

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2017

A Day in Politics at Vicarage Primary School



At Vicarage Primary School we are in our first year of working with an organisation called Enabling Enterprise to develop our pupils' enterprise skills such as '*Working in a Team*' and '*Staying Positive*'. This is being led by Ms Shelly Ann Clunis, an Assistant Head Teacher at the school. A group of thirty Year 3 and 4 children were privileged to go on a business visit to IBM where they tested their '*Using Imagination* skills' to build a brand new app. Year 5 pupils are eagerly anticipating their visit to The Department of Works and Pensions.

On the 3rd May 2017, the entire school took part in 'A Day in Politics' Challenge Day. Pupils worked in teams to set up and run their own political parties. They practised debating, writing their own manifestos and then coming up with all the promotional materials for their political party. At the end of the day, each class held a Hustings and then the pupils were able to vote for the winning team. Throughout the day the pupils used their '*Working in a Team*' and '*Problem Solving*' skills to make fair and quick decisions. This was very apt as it is so close to the General Election taking place on the 8th June 2017.

Pupils worked really well in their political parties throughout the day and *Using Imagination* to come up with creative new ways to help the country and make it an even better place to live. The promotional materials produced by teams were very persuasive and eye-catching and showed how students had been '*Aiming High*' throughout the day.

What they said:

- "Today really ties in with the theme of democracy we've been discussing. They are learning that everyone has a say but that you can't always get your own way." - Teacher, Year 1
- "We've learnt what politicians do today and why their jobs are so important. They work in teams to come up with ideas for helping us to live better." - Pupil, Year 4

Thank you to all the pupils and teachers who made the day a great success.

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Science Week



It will be Science Week at Vicarage Primary School from Monday 22nd May until Friday 26th May. The theme for this year is "Change". We will be investigating the changes that happen in the natural world all around us. These include looking at the lifecycle of a butterfly and what is growing and changing in the school garden. We are all very excited as the caterpillars have arrived and have already started growing! The week will end with a theatre performance and of course the release of our beautiful butterflies. There is much fun to be had, investigations, competitions and much, much more.

Why not get a head start on Science Week and pick up a book from the *Bugs & Buds!* display in the library? We have lots of exciting books on minibeasts, plants, trees and flowers - everything from *arachnids to zantedeschias! (*Spiders to lilies!)

The library is open after school on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3.15 pm - 3.45 pm. Ms Noble, the school Librarian, is looking forward to seeing you soon.

School Garden News



The growing season is well underway and some delicious vegetables have already been harvested. The Year 3 and 4 children are now able to visit the school garden during their lunchtimes. This has proved to be very popular and they thoroughly enjoy their time there.

The children are keen to get involved and learn new skills. We had a lovely time picking salad leaves, and preparing a salad, which we then drizzled with olive oil and lemon juice. The best part was eating it al fresco, together in the sunshine.

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Vicarage Garden Vegetable Sale

On Thursday 27th April, we held our first vegetable sale. The Japanese mustard leaves were very popular and quickly sold out. The other vegetables were also a big hit and were bought. We are very thankful to all the parents/carers who bought some of the vegetables

We sold nearly £30 worth of vegetables. This money will be reinvested back into the school garden. The children were amazed to find out how much they had raised. They would like to use the money to buy some raspberry canes.

Zippos Circus Trip



On the afternoon of Friday 5th May, all classes from Reception to Year 5 went to see Zippos Circus in Central Park. The children had a lot of fun seeing the different acts in the circus. It was a great experience for them all and everyone had an enjoyable time. It also provided the school with an opportunity of coming together as a school community which is so important for a school like Vicarage with nearly 1,000 pupils. Thank you to all staff and in particular Mr Mednick for organising the visit.

Bike it Plus Project

As a part of our Healthy school initiative and also recognising the benefits of cycling for our children, we have been working with an organisation called Sustrans on the Bike it Plus Project. Children were encouraged to participate in exciting events. The children brought in their bikes daily to win a Golden lock for their bike, for which a free healthy breakfast was also provided by Sustrans.

With the weather improving, we hope to see more adults and children cycling to school. Please remember to bring a lock if you would like to store the bicycle on the school premises during the school day.

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For our Key Stage 1 children we ran 'Ditch the Stabilizer'. Children with no experience of riding their bikes without stabilizers were able to ride their bikes unaided by the end of the session.



Comment from a parent, "I was surprised to see how quickly my daughter managed to learn, she now feels confident to ride without the stabilizers".

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Attendance Cup



We want to ensure all our children attend school on time every day. To recognise and celebrate classes that have the best attendance in their phase, we will be giving out an attendance trophy every week during Monday morning assembly. Please ensure you help your child to come to school on time every day.

Attendance Matters

A polite reminder that Newham's Attendance Management Service require medical evidence if children are absent from school immediately before or after a termly break. Medical evidence is also required for absences in excess of three days and where attendance slips below 97% in any half term period.

You can be fined up to £60 by Newham Council for taking term-time holidays, for poor school attendance from your child or for a range of other school non-attendance reasons.

As a parent/carer it is YOUR legal duty to ensure your child attends school every day on time.

Star Pupil



We are very proud to share with you the achievement of one of our pupils.

Jenna Azam in 5I took part in a Swimathon 2017 swim for charity on 8th April at East Ham Leisure Centre. Jenna and her brother swam a total of 200 lengths (5K), out of which Jenna swam 90 and Kaedan (her brother) swam 110. It took 3 hours 10 mins. Jenna and Kaedan raised £300 which will go to Marie Curie Cancer Charity. Jenna and her brother also received a medal in recognition of their great achievement. Well done Jenna!

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Parents Coffee Mornings



We held our second Parent Coffee Morning on Friday 28th April. My thanks to the parents who attended. We discussed the new behaviour policy, including rewards introduced this year, such as the Golden Table and Star of the Week certificate. Our next Coffee Morning is on Friday 26th May at 9:00am, when we will be discussing setting up a PTA. We hope you will be able to attend.

Dates for your Diary



Friday 26th May - Last day of term 5
Monday 29th May - Friday 2nd June - Half Term
Monday 5th June - Teacher Training Day
Tuesday 6th June - term 6 - School reopens to children
Friday 21st July - Last day of term 6

Mrs S Khan
Head Teacher