



# NEWSLETTER



## HEAD TEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Parent/carer,

The Summer Term has got off to an energetic start. Our value for April has been 'Drive' and there has certainly been a lot of drive and determination evident around the school this week.

Yesterday the school was treated to the Romeo and Juliet drama and dance performances by Years 3 and 5 that were performed to the public last term. The fact that the children remembered so well 4 weeks later shows just how these kinds of learning opportunities make learning memorable. The summer term is where we bring key learning from the year together for children, teach them how to refresh and apply their knowledge and then test, test, test! At Argyle, we make the testing process part of learning so that children know they have a challenge to work towards, get to practise the challenge and also track their own improvement and progress. They know that they have a degree of control over their own performance and for us this is key learning.

Have a great weekend. Please ensure that children have lots of fresh air and exercise so that they are ready for the busy week ahead.

*J. Wade*

**Head Teacher**

# Nursery

This week we introduced our new topic for this term, which is '**All Creatures Great and Small**'.

During the course of this term we will go on an amazing learning adventure all around the world, where we will learn about animals from every continent of planet earth! We started off our topic by learning about minibeasts. The children learned the names of some common minibeasts, like ladybirds, bees, snails, spiders and woodlice, and we studied some toy versions with magnifying glasses on our small world play table.



We read 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' by Eric Carle and learnt that caterpillars are a type of minibeast that can turn into a butterfly (or a moth) by spinning a cocoon. The children had a go at drawing their own caterpillars and they also painted some cocoons. Fatimah said "I'm painting round and round" and Iqra said "I'm painting mine with lines". In our story, the caterpillar ate different fruits on each day of the week. The children learned how to organise all the real fruits that the caterpillar ate into the correct days of the week, on our big caterpillar!



Afterwards, we enjoyed tasting all the different fruits, Yahya said "I eat the black plum", Awes said "it tastes like sweets". The children also had a go at drawing their own caterpillars this week. Ibrahim said "caterpillar is eating lots of food". In our stay and play session, the children worked with their parents to retell the story and put their maths learning from this week to the test by putting the correct numbers of fruit into the correct days of the week. Alisha said "caterpillar eats one apple and two pears".





# RECEPTION



The start of a new half term means the start of a new unit of exploration for the children in Reception. This half term the children will be **'Exploring Springtime and Our Garden.'** They began the week by reading the story 'Errol's Garden'—a story about a boy who lives in a flat but would love to have his own garden. With the help of his community, Errol designs and creates a garden on the roof for everyone to share. After reading the story the children went to the roof of the school and looked at how the playground looks different when viewed from a height. This is called a "bird's eye view".

The children then took it in turns to work in their own playground, planting a range of different seeds and bulbs that they can nurture and grow. Also this week, the children revisited their learning about different seasons and then talked about the changes that take place outside in Springtime. They visited the school's garden and tried to spot signs of Spring such as blossom on the trees and the sound of birds singing.



# YEAR 1

Ruby class observed a video of birds in art and then used pencils and crayons to depict their observations. Aqeel proudly shared, 'Look at my robin!' In maths, Year 1 have been learning about next door neighbours (9 and 8 for example) and odd neighbours (9 and 7) in relation to numbers. Additionally, the children have been introduced to mass and compared the mass of objects with counting cubes on a balance scale. In science, the children used their sense of touch to guess what was inside a rubber glove. Isa observed, 'This feels soft and fluffy'. It was cotton wool!

Fortune favoured the bold in Jade class on Wednesday afternoon as the rain turned to sunshine and they enjoyed an assortment of activities. The children played in the mud kitchen, relaxed on a hammock, weeded, painted and created buzzy bees with yarn. Isabelle exclaimed, 'Look at this sticky weed. It's not falling off' and Taha happily showed off his friendly bee.



# Year 2

This week might've only been 4 days but we have already been extremely busy! The week started with a special visitor from the London Fire Brigade where a real firefighter spoke to us about fire safety. The children listened intently and asked thoughtful questions like 'what made you want to become a firefighter?' and 'how strong do you have to be?'

In Art, we have started a new topic looking at different expressive artists that use unusual and natural tools such as leaves, toothbrushes and even mops to create art! The children created visual notes on their chosen artists - they looked fantastic!

In Literacy, we have been reading a new text called Lila and the Secret of Rain. We used the text to write a letter and then to write a detailed character description.

In Maths, we have started our learning on fractions. They are currently learning how to recognise, write and find a half and a quarter.

As a reminder to grown ups - PE is now on Tuesday and Wednesday. We will occasionally be doing PE outside so make sure the children have weather appropriate clothes.



# Year 5



Year 5 and year 2 had a busy first morning back at school with a visit from one of our local firefighters, Stefan. He gave us a lively presentation letting us know lots about the job and all of those who work at our local fire station, including the service animals. The children all shared their prior knowledge, including what situations one might need to call 999 and ask for the fire service, and what they might be asked if they did.



We then went on to look at some of the ways that fires might be started and what we can do to prevent that happening. Stefan then took us the correct evacuation procedures in the event of a fire. Finally the children had lots of interesting questions, including all about the training programme for fire fighters, including the fire cadets scheme for teenagers to find out about a career in the fire service.

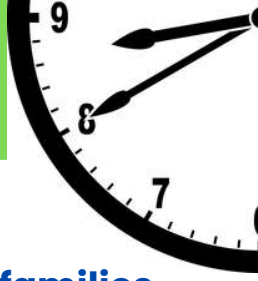
Did you know that you can request for the fire service to inspect your home to help make it safer and they will fit free smoke alarms?

On Thursday morning years 3 and 5 put on a special performance of Romeo and Juliet for the rest of the school. This started with year 3 reprising their dances that they performed in March at The Place Theatre before 5 Amethyst's performance of the full play, first performed more than a month ago at the Shaw Theatre. Even though they had only been back in school 2 days, they quickly picked up where they had left off and performed with gusto. The children will be bringing home a copy of the glowing feedback that they received from the Coram Shakespeare Schools Foundation about their theatre performance.

The Show was attended by two special guests, Ms Jones' daughter, award winning choreographer, Arielle Smith, who had supported the class in their movement direction for the piece and her partner, George Francis, who worked as Associate Musical Director on the West End Show, Hadestown. After the show, the two stayed for a workshop in which they shared how they had got into their respective careers and what those might look like on a day-to-day basis. George shared footage from his point of view when he played the piano and accordion live during the show. Then the children joined him for a live performance of 'Wait for Me' that they had sung for their assembly on Ancient Greece and posed with Arielle in extracts from the opening scene from Romeo and Juliet; 'I Predict a Riot'.



# Attendance & Punctuality



Week	1	2	3	4	5	6
Rec: Jet	92					
1 Jade	82					
1 Ruby	88					
2 Amber	96					
2 Opal	89					
3 Garnet	97					
3 Pearl	96					
4 Emerald	97					
4 Onyx	90					
5 Amethyst	95					
6 Sapphire	98					
Total	92					
Camden	-					

**Thank you to all families who were back in school, on time, on Tuesday.**

Congratulations to **2 Amber, 3 Garnet, 3 Pearl, 4 Emerald** and **6 Sapphire** for achieving 96% attendance this week.

### Exceptional Leave:

Parents are reminded not to book holidays during school term time.

If there is an emergency and you need exceptional leave, please complete a form from the school office before booking your tickets.

We would like to remind parents that taking holidays less than 5 days can still be referred for a penalty notice. You may not be issued a Penalty Notice but you will be invited to a Legal Authority Meeting with Camden's Attendance and Children Out of School Team in Camden offices.

## Reporting Absences

Parents should report any absences to the school office by calling 02078374590 before 9.30am.

Please do not leave messages on the answering machine. A member of staff may call you again to discuss the absence.

Please do not send emails to the admin inbox.

**Every School Day Counts**

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## APRIL

Monday 28th

**Tuition:** Year 5 & 6 Action Tuition – Baseline test for new children joining group  
**Trip:** 3 Pearl visit British Museum from 9.15am – 1pm  
**Trip:** Selected Year 5 pupils attend Football Tournament at Coram Fields from 1pm – 4pm

Tuesday 29th

**Meeting:** Bonsall meeting for Year 4 parents @ 2.45pm  
**Event:** Year 3 start swimming sessions at 5 St Pancras  
**Tuition:** Year 5 Richard Reeves Tuition

Wednesday 30th

**Event:** KS2 Choir performing at the Royal Albert Hall – 2pm–9pm

## MAY

Thursday 1st

**Trip:** Selected girls to Young Women’s Sports day from 9.20am to 2.30pm  
**Tuition:** Year 6 Maths Booster session, 3.15 to 4.15pm  
**Tuition:** Year 6 Greater Depth Booster Group, 3.15 to 4.15pm  
**Tuition:** Year 6 Richard Reeves from 3.15 to 4.15pm

Friday 2nd

**Trip:** 1 Ruby to The British Library from 10.45am to 12.15pm  
**Event:** MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS from 1pm to 3pm – Parents are invited  
Year 6 SATs mock exams taking place

Monday 5th

**BANK HOLIDAY – school closed**

Tuesday 6th

**Event:** 2 Opal Class Assembly at 8.55am – Parents invited  
**Trip:** Year 1 to British Library from 10.45am – 12.15pm

Wednesday 7th

**Trip:** Selected pupils from Years 3 & 4 attend Football Tournament at Parliament Hill Fields from 2.30pm – 6.30pm

Thursday 8th

**Event:** 3 Garnet Class Assembly at 8.55am – Parents invited  
**Trip:** 1 Ruby visit London Zoo from 9am – 3pm