can make this decision once we understand demand.