

# ARGYLE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## HEAD TEACHER'S MESSAGE

This week at Argyle we have been celebrating British Science Week, a ten day celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths,

featuring entertaining and engaging events and activities across the UK for people of all ages.

British Science Week provides a platform to stimulate and support teachers, STEM professionals, science communicators and the general public to produce and participate in STEM events and activities.

The theme for British Science Week 2026, 'Curiosity: what's your question?', is all about encouraging people to embrace their passions, find the answers to their most burning STEM questions.

As part of the celebrations of the Week and this special theme, this year, we've spoken to a diverse group of scientists, STEM professionals, researchers working across STEM fields from sport science to microbiology about what they're curious about. Ask your child about what exciting Science activities they have enjoyed this week - and keep reading to find out more.

*J. Wade*

Head Teacher



## Introducing the new Ofsted Framework – part 3 – Attendance and Behaviour

Ofsted's new framework has caused some controversy because Attendance and Behaviour are both looked at in one section. This means that a weakness in one area may prevent strengths in another area from being recognised.

This evaluation area considers

- 1) whether leaders and staff create a calm, orderly, respectful, supportive and positive environment in which pupils can thrive;
- 2) the impact of the school's work on attendance, behaviour and attitudes of all pupils - especially the most disadvantaged.

At Argyle we work hard to set and communicate clear expectations around both high attendance and positive behaviour - both of which impact greatly on pupil motivation and achievement. There are areas of strength. Our pupils are often praised by visitors for their positive behaviour and their thoughtful approach to learning. Our ethos is positive and encouraging. Pupils can be excellent role models and make a really positive contribution.

There are however, groups of pupils who are not yet doing their best. Their learning is negatively affected and their behaviour can impact upon the learning of others. We are working really hard to find ways forward with all pupils. Similarly, our attendance is impacted by families who book leave in term time and by the relatively high numbers of children whose attendance falls below 90%.

What is clear is that we can never be complacent and that schools and families need to work together for us to feel that we are doing our absolute best across this rigorous evaluation area.

# NURSERY

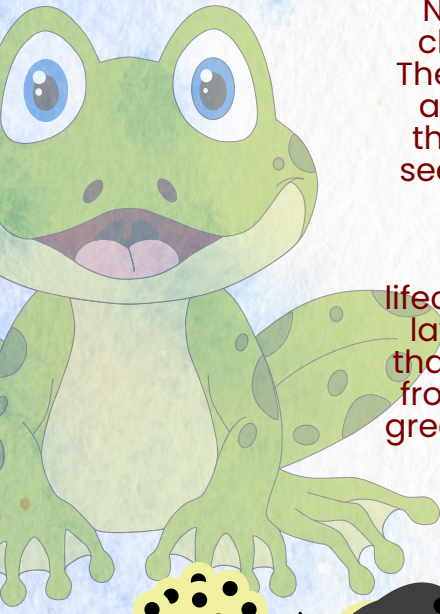
It was British Science Week this week and the theme was 'Curiosity'. We read the story **'The Frog Prince'** by Pippa Goodheart and learned lots of interesting facts about frogs. We found out that frogs are amphibians and that they do not drink water! Amphibians have unique skin which is slimy, and when they sit in water they absorb it through their skin.



The children explored this idea using a sponge to soak up water and were fascinated to see the water soak into the sponge just like a frog's skin.

Next, the children investigated ways to clean the dirty water in the frog's pond. They explored making a filter using beads and paper, then poured the dirty water through it. The children were amazed to see the water change colour as it passed through the filter.

We also enjoyed learning about the lifecycle of a frog. We discovered that frogs lay eggs which hatch into tadpoles, and that the tadpoles gradually transform into frogs. This week the children asked lots of great questions and carefully observed the world around them.  
Well done!



# H

In phonics, the children learnt about the 'h' sound. They practised blending simple words that begin with h, including h-a-t, Humaira, Hawa and h-ou-se.



On Thursday, Nursery visited the Foundling Museum. The children enjoyed going on a musical journey around the museum during a workshop led by musician and storyteller Paul Rubinstein. They explored the sounds that the Foundlings would have heard when they arrived at the hospital while taking part in songs, games and music making.

In maths, the children learned about the difference between circles and spheres and found lots of examples around the nursery.

During our Stay and Play session, all the children made their own 'Little Speckled Frog' game. The children had great fun creating their frog games and singing along with their parents.

# YEAR 1

## Planting

This week, Year 1 have been busy little gardeners! We have started an exciting science project by planting different types of beans and peas in clear cups in our classroom.

The clear cups will help us observe what happens as the seeds begin to grow. We will be watching very closely to see:

- when the roots start to appear
- how the shoots push up through the soil
- how the stems and leaves develop

The children are learning all about what plants need to grow: water, sunlight, warmth and care - and are making predictions about which seeds might grow the fastest.

Once our seedlings are strong enough, we will carefully transfer them to our school garden, where they will continue growing in the ground.

We are very excited to watch them flourish and (hopefully!) enjoy a wonderful harvest later in the year.

Well done, Year 1 gardeners!



## Teddy Bear Clinic

Year 1 had a wonderful time taking part in a Teddy Bear Clinic to learn about how vaccines help keep us healthy. The children, along with their teddy bears, helped the "doctors" and "nurses" make sure their cuddly friends were well looked after.

During the session, the children learned that vaccines are like a shield that protects our bodies from becoming very sick. To help understand this idea, the class made their own colourful protective shields.

The children talked about how getting vaccinated can help protect not only ourselves, but also the people we love.

It was lovely to see the children caring for their teddy bears and learning about how we can all help keep our families and communities safe. The class showed great kindness, curiosity and creativity throughout the activity.



## British Science Week

As part of British Science Week, Year 1 also became young engineers by designing and making their own paper aeroplanes.

The children experimented with different ways of folding the paper to see which designs would fly the best. Some aeroplanes flew very far, while others spun or glided slowly to the ground! The class had lots of fun testing their designs and seeing how small changes could make a big difference to how the aeroplanes travelled.

Through this activity, the children explored ideas about design, testing and improving their creations. They showed great curiosity and excitement as they launched their planes and watched them soar through the air.

It was a fantastic way to celebrate science through creativity, problem solving and lots of enthusiastic flying!

# YEAR 1



## Garden Classroom

As part of British Science Week, Year 1 also enjoyed a special session in our Garden Classroom. The children explored nature and learned more about how plants and animals grow and change in spring.

First, the children worked together to make bird nests, thinking carefully about how birds build safe homes for their eggs. They used natural materials and showed great teamwork and creativity.

The class also did some planting. The children planted radish seedlings that they had been growing in the classroom, along with red onions, carrots, beetroot and potatoes. We are excited to watch them grow over the next few weeks.

While exploring the garden, we looked closely at the trees and noticed how spring is beginning to change them. Some of the deciduous trees already have small buds starting to grow.

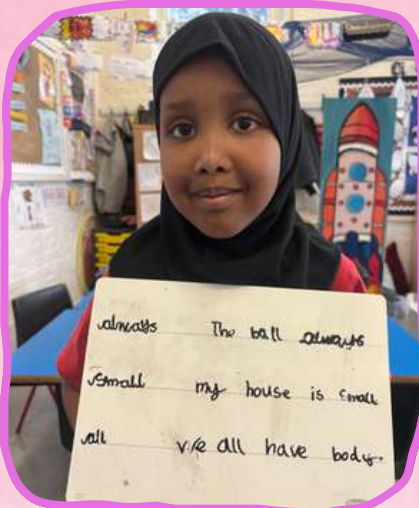
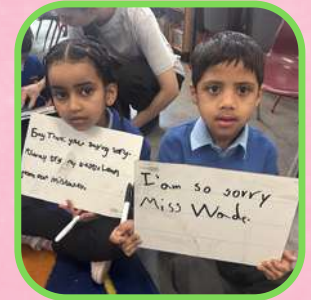
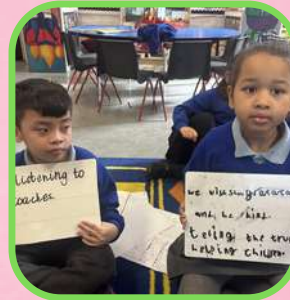
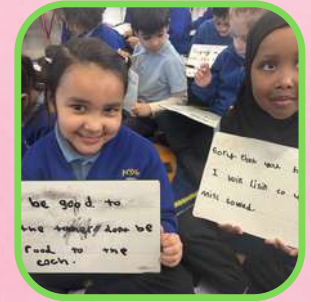
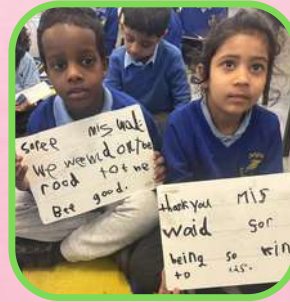
In a couple of weeks, we are hoping to see beautiful blossoms appearing on the branches.

It was a wonderful way to celebrate science by learning outdoors and observing the changes happening in nature all around us.

## Argyle Code

Linked to our school code, "We take responsibility and make a positive contribution," the children worked together to think of solutions, try new ideas and improve their behaviour.

It was fantastic to see the children becoming confident problem solvers, taking responsibility for their actions and making positive contributions to the class community.



Assiya has been working hard in phonics, practising reading and writing words using the sounds she has learned. She confidently wrote several words and simple sentences on her whiteboard, showing great effort and growing confidence with her phonics skills. Well done, Assiya!



Zaynab proudly shared her Spring 2 project all about Seville, Spain. She created a colourful travel brochure with pictures and interesting facts about famous landmarks, food and places to visit. Zaynab worked hard to present her ideas clearly and showed great creativity in designing her project. Well done, Zaynab!

# YEAR 2

This week, Year 2 have had an exciting and busy time in class!



In Maths, we began our new unit on Length and Height. The children practised drawing straight lines using a ruler and started measuring and comparing lengths. We also explored the difference between centimetres and metres, discussing when each unit might be used.

In RE, the children revisited the Easter story. They sequenced pictures from the story and retold the key events in the correct order, helping them understand the meaning and importance of Easter.



In Literacy, we continued learning our model text and wrote a setting description from the perspective of Rocket, the main character from Look Up. The children thought carefully about what Rocket might see and feel while looking up at the night sky. We also introduced apostrophes and learned when to use them correctly.

In PE, the children created short dance sequences imagining themselves in a secret garden. Ayaana and Myrah worked together as gardeners watering their plants to an eight-count.



In Science, the class visited the school garden to identify microhabitats. Sulaiman turned over a log and said, "Woah, look at the worms and slugs!" The children discussed why this microhabitat was suitable for the animals living there.



On Thursday, Year 2 Amber visited the Camden Learning Centre for an engaging computing session. The children wrote algorithms to programme Bee-Bots and practised debugging their instructions when the Bee-Bot did not follow the planned route. They also created digital books using Book Creator about famous people they have been studying in History. Aaniyah exclaimed, "This was the best day ever!" and her classmates enthusiastically agreed.

**Well done to Year 2 for their enthusiasm and hard work this week!**

Year 3 recently took part in an exciting science workshop exploring the question: *Does having a longer femur (thigh bone) help you jump higher?*

The pupils became young scientists for the day, making predictions, carrying out investigations and recording their results.

First, the children learned about the femur and where it is located in the human body. Working in small groups, they carefully measured the length of their femurs and then tested how high they could jump.

Using teamwork and lots of enthusiasm, they recorded their measurements and compared their results with others in the class.

The pupils discovered that while some children with longer femurs could jump high, it wasn't always the case. They discussed how other factors such as strength, practice and jumping technique also play an important role.

The workshop was a fantastic opportunity for Year 3 to practise important scientific skills, including measuring, predicting, observing and analysing results. Most importantly, the children had great fun while learning more about the human body and how scientists investigate questions.

Well done to our brilliant Year 3 scientists!

# YEAR 3



# YEAR 4

The children had a fantastic time exploring Fulham Palace! They stepped into the shoes of archaeologists as they examined historical evidence, became detectives while translating old English writing, and even transformed into Vikings by dressing up in the clothes they might have worn. It was a brilliant day full of learning, discovery and hands on history.

"The metal helmets were for high ranking Vikings!"

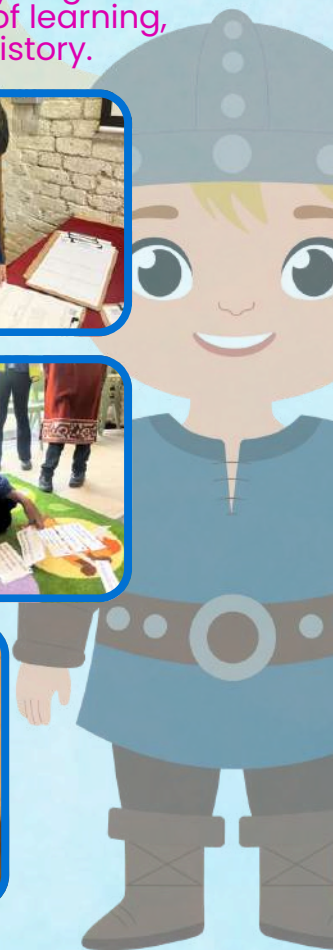
- **Yohannes**

"I can't believe how different the writing was."

- **Sierra**

"These outfits are strange - and a bit itchy!"

- **Zelle**



During Science Week, Year 4 got stuck into an exciting engineering challenge! The children worked in teams to design and build boats using only two pieces of paper. The challenge was to create a boat that could carry as much weight as possible. To test their designs, we placed the boats in water and carefully added dice one by one to see how many each boat could hold while still floating. The class were amazed to see how strong some of the boats were - one group's boat even managed to hold every single die in the drawer!

Through this experiment, pupils explored ideas about balance, structure and teamwork while thinking like real scientists and engineers.



"I think it is floating really well because it has a wide base."

- **Nouran**

"Wow, this boat is really strong!"

- **Yamin**

"We worked together by taking turns on who is using the tape."

- **Erhan**



# YEAR 5

This week we finally had the exciting opportunity to meet our Swedish pen pals in person!

The day began with a warm welcome from students in 5 Quartz and volunteers from 5 Amethyst. They performed The Argyle Song, a favourite from a previous assembly, and even taught our visitors some dance moves to a song by Swedish singer Zara Larsson.

While 5 Quartz attended their music lesson, students from 5 Amethyst gave our guests a tour of the school.

Afterwards, 5 Quartz delivered a presentation all about our school, our pupils and the local area.

Our Swedish visitors then shared their own presentation about life in Sweden, including animals, famous people, food and history. We were all incredibly impressed by how much they had prepared in English, which they are still learning.

The morning finished with some outdoor play, where children from both schools had the chance to get to know one another, and some of our pupils even joined the visitors for an early lunch.

The children were also fascinated to try the sweets our guests kindly brought as gifts – including delicious chocolate and some unusual salted liquorice!



Our Swedish visitors rounded off their visit with a tour of our local area. We started with the British Library, including such treasures as the Magna Carta, works by Shakespeare and Jane Austen and some 2,000 year old homework! We then passed by the Francis Crick Institute, showed the Eurostar departures and stopped for a quick photo opportunity at Platform 9 3/4 King's Cross. Finally we visited Granary Square, where they were fascinated to find out more about its Victorian History, life on Canal boats and they ended with some fun in the fountains.

We look forward to writing again now we have all got to know each other and learning a bit more Swedish!



# YEAR 5

On Wednesday afternoon, pupils explored the incredible world of biomaterials with Digby and the team from Lifefabs, discovering how amazing materials can be created from the natural world.



At the Microscopy Table, pupils examined biomaterial samples under microscopes, sketching what they saw and describing textures such as flexible, rough and translucent. They also designed their own sustainable inventions using the materials they observed.



Did you know that milk can be used to make bricks or sheets that can help with bone grafts? Pupils also learned about gelatins made from algae (seaweed) and leather made from kombucha (tea)!

At the Dissolving Biofoams Station, pupils tested how different biofoams dissolved in water, recording how long they took and describing the changes they noticed.



Finally, at Material Makers, pupils mixed and moulded their own natural biomaterials, experimenting with natural dyes and recording their observations.

It was a fantastic opportunity to develop scientific enquiry skills while learning about sustainable materials.

Thursday marked the end of our Flying into Physics sessions with Scarabeus, with 5 Quartz exploring the science of forces and pulley systems. Pupils discovered how pulleys can be used to lift and move objects by changing the direction of a force.

Through hands on activities including lifting one another, the children worked in teams to experiment with pulley systems and see how they can make lifting easier. They tested different setups, made predictions, and observed how changing the number of pulleys affected the effort needed to lift an object.

The workshop ended with an exciting moment when the children even lifted their teacher, demonstrating how pulley systems are used in theatre to safely lift performers into the air.

It was a fantastic opportunity for Year 5 to experience physics in action, while developing teamwork, problem solving, and scientific enquiry skills and having lots of fun along the way!



# YEAR 6

On Wednesday, Year 6 continued their Argyle Adventure by working with two barristers from Maitland Chambers.

The barristers, Maud and Oliver, explained that there are two types of lawyers: barristers, who work in court, and solicitors.

Oliver brought in his uniform, his gown and wig, and was kind enough to let the class try them on.

Maud gave the children excellent advice on how to argue persuasively in court, and the children were able to recall some of the skills they had used when writing persuasive speeches in the Autumn Term.

The class then split into two groups: those arguing for and those arguing against the motion, "Digital Technology Is Making Children's Lives Better."

Working together, they developed their arguments and, with the help of the barristers, refined them into three key points.

Once ready, they presented their arguments in front of the judges (the barristers). All the children spoke clearly and argued confidently.

After a final vote, the side arguing for the motion won by a very narrow margin.

'I liked trying on the barrister's headpiece.'  
- **Anisha**


'We got to learn about their normal daily routine and see what they wore in court.'  
- **Ibrahim**

'I enjoyed having creative freedom to come up with arguments and getting an insight into life in the courtroom.'  
- **Mahbuba**

'I liked when we got to share our opinions about digital technology.'  
- **Iman**



# Attendance & Punctuality



Class	1J	2A	2O	3P	4E	4O	5A	5Q	6S	Total
Week 7	94%	91%	97%	96%	98%	98%	96%	96%	98%	97%
Week 8	97%	96%	96%	96%	97%	98%	97%	91%	95%	94%
Week 9	92%	94%	98%	91%	96%	95%	96%	91%	96%	94%

Well done to **2O, 4E, 5A & 6S** who achieved the target of 96% attendance this week.

## 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.

## 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.



Every School Day Counts

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## MARCH

MONDAY 16th	<p>ESOL class in FLC 9:30 to 11:30am Year 6 Action Tuition - 3.15pm to 4.30pm Catch up Booster - selected children from years 1 to 4 - 3.15pm to 4.15pm (year 1 finish @ 4pm)</p>
TUESDAY 17th	<p>Year 4 swimming - 11am to 12pm Year 5 Richard Reeves Tuition - 3.15pm to 4.30pm Art Club, years 4, 5 &amp; 6 - 3.15pm to 4 15pm Cooking Club years 1, 2 &amp; 3 GROUP 2- 3.15pm to 4.30pm</p>
WEDNESDAY 18th	<p>Year 2 to Highgate Woods - 10am to 2pm ESOL class in FLC 9:30 to 11:30am Year 5 Action Tuition - 3.15pm to 4.30pm Football Club, years 1, 2 &amp; 3 - 3.15pm to 4.15pm Selected year 5 &amp; 6 children to dodgeball competition @ Talacre - 3pm to 6.15pm</p>
THURSDAY 19th	<p>Year 4 to Holborn Library for DT workshop - 9.30am to 12pm Year 6 Richard Reeves Tuition - 3.15pm to 4.30pm Art Club, years 1, 2 &amp; 3 - 3.15pm to 4.15pm Cooking Club years 4, 5 &amp; 6 GROUP 2- 3.15pm to 4.30pm</p>
FRIDAY 20th	 <b>SCHOOL CLOSED FOR INSET DAY.</b>



If Eid is declared for Thursday, school will be closed on Thursday but OPEN on Friday instead.

ALL children will be expected to attend.

# Community Notices

Learn English fast and for free at Argyle Primary School





## LEARN ENGLISH AT ARGYLE

Free classes every Monday and Wednesday 9:30AM - 11:30AM

This class is open to all adult students of all levels. You will learn English fast with other students. Pre-school children are welcome but it is the responsibility of the parent to care for them so they do not interrupt class. We will go on trips to local sites and learn everyday vocabulary. We will work on:

Spoken English	Reading
English pronunciation	Writing

We will study what you want to learn!

Visit Belinda in the Family Learning Centre (FLC) to register.  
Belinda Drake is an ESOL Lecturer at Capital City College.  
You can also get in touch via e-mail [belinda.drake@capitalccg.ac.uk](mailto:belinda.drake@capitalccg.ac.uk)

ARGYLE PRIMARY SCHOOL  
Tunbridge Street, London  
WC1H 9EG

## ARSENAL DOUBLE CLUB 25/26

Our Camden libraries



FREE AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

FOR PRIMARY AGED CHILDREN AT THE PANCRAS SQUARE CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

EVERY WEDNESDAY 3.45-5PM DURING TERM TIME

READING AND TABLE TENNIS

TO SIGN UP PLEASE SPEAK TO A MEMBER OF STAFF AND COMPLETE A CONSENT FORM

MOTHER'S DAY



## Play & Stay

FUN FOR ALL - UNDER 55  
CRAFTS AND FUN - UNDER 105

A MORNING PACKED WITH SO MUCH FUN, INCLUDING A MUSIC WORKSHOP, CRAFTS ACTIVITIES, FUN TOYS, FACE PAINTING AND A YUMMY SNACK TIME.

FROM 10:30AM - 12:20PM  
EDITH NEVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL,  
85 POLYGON RD, LONDON NW1 3HQ  
CONTACT FOR MORE INFO: 07395225576

REGISTER HERE



<http://forms.office.com/1mT5JXvk7Ww>

CAMDEN MARKET



FREE EVENT OPEN TO ALL

## ST PATRICK'S DAY

SAT 21 MARCH

CAMDEN MARKET

IRISH DANCING  
LIVE MUSIC  
SODA BREAD MAKING  
BODHRÁN DRUM PARADE  
HARPIST  
FACE PAINTING  
ARTS & CRAFTS

All activities are free  
Market Place, Camden Market  
Howley Wharf, NW1 8QH

Scan for  more info

