

# The Patten Pages

The William Patten Newsletter for Parents and Children

Issue 142

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019

Dear parents,

Welcome back after the half term. I hope you had a lovely break. We certainly have enjoyed the sunshine at playtime and lunch times this week. One child said to me at the end of play on Wednesday, 'I'm confused, is it summer?' Not yet, I said!

It was lovely to see so many Reception parents come to the EYFS Come Dine With Us event yesterday. Ali and his team (Nora, Tilda, Althea and Firoza) worked very hard making a fabulous meal of chicken or macaroni cheese with lots of vegetables to choose from and a super salad bar. I know the children were delighted to show their parents where they have lunch and what they have to eat each day. We are so fortunate to have such an engaged and supportive parent community - thank you, as ever, for your support of the work we do and the events we put on.

We launch our online homework system next week. The teachers and children are excited about the new approach and the children have been practising how to log in to Google Classroom.

Some parents have sent some queries and I will be sending home a response in the form of a Q and A on Monday, which will hopefully provide further clarification. We will be reviewing the system with teachers after a few weeks and will also ask for parent views of the new system (when we have all had the opportunity to see how it works) in the summer term

Comic Relief is on Friday 15th March. This is always a big day for us and this year our family fun run in Clissold Park will involve pyjamas (as requested by School Council). We will also have the famous Stoke Bake Off, so dust off those aprons and get set, bake! More details about the bake off and sponsored events will be sent out next week. All money raised will be shared equally between Comic Relief and the Jinja Deaf charity. Last time we raised nearly £3000, so we are hoping to do the same this year or maybe even exceed that figure!

Have a lovely weekend!  
Best wishes  
Karen

## Message from the Chair of Governors

The Governors are looking to recruit a 'Local Authority' governor to fill a vacancy on the Governing Board. Local Authority governors have to be approved by the Hackney Learning Trust before the 4-year appointment is confirmed. We would like to recruit from the parental body or the local community and we are looking for candidates who have accounting or finance experience and/or fundraising experience. When considering the appointment, we are also seeking to reflect our diverse school community. If you would like to apply or know anyone who would, please send or ask them to send a short letter to Carole Spanton,

[CSpanton@williampatten.hackney.sch.uk](mailto:CSpanton@williampatten.hackney.sch.uk), by 8th March, setting out why you would like to take up this voluntary position and what skills and experience you hold. The position involves acting as a critical friend to the school and providing the school with challenge to, and oversight of, how the school discharges its duties. Typically there are 3 meetings a term. They are held in the early evening and last for 90 minutes or so. There is some preparatory reading to complete before each meeting. The role is interesting and rewarding. If you would like any more information on what the role involves, feel free to contact Julian Winship (Chair of Governors) via email at [Julian.Winship@williampatten.hackney.sch.uk](mailto:Julian.Winship@williampatten.hackney.sch.uk). Selection will be through interview (if more than one person applies).

## SchoolWatch scheme

Year 6 received a visit from two officers from Stoke Newington Police Station before half term. They were here to share information about the new *SchoolWatch* scheme, which is part of an initiative to help young Londoners stay safe when they are moving between school and home. The children were engaged and learned strategies to help keep them safe.

### Out and about ....

Year 2 carried out a local area land use survey as part of their Geography topic. They walked around local streets noting different human features such as shops, gardens, houses and cafes. The children carried maps and had to work out where they were on the map at different points of the walk. Great geography skills used by all. Well done to Year 2 and thanks to the parents who came along to help. It was lovely to get out and about, exploring the features of the area.



### Young Dissenters Choir

Year 4 started a music workshop with Young Dissenters. It will run for several weeks and will end with a performance at St Matthias Church on the last day of term in April. This week, we started with warm up voice exercises and sang two songs. We also magpied our thoughts about what peace, love and freedom might mean for us so we can start writing lyrics for our own song!



### Soundscape project

Yesterday we launched our new exciting soundscape project! It is a fantastic collaboration between our children, parents and sound professionals. The Cleaner Air campaign provided the idea for the project. There has been much raising of awareness of the effects of pollution on our health, particularly children.

Jan Cullen (Luka 6B) was interested in creating a project that gave a voice to the children - to explore their thoughts and feelings, anxieties and ideas. The aim of the project is to create a soundscape - a portrait of the school in sound. The piece will feature a recording of the whole school breathing/ interspersed with children talking about the issues around pollution and their environment, interviews with members of the public and exploring their thoughts and feelings.

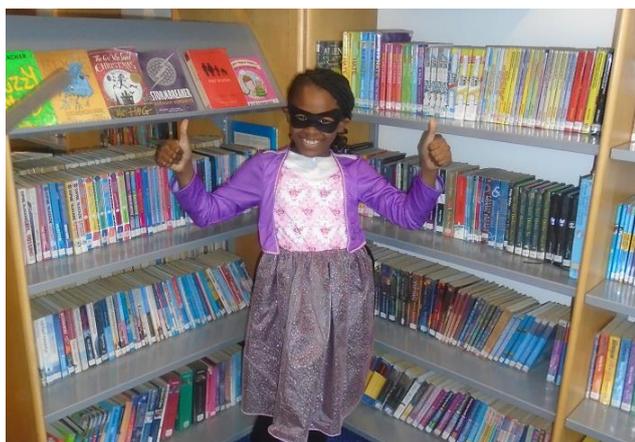
Tom Knowles (Poppy 2L and Sam Nursery) and Lucy Harbor (Leo 3C and Iris 1M) came into the school to talk to all the classes before half term. This was to recap the work already done on raising awareness of air quality and how poor air quality can impact on health. On Monday we had a whole school assembly with Nursery to Year 6 involved. The children were recording by professional sound engineers Rob and John, humming, breathing and chanting 'we want clean air', 'we deserve clean air', 'young lungs matter' and 'lungs for life'. Their united voices were very powerful. Jamie Smith (Marla 1M) came to record the beginning of the project in photographs. The children are very excited about the upcoming workshops, working with Jan and Rob and seeing how the soundscape is put together. We will share all the work with our families later in the summer term!



### **Tastes of The World Evaluation**

As part of our work to reaccredit the British Council's International School Award we will be evaluating a number of the international activities taking place at William Patten this year. To begin this process, we would welcome your thoughts and comments on the recent 'Tastes of the World' event which took place before the half term. You may remember that, before the special day itself, children learnt about world food available from shops and restaurants in their local community. After they had taken part, children learnt about sustainable living with a focus on food production and consumption. During the day, our families generously contributed dishes from parts of the world with which they have a connection and with support from parent and carer volunteer helpers, each class sampled a range of international dishes. This activity supported children's understanding of a balanced diet, their understanding of where different ingredients and foods originate from and also where different countries and continents are. Many of the children who prepared food for the event, also experienced practical maths through weighing the ingredients and understanding the significance of using the correct proportion of each ingredient. Please follow the link below to take part in the survey - <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BBRYCLJ> This shouldn't take longer than 5 minutes to complete and your support, as always, is very much appreciated.

**World Book Day 2019** is to be celebrated on Thursday 7th March this year. As is tradition, we ask that children (and staff!) dress up as a book character for the school day! The children participate in lots of book-based activity sessions, listen to stories, share their favourite books and take part in a costume parade. We look forward to seeing the children in their book character costumes!



### **Local author visit**

Before half term, Nursery and Reception had a visit from Nicola Kent who is a local author. This visit was planned to finish our current topic of 'Authors'. Nicola came along with a colleague Robin to read through her book 'Terry and the Brilliant Book'. As Robin and Nicola read the story, the children came up with ideas to add to the story and Nicola demonstrated how she draws the illustrations for her books. The children enjoyed coming up with ideas for what to put in the book for Terry's dinner. They enjoyed joining in with the repetitive parts of the story as well as joining in saying parts with Robin and Nicola. The children reacted to the funny parts as well as talking about how they thought the story might end. Nicola messaged after her visit to thank all the children for their brilliant ideas for stories and for listening so well during her visit. Well done everyone!



### **Concerns and complaints**

We seek to work together with families to resolve issues as they arise.

William Patten operates an open door policy.

Karen, Craig, Sian and Maria are available on a daily basis to speak to parents and we always aim to speak to the parent on the same day and if that is not possible, then the next day, either in person or on the phone.

Parents can also speak to their child's class teacher if the concern is related to the classroom or friendships for example. Parents can also speak to the Chair of Governors if they have any concerns. If it is a complaint that cannot be dealt with through the school, William Patten adopts the Learning Trust Complaints Procedure Policy. We would ask that no parent approach an individual family and under no circumstances approach an individual child about a situation they are unhappy about, as this can make the situation much more difficult to resolve.

Thank you for your co-operation.

### Travelling Book Fair

The Travelling Book Fair will be in school from Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March. The book fair is open from 3.30 - 4.00pm in the bottom hall. Come and buy a book or two. You can redeem your World Book Day token there too!

### Music Concerts at William Patten

With yet again enormous support from parents, carers and friends, the William Patten staff and children put on another two amazing concerts at the end of last half term.

On Friday we started off a bit more quietly with the ever-amazing William Patten Orchestra introduced by Rudy who managed the likes of Prokofiev if you don't mind! Then we had a whole host of young soloists on the piano – never easy performing on your own, but they were wonderful! Our diligent trombonists and trumpeters took to the stage and entertained us, all under the expert tutoring of Isobel. After that we had a William Patten first with our newly formed jazz ensemble. Wow! Cyrus, Ridji, Joshua and Theda amazed us with their playing and improvising. Following on we heard the dulcet tones of budding clarinetists, and were jazzed along by our young saxophonists, whom Alan has been working with so brilliantly. To finish off we once again enjoyed the WP Orchestra who gave an awesome rendition of Mamma Mia by Bjorn Ulvaeus and Benny Anderson of Abba. Not yet exhausting the half of our talents at William Patten we came back the following Monday with more! This explosive concert started off with the ever-deliriously-attention-holding Key Stage 1 Choir. They sung their hearts out and our hearts nearly burst with joy listening. Afterwards we heard from all of the violists in the school, who always manage to make our brains strain with the wonder of pulling of such a tricky instrument. With our string players we welcomed our new string teacher Aurora, who arranged a full ensemble piece allowing us to hear everyone play together. What a treat! After that we were utterly enthralled by the Key Stage 2 Choir, with stunning solos by our Year 5's and gorgeous harmonies. By no means was it over yet! Following on from the choir, was a WP first with our first ever rock band – Electric. They utterly dazzled us by not only knowing how to set themselves and the PA up, but then (as if that's not enough!) managed to get themselves around the tricky and exciting rhythms of ACDC's Back in Black, with style and gusto. I think we're all looking forward to hearing them again. In the truest spirit of William Patten, we finished up with our steel pan groups - all 4 of them. Yet again, Kerry proved himself to work wonders with our students, as indeed our children proved to perform wonderfully under his tutelage. As I said at the concert, it is so wonderful listening to all that these youngsters achieve. It is credit to us all –those who teach, those who support, and of course, those who practise and rehearse! It truly is life-enriching. I'm looking forward to the next ones already!

Alison Beckett Music Co-ordinator

### 5M's Football School

5M received an invitation from the authors of the *Football School* series to join other local schools for an assembly at the Tomlinson Centre. Behaviour was exemplary as always and the children delivered jaw-dropping facts about eagles, flags of the world and football team logos!

"It was really fun learning through football because it helped me to think in a different way." (Alex)

"I liked watching Jim do the samba on stage."

(Sasha)

"I found it really funny when the author pretended that 5M's Alex was his writing partner. (Blythe)

"I loved learning fun facts about football." (Keira)



### Zoolab

During the last week of half term, Year 1 hosted some unusual visitors... the animals of ZooLab! The children had the opportunity to handle and learn about some unusual creatures, including a giant millipede, a constrictor, a rather grumpy hissing cricket and a giant African land snail. Some brave children even befriended the tarantula. Throughout the workshop we learnt about how to classify the creatures as well as how they are adapted to survive in their environments. Lucy from ZooLab was very impressed with everything the children already knew and it seems we have many prospective zoologists in our midst!



### Science Museum trip

On Tuesday, Year 5 visited the Science Museum where we watched an exciting and electrifying show called Live Wire! We discovered the world of generators, learnt how our homes are powered using circuits and how to use electricity safely. Some of our children even took part in creating a human circuit! We then explored the exhibits in the Wonderlab where we were able to see square bubbles being made, have a go on Friction Slides and become part of the solar system. It was a very exciting day filled with curiosity.



### Come Dine With Us

It was wonderful to see so many parents at our Reception Come Dine With Us event yesterday. Over fifty parents and family members had the opportunity to sample a selection of Ali's delicious food. Reception children enjoyed showing their parents their lunchtime routine. Thank you for coming and a big thank you to all of the lunchtime staff who worked so hard on the day.



★ HAPPY ★  
BIRTHDAY!

Many happy returns to Iris F, Jack M, Muqthar, Theo B, Marnie, Rosalie, Alegria, Eliza B, Mira, Bowie, Vanessa, Ewan, Lei, Zack D, Olivia W, Hope S, Mu Yi, Fabio, Matilda B, Edith, Sumayyah, Theo G, Ulysse, Ava G, Olive, Alexander, David, Juno and Arabella who celebrated their special day during the last fortnight.

### Personal Best

The children in Year 3 really enjoyed their 2<sup>nd</sup> Personal Best session. They tried very hard to beat their scores from last time.

They took part in the following activities;

- Shot Put
- Shuttle run
- Agility test
- Leap, Leap jump
- Speed Bounce

They are looking forward to finding out who will make the most progress and therefore get chosen to compete at the Personal Best Finals!



Well done to **4Y** who are top of the attendance chart this time with a very high score of **98.6%**.

R Georgia	96.1%	R Wendy	96.7%
Y1 Maya	96.3%	Y1 Natalie	96.6%
Y2 Laura	97.7%	Y2 Tanya	97.5%
Y3 Aimee	95.3%	Y3 Christine	96.3%
Y4 Marcus	97.1%	<b>Y4 Yeter</b>	<b>98.6%</b>
Y5 Helen/Ellen	96.1%	Y5 Marion	95.3%
Y6 Ben	96.2%	Y6 Diane	96.7%

### PTFA Lottery



Results of the February lottery draw:

1st prize, £40 – Donald McGibbon (Lewis/Orrin)

2nd prize, £30 – Jo Evans (ex-parent)

3rd prize, £20 – Hannah Worthington (Matilda/ Jonah)

Thanks to everyone who takes part in the lottery which raises a lot of money for the PTFA. If you would like to join the lottery please collect a form from the office or contact Jasmine (Cecily, 4Y and Vita 2L) at [Jasminedick1@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Jasminedick1@yahoo.co.uk)

### Football news

On a sunny day at Market Road Astroturf our girls' team enjoyed a wonderful day of football, as can be seen by the beaming smiles in the photo below. We weren't quite able to lift the trophy but they did William Patten proud with some good performances, especially their final match where they were simply a joy to watch. This competition was the third one since the start of the year. In the Danone Cup at Mabley Green in January we finished 3rd and were only denied a place in the final by a shot which hit the crossbar in our last match. We have shown good progress since the start of the year. This was confirmed by our improved results in the 2nd round of the Queensbridge competition. We ended the afternoon on 9 points and second in the group. We are very happy with their work and now look forward to the semi-finals in March. One more thing - the attitude and willingness of the girls to work together is absolutely brilliant - Brian (football coach)



### Headteacher's Award tea parties

Karen's infamous tea parties have started again! A number of children have been nominated five times in Headteacher's Award assembly and were treated to a special afternoon tea just before half term. Amina, Mira, Nell, Zarya, Brody, Leo and Samuel-Eli enjoyed an afternoon of fun and cakes!

