



# NEWSLETTER



## HEAD TEACHER'S MESSAGE

Our value for October is 'Friendship'.



Friendship is one of the most valuable parts of life. At school and at home, friends help children feel happy, supported and understood. Having someone to share a laugh with, talk through worries with or simply spend time with makes a huge difference to wellbeing.

This month we will be reminding children about this but we will also discuss the fact that friendship is about more than fun and laughter. It also comes with responsibility. Being a good friend means showing kindness, listening, and being respectful even when we don't see eye to eye. It can mean forgiving mistakes, cheering one another on, or gently encouraging a friend to make good choices. At school, we support children to practise "good friend" behaviours, so that over time they build confidence in managing friendships with care.

As parents, there's a lot you can do to help your children grow in this value. Talk together about what makes a good friend and share your own stories of friendship from childhood or adulthood.

Friendship is a gift, but it's also something we practise and nurture. With support at school and at home, our children can learn to build strong, caring friendships that help everyone thrive.

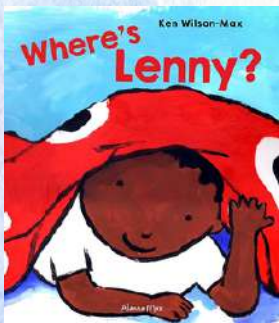
*J. Wade*  
Head Teacher

# Nursery



In Nursery this week we continued with our topic of Nursery Rhymes and practised singing '1,2,3,4,5, once I caught a fish alive', 'little turtle (Tiny Tim)', 'hickory, dickory dock', 'teddy bear teddy bear' and '3 little monkeys'.

Today we had our first stay & play where parents and children worked together to make their own magnetic fishing game to accompany the 1,2,3,4,5 rhyme. Click on the QR code to play 1,2,3,4,5 and sing the rhyme together with your child while playing your fishing games at home!



1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Once I  
Caught a Fish Alive



This week we read the book 'Where's Lenny', by Ken Wilson-Max, which is about a child playing hide and seek at home with his parents. The children enjoyed learning how to use words such as 'in', 'on', 'under', 'behind', etc, when describing where Lenny was hiding. We continued to learn about our senses this week and focused on using our ears by playing a listening game.

The children learnt about the difference between 'popping', 'snapping', 'crunching' and 'jingling' noises and found out that many different kinds of objects can make these noises. We also played 'what's in the box?' and used our noses to decide whether we liked or didn't like the smell of different items. Whilst exploring the book the children had great fun looking at the different kinds of ears that animals have. We also learned about Lenny's pet fish and his pet dog. We played pet shops and thought about what we needed to do to look after the pet animals.



# RECEPTION



This week in Reception we hosted our phonics workshop – thank you to those parents who were able to attend. With all our support, we can help the pupils in Reception to make rapid progress in order to achieve the expected standard by the end of the year. During the workshop, the children learned a new sound (the phoneme 'r') and how to write the grapheme 'r'. They also modelled all the phonemes they have learned so far, and showed how they can sound-talk a word and blend the phonemes to make a word. Please make sure you practise the sounds that are sent home in the weekly homework with your child. A good challenge for home is to see if your child can find things with the same first sounds as those in their homework. For example 'd' for door.

This week we read the book 'Funnybones', by Janet & Allan Ahlberg, and learnt that we have a skeleton inside our bodies. We learnt the names of some of the different bones in our skeletons, like 'skull' and 'ribcage', and then we labelled the different parts of our body together. Reception also had so much fun in their first session of garden classroom this week. We learnt about all the different areas of the school garden and did some really fun activities like making play food in the mud kitchen, hammock swinging, acorn and conker decorating, song-singing and storytelling.



# YEAR 1

Year 1 had an exciting day at the London Canal Museum on Thursday. We took a boat through the dark Islington Tunnel (878 m long!)

"It was scary because it was so dark and cold!" said Daisy.

Aymen thought "the log looked like a crocodile head hunting to eat us!"

"It is so deep and shiny!" said Safa

We learned how canals were built by hand, saw the huge ice well where ice from Norway was stored and even dressed up as a Victorian canal family. The children discovered how hardworking canal horses pulled heavy boats and how canals were once London's motorways.



## Year 1 Literacy – Mr Gumpy's Outing

This week Year 1 brought Mr Gumpy's Outing to life through role-play. We explored how the characters behaved, imagined being on the boat and made predictions about what might go wrong – just like real readers looking for clues!

"A strong wind will blow the boat away!" – Amaya

"The shark will come and eat the boat!" – Zakariya

## Maths : Fewer, More and Less

This week we've been making Maths hands-on and fun! By rolling dice and comparing with dominoes, the children practised recognising numbers and using the words fewer, more and same to compare quantities.

"I rolled a 4 and found a domino with 2 spots. The domino has fewer spots than the dice." – Hafsa



"My leaf has zigzag edges but smooth on top." – Luna

## Science & Art : Observational Leaf Drawing

Using magnifying glasses, Year 1 looked closely at leaves to spot patterns, lines, veins, textures and colours. The children practised fine motor skills, careful drawing and using new vocabulary to describe what they saw.

# YEAR 2

It's been another exciting and busy week in Year 2!

In Literacy, the children have continued to innovate their version of The Three Little Pigs. They've been getting creative by changing the characters and settings in the story. This week, their focus has been on editing their work carefully – checking for missed capital letters and full stops to make sure their writing is as polished as their ideas!

In Maths, we wrapped up our unit on Place Value and began exploring Addition and Subtraction. The children kicked off the new topic with a fun number bond to 10 memory game, searching for number bond pairs. Myrah thoughtfully pointed out, "7 and 8 can't be a bond because it's more than 10." Great reasoning, Myrah!

Over in Computing, the children have been designing their own work mats by illustrating three squares on a six-square grid. They chose their own start and end points and then created an algorithm for a Bee Bot to follow. There was lots of trial and error involved, and Leanne reflected, "I didn't get to my end point the first or second try, but then I got it!" – a wonderful example of perseverance in action. In RE, the children reflected upon their personal values. Many chose their family, friends and God as their 3 most important values.

In Science, the children were busy making predictions and investigating which of five different materials were waterproof. It was a great hands-on experiment that sparked curiosity and discussion.

Finally, in PE, teamwork was the name of the game! The children continued developing their collaboration skills with an Elephant Walk race across the middle hall – working together in groups of four to complete the fun challenge.



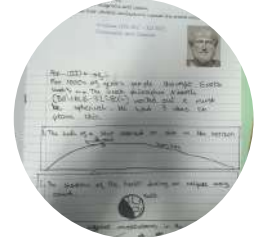
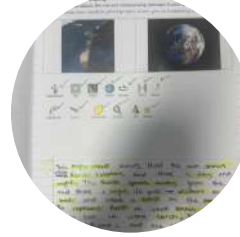
# YEAR 5

In Science, the children have been learning all about the interactions of Earth, Sun and Moon, as well as the other planets in our solar system and how many scholars over thousands of years have contributed to our understanding of celestial bodies.

Using a torch to represent the sun and a small ball the earth, they modelled how the earth rotates on its axis and so we have daytime when our part of the Earth is facing the sun and night when our country is turned away from the light of the sun.



Zainab and Tayyibah have brought in beautiful projects from home that demonstrate their research about the different planets, while Parsa explained to the whole class how the ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle had used his observations of the stars and the way that ships seem to disappear over the horizon as proof that the Earth is spherical.



This week was our third week work on our Camtastic toys with the shifted DT project. We acquired many new skills this week to finish assembling the box for our mechanism including making the handle, crank and shaft of the machine. We learned how to use a set square to draw perfectly perpendicular lines (at a right angle to our cut) and to find the mid point of a rectangle using diagonal lines. This helped us to plan and design a balanced machine. We also used hammers and nails to join all the pieces and an impressive drill, and then learned how to select the correct grade of sandpaper for a job.



# Attendance & Punctuality

Class	1J	2A	2O	3P	4E	4O	5A	5Q	6S	Total
Week 1	98%	85%	84%	95%	92%	94%	96%	83%	100%	96%
Week 2	97%	95%	95%	99%	96%	98%	95%	94%	99%	96%
Week 3	96%	87%	95%	94%	92%	93%	95%	91%	97%	94%
Week 4	95%	89%	95%	96%	96%	96%	94%	91%	97%	96%
Week 5	94%	96%	94%	97%	99%	96%	95%	95%	95%	95%

Congratulations to **2 Amber, 3 Pearl, 4 Emerald & 4 Onyx** for achieving the target of 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

## OCTOBER

Monday 6th	Year 6 to Oxford University - 8am to 4.30pm Year 6 Action Tuition - 3.15pm to 4.30pm
Tuesday 7th	Year 4 to The British Library - 12.30pm to 3pm Year 5 swimming - 11am to 12pm Year 5 Richard Reeves Tuition - 3.15pm to 4.30pm Cooking Club GROUP 1 - 3.15pm to 4.30pm (years 1, 2 & 3) Art Club - 3.15pm to 4.15pm (years 4, 5 & 6)
Wednesday 8th	ESOL class in FLC 9:30 to 11:30am Year 5 Action Tuition - 3.15pm to 4.30pm Football Club - 3.15pm to 4.15pm (years 1, 2 & 3)
Thursday 9th	Year 5 to Holborn Library for DT workshop - 9.30am to 12pm Year 6 swimming - 11am to 12pm Year 6 Richard Reeves Tuition - 3.15pm to 4.30pm Cooking Club GROUP 1 - 3.15pm to 4.30pm (years 4, 5, & 6) Art Club - 3.15pm to 4.15pm (years 1, 2 & 3)
Friday 10th	Football Club - 3.15pm to 4.15pm (years 4, 5 & 6)
Monday 13th	Year 6 Action Tuition - 3.15pm to 4.30pm

### Family Learning: Have Your Say!

We would love input from families on which family learning opportunities would be most helpful and interesting to you.

[Please complete the survey here to share your thoughts.](#)

If you have any questions or other suggestions not on the survey, please speak to Sophia (Family Support Worker) on the gates. Thank you!