

Spring term – January – February 2024



Hope you all enjoyed the festive season and that you've had a good start to 2024. The days are finally getting brighter and longer again as we kicked off the new calendar year with a great 1st half of the Spring Term!

Class news

Unicorn class (Nursery)

Children in Unicorn class have been busy exploring the polar regions of the world this half term! The term began with some stimulating trips where children were immersed in different environments at the BBC Earth Experience and saw Antarctica in 3D at the Science museum. Back in the classroom, they have been learning more about the polar climates and polar animals through lots of hands on role-play, art and science activities centred around snow, ice, penguins and polar bears. Children even used a frozen alphabet to learn the letters in their names! We have enjoyed this wonderfully wintry topic!



Mermaid class (Reception)

Mermaid class have been going to Forest School every week on Wednesday mornings. They did a Gruffalo story hunt, followed by a leaves and birds hunt with a checklist. They then made their own stickmen and enjoyed having a cup of tea afterwards.



Dragon class (Key Stage 1)

This term the class has been learning about castles and how they have changed throughout history. They learnt about 'The Paperbag Princess' in literacy and went to visit the Tower of London where they saw many things that they had learnt in History. There was a guard who could sign and she told the children some fun facts about the Tower. They saw a pretend knight on a pretend horse and walked around the huge castle to see many different rooms.



Werewolf class (Lower Key Stage 2)

Werewolf class have been reading Stone Age Boy and learned about a young boy who travelled back in time to the Stone Age, where he learned how people lived then. They were fascinated to find out how Stone Age people survived 2.5 million years ago! In art, they created their cave paintings using chalk and paint. In DT, they applied their newly acquired sewing skills to create pouches similar to what the cave people might have used to carry their belongings. They enjoyed making the pouches and imagining what it would be like to live in the Stone Age.



Vampire class (Upper Key Stage 2)

The topic of this term's Vampire Class was 'space'! In the classroom, they have been learning about the Apollo 11 - Mission to the Moon, the Solar System, and the role astronauts play in space exploration. The children wrote wonderful newspaper articles, including newspaper features about Apollo 11. The children also worked hard to make their own Moon Rovers, made of cardboard in DT lessons.



Sports and PE

The children enjoyed learning to play volleyball this half term. We now look forward to learning archery in PE lessons after half term.



Nut free school

A reminder that a member of our school community has incredibly severe allergy to nuts which can be triggered by airborne particles. We have taken advice from Camden Council and ask that no food containing nuts are brought into school. We ask that staff, parents, and visitors are mindful of this.



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National Geography Day

We celebrated National Geography Day on Tuesday 23rd January with all classes spending the day doing fieldwork in different areas of Kings Cross exploring what they see, hear, smell, taste and feel (5 senses) and then presented this to the school in a collage map of the area with photo flaps now on a wonderful large display! Everyone enjoyed the activity!



Can Bears Ski? performance

Mermaid and Dragon classes enjoyed a trip to watch the performance of deaf author Raymond Antrobus' book, "Can Bears Ski?" with Blanche Nevile School children. It tells the story of a deaf bear getting hearing aids and learning BSL. The children loved this very visual and accessible show performed by Deaf and hearing actors from Deafinitely Theatre and the Pied Piper Theatre.



Internet Safety Week

Every year we take part in the annual Safer Internet Day teaching our pupils how to stay safe online. This year it's on Tuesday 6th February, and we held an assembly to raise awareness of the benefits, but also the dangers of the internet. Parents are also responsible to ensure their children stay safe online – please be vigilant and monitor your child's online activity closely at home!



Chefs in schools

The catering team will receive training and support from Chefs in Schools after half term to raise standards and improve the quality of school meals.



Parent coffee morning

We are hosting a parent coffee morning at school on **Friday 1st March, 10.30am- 12pm.** All welcome! Join us for a drink, some biscuits and a chat. This will be an opportunity to meet other parents, our school Psychologist, Carla, Speech and Language Therapist, Claire and SENCO, Katie. We're keen to find out what topics you might like us to focus on at future coffee mornings. We look forward to seeing you! Please confirm your attendance with Katie – senco@fbarnes.camden.sch.uk We look forward to seeing you!



School attendance

Our whole school pupil attendance is at **92.6%** so far this year, which is just slightly above our target. Well done to our pupils who have been attending school regularly this term. Remember all leave of absence requests must be given in advance with evidence of appointments, reasons, etc.



Diary dates for Spring Term (2nd half):

Monday 26th February:

Charlotte Morten Mad Hat Day

Thursday 7th March:

World Book Day

Monday 18th March:

BSL Recognition Day

Monday 11th – Friday 15th March:

Science week!

Monday 18th – 24th March:

Sign Language Week

Wednesday 20th March:

Sex Education Meeting – Year 5/6 parents

Easter holidays: 29th March – 12th April 2024

(Last day of term for pupils –

Wednesday 28th March, 2.30pm)



Have a good half term holiday!
School re-opens for the 2nd half of the Spring Term on
Monday 19th February 2024



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