

**Autumn term –  
September-  
October 2025**



Welcome to the first newsletter of the new 2025/26 academic year. We've all settled in really well this term and everyone has had a great start! Here's our news for this half term....

## Class news

### Bowling class (Nursery/Reception)

Bowling class had so much fun touring London and seeing all the landmarks that Paddington Bear has visited. Our topic was Paddington Bear — we've



Cathedral.

enjoyed an afternoon tea, watched the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace, and visited the London Eye and St Paul's

### Athletics class (Key Stage 1)

Athletics class visited Camden Town Hall to explore the Claudia Jones Room as part of their Carnival learning this term. The children learned that Claudia Jones organised the first Caribbean Festival at the Camden Town Hall in 1959. The children had the pleasure of meeting the Mayor of Camden, Councillor Eddie Hindolo Hanson, who showed them inside the Mayor's Parlour.



### Swimming class (Key Stage 1/2 SEN)

This term In Swimming Class this term we have been lucky enough take part in some wonderful class trips. We went to the London Sea Life Aquarium to learn all about underwater animals and their habitats. Later we visited the Lightroom in Kings Cross and learned all about different dinosaurs. Both trips were really fun and exciting.



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### Basketball class (Lower Key Stage 2)

This term, Basketball class learned about the Deaflympics and how the games work. They also joined a Swimming Panathlon with other deaf schools, had lots of fun racing each other, and were proud to win 4th place medals! Well done, Basketball class!



### Taekwondo class (Upper Key Stage 2)

We have been learning about the Vikings this term. The pupils took part in an archery session during their trip. They really enjoyed it and learned about safety and the rules for shooting at the target board. Massive congratulations to all the children, especially Lukas, Yonis, and Kiyu-Rei, who were awarded medals for finishing 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. Alexia also received an award for the most improved player.



In FT lessons, pupils learned to cook various foods from Viking times, and in Literacy lessons, they are writing their own fantasy stories. The children have done really well with their learning in different subjects this term.

### Staffing

Last term we announced that **Mairead Harley** is expecting her second child. She will be taking her maternity leave from the beginning of December. We wish her all the best! We are currently recruiting a maternity cover teacher for Swimming class and will announce this soon.

**Ross Terry**, our HLTA working in the Early Years will be reducing his days with us after half term, and will continue in his role working in Bowling class on Thursdays and Fridays. He is also a newly appointed Play Lead.

Basketball classteacher **Leyla Jeilani** will be getting married during the half term – we wish her a wonderful wedding and a happy celebration!

Teaching Assistant **Fahmida Akther** has resigned from her TA role, but will stay with us in her receptionist role in the office 2.5 days per week.



### Sports and PE

This term, EYFS and Swimming Class pupils have been developing their gross motor skills in PE, while KS1 and KS2 enjoyed badminton sessions with Deaf badminton player and former Deaflympian



medallist, Rajeev Bagga. Pupils said, "It's great having a Deaf coach – communication is easy," and, "We've improved each week and now will play in a competition!"

After half term, all pupils will focus on dance, developing movement, choreography, and performance skills. EYFS and Swimming Class will work with Adrenaline Academy, and KS1/2 with Dakodos Dance Academy.

Our PE programme for 2025–2026 is now confirmed and available on our school website, with details shared soon via Seesaw.

### OPAL

Hopefully you will have seen the letter and BSL video announcing that we have started planning the new **Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL)** programme and will be making changes to our play provision in the playground after half term. Many thanks to Ross (FBS) and Eliot (KCA) for their hard work in collecting resources and leading an assembly with the children to explain the exciting changes coming up. Please can parents complete the survey that was sent on Seesaw. If you haven't done this yet, the link is here:



[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeSDvZvyS8Qh\\_fsbcYimzrDS0-2zWp-P3zAo6TtpEY7Vy3HqQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeSDvZvyS8Qh_fsbcYimzrDS0-2zWp-P3zAo6TtpEY7Vy3HqQ/viewform)



We're looking forward to seeing OPAL being implemented soon. Any donations of safe clean equipment to include in our playground are hugely appreciated.

### Parents afternoon

Thank you to all the parents that attended a meeting with their child's classteacher on



Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October to discuss their child's



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progress. This term **92%** of parents attended a meeting with their child's teacher, either face to face (31%) or on Zoom (69%) – this is a fantastic result! We continue to encourage all parents to arrange a time with your child's teacher to come into school and observe your child in class.

### Deaf Studies

Basketball and Taekwondo classes have also been learning about "1880" as part of their Deaf Studies history topic. We were very fortunate to visit the Wellcome Collection, which currently features the "**1880 THAT**" exhibition (by Christine Sun-Kim and Thomas Mader).



The two classes really enjoyed it and were fascinated by how the event influenced art and expression. It was fantastic that the exhibition offered full BSL access as well.



### National TA Day

On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September we held our annual special assembly to show our gratitude to all



our hardworking Teaching Assistants who do so much for the school to support the teachers and children. We are truly thankful for everything they do and deserve much recognition for all their support. Teaching assistants play such a valuable and important role in school for both teachers and pupils.

### WFD International Week of Deaf People

From Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September celebrated the annual International Week of Deaf People promoting awareness and understanding of the work of the WFD.



INTERNATIONAL WEEK OF DEAF PEOPLE

This year's **International Day of Sign Languages** theme on 23<sup>rd</sup> September is: "**No Human Rights Without Sign Language Rights**".



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### BSL Celebration Day

On 1st October, we held our annual BSL Celebration Day. Three other deaf schools/units joined us for the event. The



theme this year was "BSL Bake Off". We were delighted to welcome John Palmer, a Deaf chef and former FBS pupil, who works at the St Pancras Renaissance Hotel restaurant, to talk about his experiences in the kitchen. The children had an opportunity to ask him questions and were inspired by his story. At lunchtime, it was wonderful to see the children mixing with others, reconnecting with old friends and making new ones. In the afternoon, they took part in a no-bake recipe challenge, and it was lovely to see such great teamwork. We ended the day with a special celebration cake made by Catherine, who created three beautiful **Blueberry**, **Strawberry**, and **Lemon (BSL)** cakes. The children absolutely loved them!

### School attendance

Our current whole school attendance stands at **94.2%** this half term which is excellent! Let's keep this up by ensuring your child attends school every day.



A reminder that if your child is unable to attend school, please complete a Leave of Absence (LOA) request form with evidence of the appointment (letter, text, email) and send/give to us well in advance.

### Family Fun Day

A reminder that the next annual Family Fun Day is coming up after half term on **Saturday 22nd November** at the British Library from **12 – 4 pm**. This year's theme is 'Imaginary Worlds' and the event promises to be as fun and imaginative, so do come along and take part in all the fantastic activities on offer from our partners. The event is **free** and open to all deaf children and their families. Please spread the word/sign!



### Christmas performance

Everyone in our school community voted for the title of this year's annual Christmas show. We are delighted to announce that this year our Christmas Show will be '**Aladdin**'. The children will start rehearsing after half term. Please keep an eye out for requests for donations of costumes, volunteers for workshops, and any other support we may need. Also, please make sure you note the date of the performance for parents on **Wednesday 17th December** at **1.00pm**.



### Diary dates for Autumn Term (2nd half):

**Tuesday 26th and Wednesday 27th November:**

Christmas show workshops

**Friday 12th December:**

Christmas lunch

**Tuesday 16th December, 10.30am:**

Christmas Show for the community

**Wednesday 17th December,**

**1.30pm:**

Christmas show for parents/families

**Friday 19th December, 2.30pm:**

Last day of Autumn Term

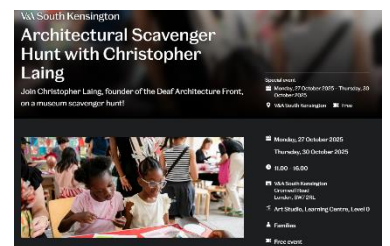


### Have a good Autumn half term holiday!

There are **2 Remark! playschemes** in North and South London this half term. Please see Lisa's message on Seesaw for details. **Do try and go – it will be great fun!**

There is also a **free architectural design event** at the Victoria and Albert Museum led by Deaf architect **Chris Laing**:  
<https://www.vam.ac.uk/event/BkgKwllqKO/drop-in-design-disordinary-architecture-oct-2025>

Every day **Mon 27th – Thurs 30th October** from **11.00am to 4.00pm**.



School re-opens for the **2nd** half of the Autumn Term on **Tuesday 4th November 2025**