

# ARGYLE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## HEAD TEACHER'S MESSAGE

Let's talk about fitness!

Over the past few months, we have been thinking carefully about how active our children are. We started by asking pupils what they enjoy about PE and how much exercise they do outside of school. It became clear that, for many, activity levels beyond the school day are quite low.

So, what are we doing about it?

Thanks to a recent grant from CAA, every class now has an additional weekly fitness session with a specialist coach at lunchtime. Each class has also had a chance to wear fitness trackers for a week, in order to help children to better understand and improve their own activity levels. This work has contributed to the school recently achieving the Healthy Schools Silver Award, recognising our strong focus on fitness and wellbeing.

All of this supports the government's aim for children to achieve at least 30 minutes of physical activity each day—something we know is vital for both wellbeing and learning.

We also run our Friday Fun Fitness sessions at 8:30am. It's a great way to start the day, and we would love to see even more children and families joining us each week.

Finally, we would like to wish our Assistant Headteacher, Mr. Uddin, the very best of luck as he takes on the London Marathon this Sunday—an excellent example of commitment to fitness! This is an area we will continue to develop, but we need your support too—please help your child to be as active as possible outside of school.

**Reena Merali**  
Acting Deputy Head  
Teacher



# NURSERY

This week, we read Aarrgh Spider! by Lydia Monks.



The children were fascinated to learn that spiders have eight legs that grow from their cephalothorax (the front part of their body), and that they spin webs using special body parts called spinnerets, which produce silky threads.

As the week went on, the children found spiders less scary the more they learned about them! They then used their new knowledge to draw their own spiders.

Throughout the week, we practised spotting minibeasts in our small world play area, learning that different minibeasts live in different habitats.

We also went on a minibeast hunt outside and discovered a variety of creatures, including woodlice, snails and ants.

During our stay-and-play session, children and parents worked together to create their own spiders, which was a lovely shared experience.

In maths, we began our Summer 1 focus book, *Maisy Goes Camping*, which explores numbers 1-5.

We started by reading and retelling the story, using five counters to represent the characters. The children noticed how the number changed (decreased) as more of Maisy's friends went inside the tent and could no longer be seen.

Later in the week, the children created their own versions of the story using counters and small card tents. To finish, we had great fun acting out the story, with children taking on character roles and a blanket used as the tent.

We also had a special visit from the Foundling Museum this week. Artist Matt Shaw worked with the children to explore the theme of food and mealtimes at the Foundling Hospital.

The children learned about the types of food eaten by the children who lived there and shared their own favourite foods. They then enjoyed creating different foods using a range of materials and took part in a pretend meal together.



# RECEPTION

This week in Reception, we continued exploring our Spring and gardens topic. The children visited the school garden, where they looked for signs of Spring and discussed the changes they could see. We also learned about the lifecycle of a sunflower. The children enjoyed holding and describing sunflower seeds, using their senses to explore them.

In RE, we talked about different kinds of celebrations and what they have in common, such as sharing food, giving and receiving presents, spending time with family, and wearing special clothes.

We then learned about Eid ul-Fitr by reading Samira's Eid, helping the children to understand how this special celebration is observed.

In Maths, we have been learning about numerical patterns by comparing quantities up to ten. The children explored different representations of numbers with their talk partners and identified which had more or less, first without counting and then by using their subitising skills to determine the exact amounts. They also played a matching pairs game, where they matched different representations showing equal quantities and explained their thinking.

Elaura explained, "The ten frames have counters and they both show seven. This one is 4 and 3, and it makes 7, and this one is 6 and 1 more, and it makes 7 as well."



# PANATHLON CHALLENGE

On Tuesday, eight pupils from Years 4 to 6 proudly represented our school at the Panathlon Challenge held at Talacre Community Centre. The team took part in six exciting activities, including hitting targets, scoring points by throwing balls, and aiming carefully to knock over cones, among others.

The children showed fantastic enthusiasm throughout the event and clearly enjoyed every moment. They supported one another brilliantly, cheering and clapping for each other's efforts, which created a positive and encouraging team spirit. Their hard work and teamwork paid off as they achieved an impressive fourth place overall.

It was a wonderful experience for everyone involved, and the pupils returned full of excitement and pride.



# READING AMBASSADORS

Our Reading Ambassadors continue to play a valuable role in promoting a strong culture of reading across the school.

They are all enthusiastic and committed readers who are passionate about sharing their love of books with others. So far, they have spoken to their classes about the types of books they enjoy, helping to spark interest and broaden reading choices among their peers.

They have also worked thoughtfully to identify reluctant readers and are supporting them in finding texts that engage and motivate them. Through their efforts, they are helping to build a vibrant and inclusive reading community within the school.



# YEAR 1



## Rainbow Fish - Hook

This week in English, Year 1 Jade were introduced to our new focus story, **The Rainbow Fish**. To spark their curiosity and imagination, we created an exciting “under the sea” experience in the hall.

The children “travelled” through the ocean, exploring a vibrant underwater scene filled with sea creatures and ocean sounds. As they looked around, they shared their observations, describing what they could see, hear and feel using rich and imaginative language.

To enhance the experience, the children listened to Under the Sea from The Little Mermaid, which added to the magical atmosphere and helped bring the ocean setting to life. By the time we revealed The Rainbow Fish story, the children were fully engaged and eager to learn more. This immersive introduction has provided a wonderful foundation for our upcoming work on storytelling, description and character exploration.



## Rainbow Fish – Conjunctions

We then continued developing the children’s sentence writing using conjunctions: and, but, so and because.

Using our class story, The Rainbow Fish, the children were given the sentence stem: “The Rainbow Fish was sad...” and asked to continue it by making their own choices. They did a fantastic job of extending their ideas.



### For example:

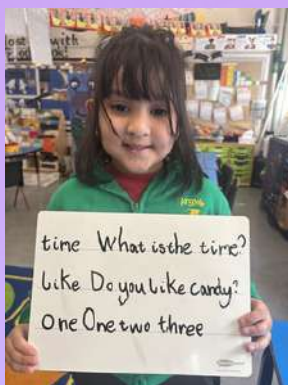
The Rainbow Fish was sad because he had no friends.

The Rainbow Fish was sad but he wanted to share.

The Rainbow Fish was sad so he swam away.

The Rainbow Fish was sad and he felt lonely.

This activity supported the children in building longer sentences, explaining their ideas and understanding how conjunctions can be used to link thoughts together.



Maryam showcasing her phonics spelling words written into sentences.



# YEAR 2

Last Thursday 8 lucky children from Year 2 got to go to the British Library and meet an author and a poet as part of Every Child A Reader by 7 s ' Year 2 Reads'.

Today I learnt that black lions are real and I met two new authors  
- Suleyman

I liked the funny poet and I liked hearing about poachers who tried to catch the lion  
- Frankie

What I really liked was when we went into the room with the poet. He was funny and it was fun.  
- Norah

The poet was funny and the author was very nice. I liked hearing how she chose to be an author  
- Karim

I liked that the man did the poetry very funny and fun. Abiola Bello was an interesting author because she told us about sea turtles and plastic and she taught us that sea turtles can't breathe under water but can hold their breath for 3 hours. I liked drawing the elephant.  
- Yahya

The best things about the BL was the kings tower and that there were thousands of books and I made a new friend from another school  
- Leah

This week in Year 2, the children have continued to build their understanding of fractions in Maths. They have been learning to find halves and quarters of numbers, beginning with pictorial representations before moving on to using counters to support their calculations.

In Literacy, we have started exploring the finding tale The Bog Baby. Working collaboratively in pairs, the children created their own bog babies using playdough and described them using expanded noun phrases. Adiyana shared, "My one is an angry, blue bog baby with three eyes," demonstrating great creativity and excellent use of descriptive language.

In PE, the children have been practising their routine for the upcoming May Day dance and are looking forward to performing at next week's celebration.

In Science, Year 2 have continued their investigation into plants. The children reflected on the steps they followed when planting their seeds last week. So far, the cress is growing the strongest, while the coriander and oregano have yet to sprout.

During Reading sessions, the children have been developing their "book talk" skills by asking thoughtful questions about the texts they are reading in class. As a reminder, please ensure your child is reading daily at home and recording at least two comments per week in their reading record.

In Spelling, the focus has been on understanding when to add the suffix -es to words. The children enjoyed quizzing each other on whiteboards to reinforce their learning.

Well done to all the children for their hard work and focus this week—keep it up!



# GOODBYE

Today we are saying a heartfelt goodbye to Maurrissa, a truly integral part of our admin team.

For the past 17 years, she has been a constant source of support, dedication and warmth within our school community. Her hard work, kindness and commitment have made a lasting impact on both staff and families, and she will be greatly missed by all who have had the pleasure of working with her.

Maurrissa is now stepping into an exciting new chapter, moving into the world of children's care homes. We have no doubt that she will bring the same compassion, strength and positivity to this role as she has shown here over the years.



We would like to thank her for everything she has contributed and wish her all the very best for the future.

Good luck, Maurrissa – you will be missed, but we know you are going to make such a difference in your new journey.



What a pleasure it has been working alongside you, Maurrissa, over the past 10 years! You have truly been my right-hand woman, always there with support, guidance, and a listening ear.

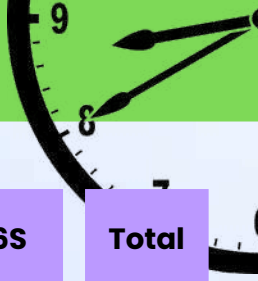
Argyle and the wider community are losing a real gem!

You will be greatly missed, but we wish you every success and happiness in your next chapter. This isn't goodbye, just a "see you later!" - **Ferdousi Hussain**

Maurrissa, thank you so much for everything you've given to the school. Your warm, welcoming smile, your tireless work ethic, and the genuine care you've shown to every member of staff, every child, and every family have meant more than words can fully express. You'll be greatly missed, not just for what you've done, but for who you are. Wishing you happiness and success in all the comes next. - **Ms Mukasa**

Maurrissa, your warmth and friendly face will always be what I remember about my very first day! I wish you all the best and I know you will thrive in your new role. - **Ms Quinn**

# Attendance & Punctuality



Class	1J	2A	2O	3P	4E	4O	5A	5Q	6S	Total
Week 1	95%	91%	92%	94%	95%	93%	94%	96%	98%	94%
	95%	90%	94%	94%	95%	92%	91%	86%	97%	94%

Well done to **6 Sapphire** who achieved the target of 96% attendance this week.

Attendance %	Impact over 1 school year	Impact over 5 school years
100%	0 days missed	0 days missed
96%	8 days missed	¼ year learning lost
90%	19 days missed	½ year learning lost
85%	28 days missed	¾ year learning lost
80%	38 days missed	1 year learning lost
75%	47 days missed	1 ¼ years learning lost

## 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.

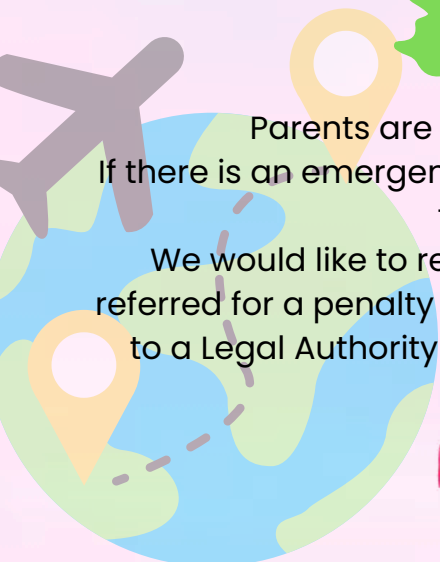
## Exceptional Leave

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

## APRIL

<b>MONDAY 27th</b>	<b>ESOL class in FLC 9:30am to 11:30am</b> <b>Year 6 Action Tuition - 3.15pm to 4.30pm</b> <b>Catch up Booster - selected children from years 1 to 4 - 3.15pm to 4.15pm (year 1 finish @ 4pm)</b>
<b>TUESDAY 28th</b>	<b>Year 3 swimming - 11am to 12pm</b> <b>Year 1 to Camley Street - 12.20pm to 3.10pm</b> <b>Year 5 Richard Reeves Tuition - 3.15pm to 4.30pm</b> <b>Cooking Club Group 1 - 3.15pm to 4.45pm</b> <b>Camden Choir Festival - Choir out form 2.30pm</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY 29th</b>	<b>ESOL class in FLC 9:30 to 11:30am</b> <b>Year 5 Action Tuition - 3.15pm to 4.30pm</b> <b>Football Club, years 1, 2 &amp; 3 - 3.15pm to 4.15pm</b>
<b>THURSDAY 30th</b>	<b>Year 6 Richard Reeves Tuition - 3.15pm to 4.30pm</b> <b>Art/Comic Book Club - 3.15pm to 4.15pm</b>

## MAY

<b>Friday 1st</b>	<b>May Day Celebration - 1.45pm - 3pm</b> <b>Football Club, years 4, 5 &amp; 6 - 3.15pm to 4.15pm</b> <b>Homework Club with parents - 3.15pm to 4.15pm</b>
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# Community Notices



## Camden Family Learning FREE Course





Join us for a fun, creative 4-week knitting course.

This is a great opportunity to learn a new skill, do something to support your wellbeing and connect with other parents.

It will also be a chance to give back to our local community by carrying out a charity knit!

**When?** Mondays, 9am-11am (starting 27<sup>th</sup> April)

**Where?** Argyle STEAM lab

Refreshments available  

Interested? Speak to Sophia (Family Support Worker) or come along on the day! Everyone is welcome.

No creche available.



SUPPORTED BY MAYOR OF LONDON



Learn English fast and for free at Argyle Primary School



## LEARN ENGLISH AT ARGYLE

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

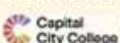


This class is open to all adult students of all levels. You will learn English fast with other students. Pre-school children are welcome but it is the responsibility of the parent to care for them so they do not interrupt class. We will go on trips to local sites and learn everyday vocabulary. We will 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  
Tonbridge Street, London  
WC1H 9EG

## Share & Connect Parent Coffee Morning



Connect with other parents

Find out more about support and services in Camden

🕒 Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May, 9-10am

📍 FLC @ Argyle

All parents and carers welcome

With guests from:



SEND Engagement Team



Speak to Mr Uddin or Sophia (Family Support Worker) with any questions.