

The Patten Pages

The William Patten Newsletter for Parents and Children

Issue 143

Friday 15th March 2019

Dear parents,

Fortunately it didn't rain on the Family Fun Run and 81 families (134 children) made it around Clissold Park in their pyjamas today. They were a sight to behold! I hope that you had a great time and most importantly have raised lots of money for Comic Relief and the Jinja Deaf charity. We also had so many cakes entered for the Bake Off, School Council found it very hard to judge the winners (they found the tasting very easy!), but they were able to make some very difficult decisions and the winners will be announced in assembly next week. I think we have some future contenders for the Great British Bake Off. Thank you to volunteer red nose painters on the gates and at the park – a great idea to raise money! If you are still collecting sponsor money, the final date for handing it in is Thursday 4th April. We will have a lovely photographic display of all the events on the day in the office from early next week, please do pop in to have a look.

The boulders from the small playground have been removed and the Edible Playground team start putting the raised beds together next week.

Reception and Year 1 have been very sensible about playing near the fencing and Year 2 have been enjoying playing in the big playground! The KS2 children have been very sensible and sensitive, looking out for the KS1 children and making sure they are alright.

A huge congratulations to our two gymnastics teams who represented William Patten at the Key Steps 2 (Year 3 and 4) and Key Steps 3 (Year 5 and 6) gymnastics competition at Queensbridge Leisure Centre on Thursday 14th March. Both teams represented the school so well and we are so very proud of them for their amazing gymnastic skills and super sportsmanship, which was commented on by Rochelle, their coach. The Key Steps 3 team (Terrell, Ella, Asia and Louis came close and the Key Steps 2 team (Leo, Zaynab, Matilda C and Alec) won gold and will be representing Hackney in the London Youth Games at Crystal Palace in the summer term! Well done and congratulations!

WhatsApp groups

All our year groups with the exception of Nursery have a WhatsApp group. They are a great way

for parents in the year group to stay in touch with each other. A number of parents have contacted me recently because they are concerned about the content and tone of some of the messages within the groups and have showed me the comments. I am aware that I have no authority over the WhatsApp groups, but I would ask that if you have a concern, please come and see me directly rather than discussing it in such an open and public forum. I do not believe this is fair or appropriate, particularly if it is related to members of staff.

Working with and listening to our families is very important to us. As you know, we operate an open door policy at William Patten and myself Craig, Sian and Maria are always available to talk to parents to discuss concerns or queries. Thank you.

Have a lovely weekend!

Best wishes

Karen

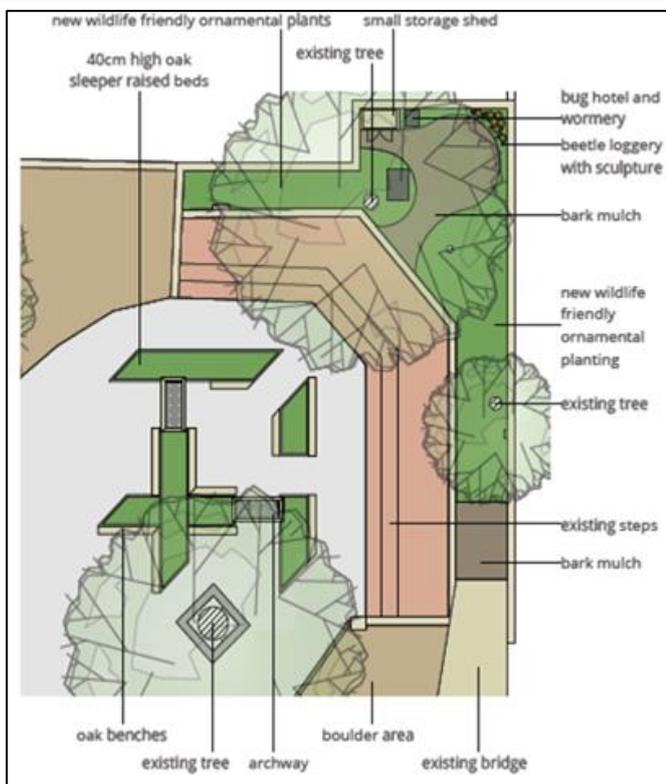
Edible Playground project.

We are delighted to let you know that we are working with the charity 'Trees for Cities' charity to launch an 'Edible Playground' in the KS1 small playground. It will be in the corner by the steps. We are one of only three schools in Hackney to have an Edible Playground!

The EP is a fruit and vegetable garden and an outdoor learning resource for the school. Bulb energy have contributed £20000 to the project and the £6000 cost to the school of has been funded by the PTFA, which is fabulous news and I would like to say a big thank you, as this will benefit all children in the school, as well as families.

We had the launch on Tuesday 5th March, with an assembly in KS1 and KS2, a staff meeting for support staff and a staff meeting for teachers.

The design will create a lovely space with lots of sociable seating for the use of children and parents, and also replace and invigorate the existing planting around the school to bring colour and provide food and shelter for beneficial insects. We will have a wormery, compost bins, bicycle wheel trellis, a shed, archways, raised beds and a beetle sculpture!



'Clever Never Goes'

2T were selected to take part in a special pilot session run by The Metropolitan Police. The project is called 'Clever Never Goes', and has been developed to potentially replace the previous "stranger danger" approach. The session gave children practical safety skills which they can use as they get older and become more independent. Whilst child abduction is extremely uncommon, it's important that children can recognise the potential signs of danger. 2T participated brilliantly, engaged really well with PC Dean Davies and thought really carefully about situations which may be deemed as unsafe, or potentially unsafe. Most importantly (with the help of a little robot called 'Clever', they learned about what they can do if they are ever in an unsafe situation.



Meeting Florence Nightingale

Year 2 went on another super trip, this time to the Florence Nightingale museum at St Thomas's Hospital. The children were wonderfully behaved on the long bus journey, even though the traffic was terrible, which only lengthened the journey further! At the museum the children were greeted by Miss Nightingale herself, who then talked about her upbringing, career and experience of the Crimean War in somewhat graphic detail! Some of us felt rather queasy by the time she had finished describing the state of the hospital when she arrived in Scutari back in 1854. Blocked drains, fleas, rats, a dead horse in the sewer...the list goes on! Afterwards, the children handled replica objects from the 1850s and tried on some replica garments from the time! Finally, the children got to look around the museum and learned about the artefacts on display, including Florence's pet owl Athena, who was very cute indeed (though sadly, no longer alive!). A wonderful trip had by all, including a leisurely stroll back along the South Bank, taking in the infamous sights on the way. Thanks to the staff and parents who made the trip possible, and to the children for being marvellous as ever!



A special visitor!



Year 2 welcomed a special visitor into school yesterday: Mary Seacole herself! The children participated in an interactive workshop with Mary, who told the story of her life and career as a nurse back in the 19th Century. She described how she had to battle against prejudice because of the colour of her skin, and had to work hard to fulfill her dream of being a nurse. Her life motto was "Never give up", and the children had to remind Mary of this with every defeat she faced, including a rejection from Florence Nightingale on her nursing mission to the Crimea! The children got to make herbal remedies that Mary used to treat cholera and dress wounds whilst in the hospital she set up behind the battle lines of the Crimean War. They learned that Mary was a wonderful nurse, nicknamed 'Mother Seacole' by the British soldiers in the Crimea. They learned she was a kind, caring and truly inspirational woman, with many positive messages about how we should be today. Well done to the Year 2 children for participating so brilliantly in the workshop (which was run by Freshwater Theatre Co).

World Book Day

We hosted yet another World Book Day on Thursday 7th March at William Patten and it was once again huge success, celebrating books and a love of reading and literature. All children looked fantastic in their book character costumes, ranging from Hermione from Harry Potter, Alice from Alice in Wonderland, Wally from Where's Wally? The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Katniss Everdeen from The Hunger Games to name but a few! It was also super to see the staff of WP dressed up for the day. We had Mr Wonka and some of his Oopma Loompas from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, some crayons from The Day The Crayons Quit, Paddington Bear, Matilda, Tauriel from The Hobbit and more! The children took part in lots of activities across the school celebrating books and characters and all were able to showcase their costumes in our parades too. A great day had by all! Thanks to everyone who made it such a success. Special thanks to the parent volunteers who came in and ran a small group!



Film premiere



The Hackney Pirates is a charity working to develop the literacy, confidence and perseverance of young people in Hackney. A number of William Patten children attend workshops on a weekly basis and last Thursday, Ella (5M) and Paige (5HE) went onstage at the Rio Cinema to launch the premiere of the Hackney Pirates very own film! The group had worked very hard to produce their very own blockbuster and it was enjoyed by a packed audience. Well done to all the William Patten young pirates that took part!

Modern slavery workshops

Year 5 and 6 children took part in workshops by Just Enough UK last week. Just Enough UK has visited over 200 schools in London and the South East, educating over 15,000 children on modern slavery. *Modern day slavery is a global problem; around 35 million people are held in slavery across the world and there are an estimated 13,000 slaves living in the UK. It is estimated that 1 in 5 victims of slavery in the UK are children.*

Iris Fisher 6B:

At the workshop we learnt about how modern slavery is happening even though it is illegal. After the workshop we knew the signs of how to spot a person in danger of being enslaved - suspicious person guarding them, local language struggle, no valid travel documents, being very emotional. The workshop was very fun. We also acted out someone being a slave and doing loads of jobs but they didn't get paid. Overall I loved the workshop and it's good to know what's going on in our world. I hope we can make a difference to modern slavery and make it stop.

Nell stated that she "really liked the modern slavery workshops because it was really informative".

By Iris – Year 6 (Ben)

Homework Q and A

We are holding a drop in for technological homework issues on Wednesday 20th March at 9.15am in the backroom. Marcus will be on hand for advice and help.

Can my child use paper to work out their answers?

Yes of course. Children do not have to work out all the answers in their heads; they can use paper and pencil to work out the answers. They then transfer the answer to the online system.

I am having trouble printing the homework

The homework can be printed, but if you are having difficulty, we are holding a drop in for technological homework issues on Wednesday 20th March at 9.15am in the backroom.

I want to save the homework, but can't

Please come along to the drop in next Wednesday and Marcus will be able to show you how.

How does the teacher get the homework?

You must click the blue 'mark as done' or 'submit' button on each assignment after you have completed it, or it will not be returned to the teachers for comment.

I am concerned that my child is not doing handwriting as homework.

The children do handwriting practice in school and of course write every day – in RWI and Hackney Loves Reading, in Maths and in all their topic work. Parents can of course do additional handwriting practice with their children, if they wish.

Are you just going to be doing Maths homework?

My child enjoyed doing topic work too.

We have only completed one week of online homework and this is a new system for everyone; children, parents and teachers. The school has started with mainly Maths homework initially, but as the system becomes embedded and all the smaller technological issues are resolved, the children will be asked to complete different types of homework – such as art, D+T, history etc.

How do I find out the answers to the 'challenge' homework?

The teachers will provide the answers to this homework the following Friday, so children and parents can check and see how they have done.

When does homework have to be back?

All the teachers are setting the homework on a Friday, with a closing date of the next Friday. We hope this is easier for everyone as all children have the same homework date!

School Council Visits The Frank Barnes School for Deaf Children

The school council had their first out-of-school group visit this week. As part of our ongoing project with the Jinja Deaf Charity (which enables deaf children in Uganda to access education at local schools), we have also made a link with the Frank Barnes School for Deaf Children in Camden. The school councillors were given a guided tour of the school by teachers and pupils and through this gained a deeper awareness and understanding of the deaf community and the school experience of the children who attend.

Children at the school explained what a typical day looks like and also what they liked about their school. The William Patten School Council learned about the topics, including many that are the same as those taught at William Patten (for example, Year 6 are studying Ancient Greece). The children at Frank Barnes also explained their work in Deaf Studies, during which they learn about significant contributions made by members of the deaf community through history.

The children from William Patten asked some very thoughtful questions, which the Frank Barnes children answered enthusiastically, with impressive detail. Councillors also learnt that there are no after school clubs, because so many of the children who attend live such a long distance from the school. For some, it takes up to an hour and a half to get back home at the end of the school day!

At the end of the tour, the children also met Dani Sive, Headteacher of Frank Barnes School for Deaf Children. The children at both schools then played together in the playground.

We would like to thank the staff and children at the Frank Barnes School for Deaf Children for organising such an informative and purposeful tour and for making us feel so welcome. Special assemblies will be organised soon, so that the school council can disseminate this work. Films of the tour that were recorded by the children on iPads will be collated, with subsequent films that the children make about William Patten and Stoke Newington also being shown and shared with Frank Barnes School (as well as the schools we are working with in Uganda). When we have received a film about the experiences of deaf children at the schools in Uganda, it will also be shared with the children at Frank Barnes School for Deaf Children. At the end of the process, pupils at all the schools

will have been able to compare and contrast their experiences and develop their connections with other children in contrasting local and international settings.



Deadlines for competitions and events.

For every competition / event / project we do, we provide a deadline for the return of any relevant form. This is to ensure amongst other things that we have the correct numbers and we know who is coming / taking part etc. Recently we have had events where a significant number of parents have not handed the form in by the deadline and then have been disappointed when not allocated a place. We aim to give as much notice as possible for the huge number of fabulous events that we do. I know that you will appreciate that we cannot run an event without knowing who is taking part. In future, all deadlines will be communicated to parents in the main body of any email and a text reminder sent to families 2 – 3 days before the deadline is due. It is the responsibility of the family to ensure that any forms are completed and returned to school in time.

Shop Local card supports William Patten



We have teamed up with Local Buyers Club to support local independent businesses whilst raising funds for the PTFA. Club members receive a discount card offering savings of 10-30% or more at over 130 local businesses, including Earlybird, The Prince, The Clarence, Ryans N16, The Twisted Fork, Wolf, The Red Lion, Planet Organic, Jaines & Son, Trattoria N16, Push Cycles, Café Z Bar, Clissold House Café and Rudie's.

For every new member who joins this year using the special coupon code **WPLOCAL**, the Local Buyers Club will donate £5 to the PTFA.

The card, which encourages people to support local and independent businesses, is also accepted across Hackney, Islington, Haringey, Shoreditch and the City.

Membership costs just £12 per year, and you get £2 off when joining using our special code. If you order 2 cards for £18 then the PTFA will receive £10. Order now at www.localbuyersclub.com and input the coupon code **WPLOCAL** when you checkout.

Please share the code with friends and family to help us raise as much as possible.



Year 6 Power of Three Sentences

We recently had a visiting teacher in 6B, who worked with the children on creating 'power of three' sentences. The teacher was so impressed with the children's ideas, use of language and of course behaviour! The sentences were so impressive, we wanted to share them with you and will do so over the next few issues of the Patten Pages.

Bill:

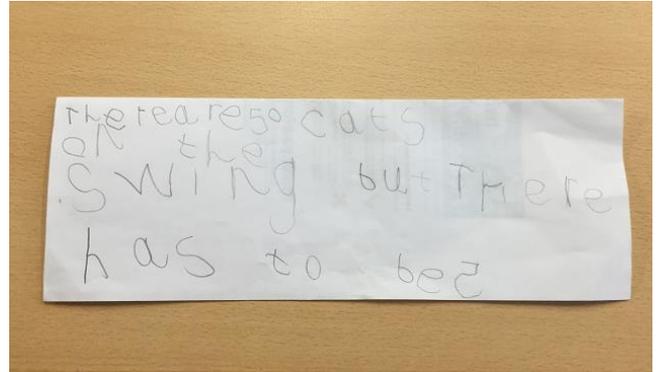
'A mouth-watering toffee aroma meandered through the trees, divine meringue sweetness wafted through the trees and a delicious caramel fragrance flowed through the crooked trees, with their skeletal branches casting shadows on the ground below.'

Akbar:

'Sweet ice cream smells sauntered throughout the forest, mouth-watering dark chocolate danced through the leaves of the trees and delicious strawberry laces meandered in the distance'.

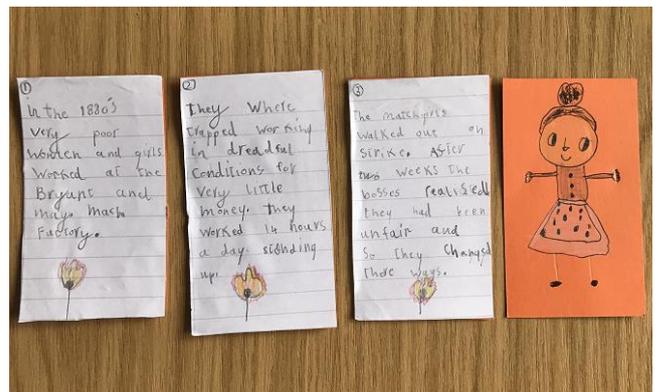
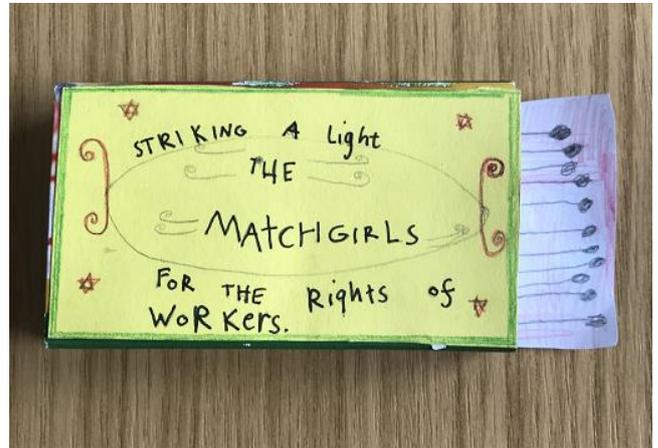
Luca's amazing number problem!

Luca (Reception G) came to see Karen with some amazing Maths work recently. Luca had made up his own written number problem and had also worked out the answer! Karen was very impressed with his very clever thinking and she gave him a record number of 45 stickers, as she had worked out the answer too! Well done Luca! You are a marvellous mathematician!



More amazing writing in Year 2

Edith (2T) came to share her beautiful work with Karen on Wednesday. Karen was delighted to find a non-narrative text hidden within a decorated matchbox. What a super surprise! Edith's writing was great; informative, clearly sequenced with lovely spaces between her words. Very nice handwriting too! Well done Edith!



Soundscape update

We received a lovely letter from Rob who has been working with Jan Cullen on the Soundscape project this term:

Hi Karen,

Rob Szeliga here, sound designer for the Clean Air Sound Art project with Jan Cullen.

Just a brief message to say how much fun I had working with your students on the sound project at William Patten Primary School. Everyone was so well-behaved, enthusiastic and responsive to our workshops. The atmosphere throughout the school with both students and staff felt wonderful.

The recordings we've obtained are fantastic, exceeding our expectations. The Year 6 High Street interviews on March 4th were particularly successful. I was slightly concerned how that day would play out, but everything came together brilliantly.

Jan and I look forward to sharing our final sound composition with you all!

Kind regards,

Rob Szeliga

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Year 5 Hackney Museum Trip

By Milla, Kezia and Jack



Year 5 went to Hackney Museum for a school trip and learnt an extraordinary amount about the history of Hackney. We did all sorts of activities and explored people's personal stories through their suitcases.

"The workshop was taught in an interactive and exciting way, it really got my attention" – Dexter
One of the suitcases belonged to a girl named Mary who left her home in Yorkshire in 1880 to become a maid in Hackney. Another was a refugee from Sierra Leone. Mohamed was only 8 years old when he moved to Hackney to escape a war in Sierra Leone.

"The trip was so interesting because there were suitcases full of mementos of people who had moved to Hackney from their home countries." – Max

Another person was Bianca from Austria who travelled via *kindertransport* in 1939, she still lives in Hackney and has 10 children – some of them come home for a Sunday roast every week!

"The suitcase I found most interesting was Blanka's. She left Austria when she was 9 years old because of the Second World War and came to live in Hackney." - Lilly

★ HAPPY ★
BIRTHDAY!

Happy birthday to Violet, Ramin, Chloe, Anna W, Stella D, Muhammad-Ibrahim, Cecilia, Tristan G, Una, Amber, Aykut, Livia, Eliza Z, Vita H, Ezra T, Ali, Laura and Chris-Victor who all celebrated their special day since the last newsletter.