

Friday 11th September 2015

## Message from the head

I am sure you will have all read the item in the newsletter last week about the importance of good attendance. I was disappointed to see that in the first week of term our attendance has dipped to 91%. It has been proved time and time again that children with poor attendance achieve less well than their peers and we all want the very best for our children. As attendance is now well below 95% our Education Welfare Officer will be working closely with the school and we will be scheduling meetings with the families of any child who has attendance below this figure. Please try and make sure that your child attends school every day, on time. Thank you for your co-operation.

On a more positive note it has been a real delight to see all the wonderful learning that has been going on this week. Entry points to the IPC topics have fired imaginations and resulted in powerful learning, already Year 5 have made costumes of characters from myths and legends and spent a day in role and Year 2 have created the buildings of a London skyline in miniature, all year groups are setting the standard for the year ahead. As well as developing core skills within a meaningful curriculum we also have a focus on handwriting and presentation this year. Do ask your child's teacher if you would like a copy of the school script. It is going to be a busy, and very successful, year!

## Dates for your calendar

Please note, one INSET day is still to be set. As soon as it is we will let you know.

|                   |                                   |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 18th September    | Eid Tea after school              |
| 21st September    | Year 2 to the London Eye          |
| 21st September    | Year 3 to Kew Gardens             |
| 23rd September    | Secondary Transfer Meeting for Y6 |
| 24th September    | Year 5 to British Museum          |
| 25th September    | 1/2 Reception to Unicorn Theatre  |
| 1st October       | 1/2 Reception to Unicorn Theatre  |
| 19th October      | Year 2 to Tower Bridge            |
| 19th-23rd October | Year 6 School Journey             |
| 26th-30th Oct     | Autumn Half Term Holiday          |
| 2nd November      | INSET Day—school closed           |
| 3rd November      | School Opens—Children Back        |
| 4th November      | Family Supper @ 5.30pm            |
| 18th December     | Last day of term—close @ 2pm      |
| 21st Dec-1st Jan  | Christmas Holidays                |
| 4th January       | INSET Day—school Closed           |
| 5th January       | School Opens—children back        |
| 15th-19th Feb     | Spring Half Term Holiday          |
| 22nd February     | School Opens—children back        |
| 24th March        | Last day of term—close @ 2pm      |
| 25th Mar-8th Apr  | Easter Holidays                   |
| 11th April        | School Opens—children back        |
| 2nd May           | May Day Holiday—School Closed     |
| 30th May-3rd June | Summer Half Term Holiday          |
| 6th June          | School Opens—children back        |
| 20th July         | Last day of term—close @ 2pm      |

## Refugee Crisis

Many of you will have been watching the news, as we have been, with increasing concern for the welfare of refugees currently risking their lives making their way to Europe in an attempt to have a safer life and escape the troubles in their home countries. This week we have spoken to the children in assemblies and in class about these events and discussed what we, as a school that underpins our philosophy on the United Nations Rights of the Child, can do to help. The children were very moved by the plights of these families. For many, including some of our staff, who come from a refugee background, this crisis is especially affecting. The children were asked to come up with some fundraising ideas and as a result we have planned the following.

All monies collected in this weeks Friday Tea will be donated to the UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency. Any money raised from next weeks Eid Tea will also be donated to this cause. On the same day as the Eid tea we will be holding a non-uniform day. Children pay £1 and can come in without their uniform. Again, all money raised will go to those in most need through this crisis. As things move on we will be thinking of other things we could do. If you have any ideas, or would like to help co-ordinate further efforts please make an appointment to speak with Marianne.

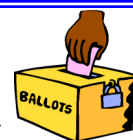


## Parent Governor Elections

Two of our Parent Governors terms of office are coming to an end this term. While they may choose to stand again we would like to ask any other parents interested in becoming a Parent Governor to look out for the letter that will be sent home asking for nominations. If you would like to know more about the role of a governor feel free to make an appointment with Marianne or speak to one of the existing parent governors and they'll be happy to answer questions you might have. We will be holding an informal coffee morning on **Friday 25th September at 9.15am** in the dining hall. Please come along and find out more.

### Our Current Parent Governors are:

- Geethika Jayatilaka (Shalin—Y5, Alice—Rec)
- Polly Curtis (Ivy—Y5)
- Tanya Gibson (Isaac—Y3, Dylan—Y2, )
- Syeda Miah (Thyra—Y5, Aayaz—Y3)
- Emma Stockton (Charlotte—Y5, Finlay—Rec)
- Tomris Tangaz (Timur—Y3)



## Eid Tea—Friday 18th September

We would like lots of people to join us to celebrate. Donations of (preferably home cooked) food are very welcome. Please contact [syedamiah@gmail.com](mailto:syedamiah@gmail.com) if you would like some ideas of what kind of dishes would be most useful. Plates will cost £2 and £1.50 for children. There will also be some fun activities outside, (face painting, henna patterns and card making.) As mentioned above. all money raised will go to help the refugees we have all seen having such a terrible time in the media recently. We hope to see you there for tea and a chat.



## Peanut Products

Please try to avoid sending in items with peanuts in them or lunches or tea sales. We have a number of children with peanut allergies. Thank you.

## English for Speakers of Other Languages

Our ESOL classes were very successful this year and will be running again this year. Enrolment will take place in the first week of the classes. The deadline for enrolment is week 6 in each term. Classes take place in the dining room on Wednesday and Thursday mornings. They are a great opportunity to develop English skills and are free if you meet the criteria. Classes are delivered by the Working Men's College. Ask in the office or contact the Working Men's College Community Learning Manager on: **020 7255 4733** or email: [pkar@wmcollege.ac.uk](mailto:pkar@wmcollege.ac.uk) if you would like to know more.



The college for women and men

Term A dates : w.b 14 September 2015 – w.b. 30 November

Term B dates : w.b. 4 January 2016 – w.b. 21 March

Term C dates : w.b. 11 April 2016 – w.b. 27 June

## New Mural Unveiling Ceremony

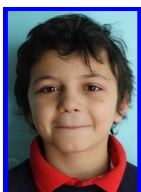
Thank you to Sue Ladipo who today cut the ribbon and officially unveiled our new mural by Pedro Kalache and the children and staff at Brecknock. Sue envisaged and started the tile project last year and

it is fitting she was able to return to perform the ceremonial ribbon cutting.



On Wednesday Year 5 began their 'Myths and Legends' topic with a Myths and Legends Catwalk. All the children came to school dressed as a character from a myth or legend that they knew. We had Zeus, Hades, Hermes, Robin Hood, Helen of Troy and many more. They looked absolutely brilliant and they were all able to share their characters' stories with their friends.

Well done to Hadi who's come back to school and hit the ground running with his writing. Kate was very impressed with his effort this week and wanted to share an extract from a piece he wrote in literacy on Greek Gods and Goddesses. Keep it up Hadi!



### The Goddess of Wisdom

Athena, the Goddess of War, was one of Zeus' daughters. She wasn't a bulky, strong person like 'Athena Smash!' No, she was wise like her mortal mother, Metis, and her immortal father Zeus.

### Family Troubles

Athena did not get along with her uncle Poseidon. For one thing they were often rivals for land and cities. Once the people of a new city were looking for a new God to watch over them and protect them. Athena and Poseidon both wanted the job.

### The War

Poseidon then struck the ground with his legendary trident. Then water flew out and formed a river leading to the sea. He told them to build ships and sail off to raid, steal and become rich. Even though it was a good idea, the people were not evil so they were not very amazed but the king liked it. Then Athena told the king to drink the water, so he did, then he spat it out with bitterness and shouted 'Ugh!' It was salt water...



## Myths and Legends in Year 5

Year 6 have been working hard this week on a piece of writing linked to their Class Island trying to persuade people to visit it. Monica was very impressed with a piece by Nell on the Island of Madagascar and we wanted to share an extract with you here. Well done Nell, keep up the good work!

### Looking for a relaxing vacation?

Why not try out the astonishing views and radiant scenery that the island of Madagascar has to offer. Madagascar has swarms of unique and peculiar wildlife. Unlike any other country, Madagascar is one of the few islands that gives you a pack of extraordinary experiences to enjoy with your family. It'll be like no other holiday you've ever been on. Also known as the eighth continent of the world, the friendly Madagascan locals will ensure you have an unforgettable break on this mind-blowing, extraordinary, amazing island!



## Writing in Year 6

## Golden Book Awards and this weeks winners are...



Tristin & Kayinat—Mull, Ifaz & Abdullah—Skye, Ziad & Zara—Guernsey, Hadi & Nilima—Jersey, Laura-Jane & Oliver—Y3, Vera & Abdel Kerim—Y4, Abakash & Hadi—Y5, George & Jennifer—Y6