

The Patten Pages

The William Patten Newsletter for Parents and Children

Issue 167

Friday 11th December 2020

Dear parents,

This is the final Patten Pages of the term and indeed the year. I think we will all be relieved to say goodbye to 2020!

We are so disappointed that our lovely Year 6 children have had to end their term prematurely yesterday. The children were so amazing when we told them the news, showing such maturity, although they were obviously disappointed to be away from their friends and missing the end of term festivities. As the children have missed their party day, we have said we will have a post-Christmas party in January just for Year 6!

We have been very fortunate that we have reached this point in the term without having to close any bubbles. We must remain vigilant, particularly as the Covid 19 numbers are rising in London. Social distancing needs to be observed when waiting to come into school and when walking and waiting in the playground. I am also requesting that parents / carers wear masks when coming in to drop off or collect children.

As I have said before, we all need to follow the guidance and this includes adhering to the rules about households mixing. London is currently in Tier 2 and any joining up with other households outside of school should only take place outside and be up to six people. We know that children are having playdates and even sleepovers. This is incredibly frustrating for the majority of people who are doing the right thing and it undermines the hard work that the school is doing to minimise the risk for the children, staff and wider community.

Thank you for the hugely generous donations to our appeal for the Hackney Food Bank and the Spitalfields Crypt Trust. So far we have raised over £810 (WOW!) and there is still time to donate via SIMS Pay before next week.

I hope everyone has a lovely weekend and I might see you at the Polar Express tomorrow. If you are coming, please remember to social distance and stay together as a family group whilst you are waiting. Santa is looking forward to seeing all the lovely and amazing WP children! All aboard!

Best wishes
Karen

NEW/ADVENTURES

Matthew Bourne's 'New Adventures' have been in touch with the school again recently about a new dance school they are developing. We remember our work with New Adventures and the whole school performance of Matthew Bourne's Cinderella at Sadler's Wells fondly (here's a reminder for some of our newer families):

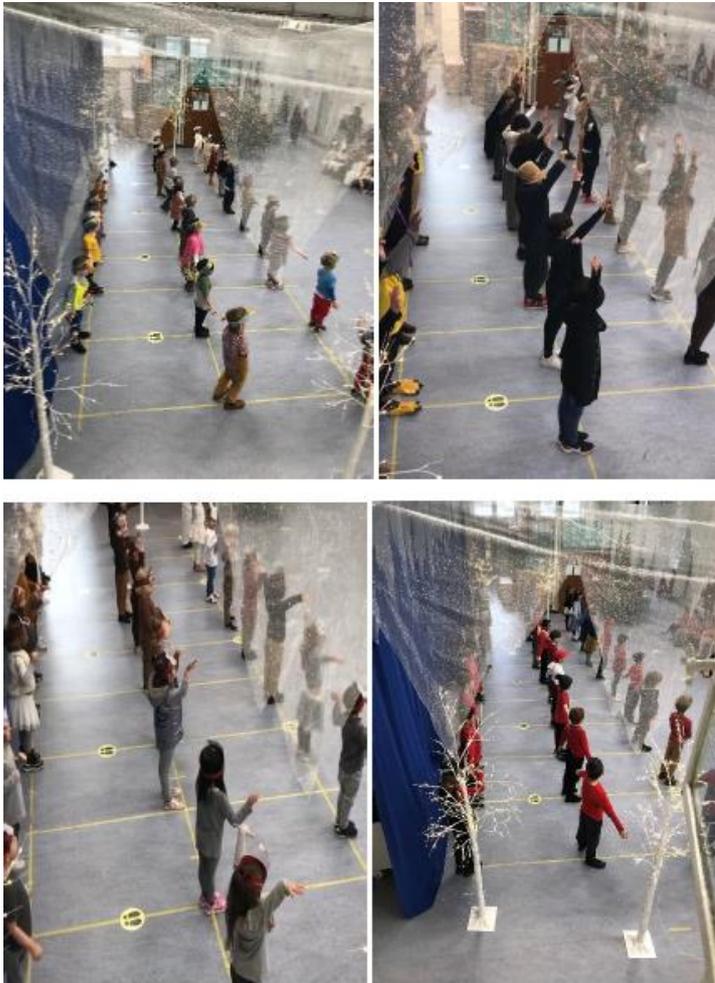
<https://new-adventures.net/na-tv/dancers-in-residence-mini-documentary>.

The training programme, dubbed 'Cygnet School' will continue the charity's work with young people they have previously worked with in primary school and who might later consider vocational training. Young people involved in the school are to be trained in complimentary dance and in enhancing the technical, creative and performance-based skills that are fundamental to New Adventures' work. The new school has been directly influenced and informed by the school's previous collaboration with Matthew Bourne's New Adventures and we are pleased to hear that former pupil Ivy Oakland, has accepted a place on the training programme! Well done Ivy, we are so pleased that the high standard of your work during the dancers in residence is still recognised and remembered by New Adventures and look forward to hearing about your progress in dance.

Christmas show 2020

The rehearsals are over and the filming done. The children have worked so hard learning the songs for their performances. EYFS and KS1 are performing 'Ruby the Christmas Donkey' and KS2 children are performing 'The Gift of Christmas'. Hearing the children sing in the bottom hall over the last two weeks has been joyful. During the performances, as well as during the rehearsals, they worked brilliantly as a team to listen to, encourage and support their friends. Despite the fact the children were performing in such unusual circumstances with no audience apart from their year group bubble, they were fabulous and absolute professionals! Families are in for such a treat! I would like to say a brilliant well done and thank you to the children, the staff teams in each year group and Brock the filmmaker, who is editing the footage. A huge, massive thank you to the wonderful, extremely talented Alison, for somehow making sure our children did not miss out and have been able to perform in the 2020 Christmas show!

Alison, you are amazing! Thank you so very much!



Spanish Link School

This week Reception HM had a video call with our Spanish link school in Madrid, Josep Tarradellas and used Google Meet to have a conversation with a class of children of the same age. First, the children in both classes took turns demonstrating their language knowledge. The children in Madrid spoke in English to say "Hello" and "How are you?" and we had four very brave children stand up and have a short conversation of greetings in Spanish! Isabelle, Khush, Blake and Anna A said "Hola" "¿Cómo estás?" "Muy bien" and "Adios" in pairs for the children in Madrid and they were very impressed with their pronunciation. Both classes then took turns to perform a Christmas song. To follow current safety guidelines, Reception HM played the audio of our Christmas Show song 'Weave It' and performed the actions. Overall the call was a huge success and the children really enjoyed seeing and speaking to their Spanish friends in Madrid.



CSed Week and the WP Hour of Code

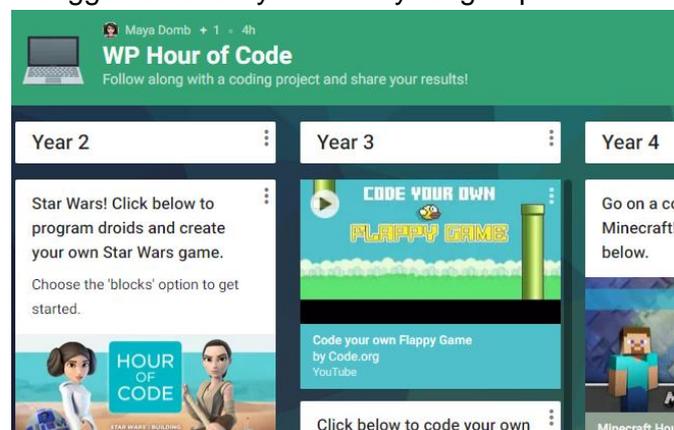
This week (7th-13th December) is Computer Science Education Week. It is a week where children in schools all over the world find out more about why Computer Science is important, what you can achieve with it, and how much fun it is to create something by coding! All of our classes have discussed their experience of Computer Science, in the WP curriculum and beyond, and have learned about how Computer Science is changing our world. Some of our younger children also enjoyed watching a coding pantomime this week, which reinforced their learning about algorithms and debugging, whilst also providing laughs and lots of audience participation!



There are so many impressive individuals and teams using Computer Science to make the world a better place, but this year we focused on Gitanjali Rao - TIME magazine's first ever 'Kid of the Year'. At only 15, she is already using technology and science to solve big problems. Our children were impressed with her creation of a device and app for testing whether water is safe to drink. More recently, she has coded an app and Chrome extension called 'Kindly' which uses AI to help reduce cyberbullying by recognising unkind language online and offering the author a chance to rethink before they send. We thought this was a great use of Computer Science! Gitanjali says inspiring other children is really important to her, and that anyone can be an inventor or a scientist, no matter their gender, age or skin colour. "From personal experience, it's not easy when you don't see anyone else like you. So I really want to put out that message: If I can do it, you can do it, and anyone can do it."



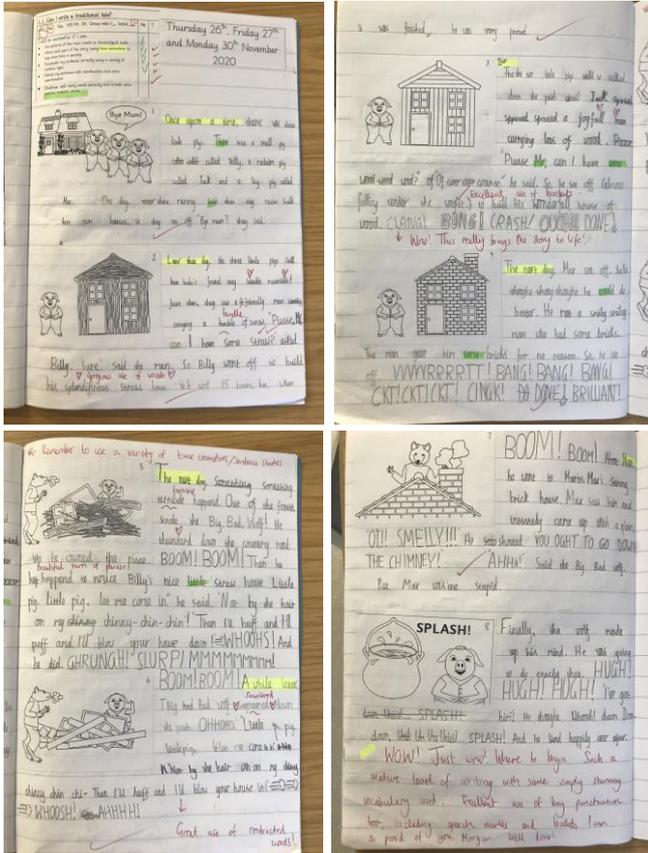
As well as learning about Gitanjali, we saw video messages from industry specialists and famous figures challenging us to take part in this year's Hour of Code. We can't wait! The idea of the Hour of Code is that children celebrate CSed week by spending 1 hour learning to code or honing their skills. Adults can join in too! You'll be amazed at what you can do in just 1 hour. For this year's virtual event, which has been set as a school-wide homework task on Google Classroom, Maya has created a 'WP Hour of Code' page, which displays a suggested activity for each year group.



After completing an activity, children have the opportunity to share their work (or a message about their Hour of Code experience) with our whole school community. It will be so wonderful to see everyone's contributions! Children can share a photo or video of their on-screen work, a typed or voice recorded message about how they found their Hour of Code, or a link to their finished project. There are also 'unplugged' activities, which are perfect for practising coding and computational thinking without a digital device. Happy coding everyone!

Amazing work!

Morgan came to share her amazing writing with Karen last week. Year 2 have been retelling the story of 'The Three Little Pigs' in their own words after planning their story. Karen was so impressed, especially Morgan's use of super vocabulary and incredible key punctuation. Karen really enjoyed reading the retelling, particularly the visual images created, for example 'a splendiferous straw house' and 'the big bad wolf sauntered down the path'.



Gruffalo performance



Tall Stories Studio produced a special live-streamed version of the much-loved stage adaption of The Gruffalo, based on the classic book by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler. The production was broadcast live from their Islington studio to audiences around the world, so no child had to miss out on a trip to the theatre this Christmas. Our EYFS children and Years 1 and 2 thoroughly enjoyed watching the production this morning and were enthralled with the live show. How wonderful and a big thank you to Lucy from Tall Studios for inviting us to be part of this lovely performance.

Travelling through space

Reception had to design a spacesuit to use to travel to a distant planet. They had to think of special powers that their spacesuit would have like secret pockets, special renewable energy packs, weights to defy gravity or even reflective strips. The children showed such creativity and imagination and could be future astronauts! To infinity and beyond!

Evan



Isabelle



Max



Kimora



Hafsa



Anna



Olive Link Day

Over the past few years, William Patten have been fortunate to be part of The Faith & Belief Forum which is the UK's largest Interfaith Organisation that helps links schools with different backgrounds. We are linked with Olive Primary School which is a Muslim faith primary school based in Hackney. The aim of the charity is to enable children to learn and understand about each other's schools but also to interact with each other so that we can be aware of preconceived ideas we may have. 5YE at William Patten and Year 4 at Olive School were linked together and we had our first virtual Link Day on the 2nd December. Each class presented a presentation about the schools and we learnt about what our schools look like, shared what lessons we learn daily and other extra activities we do like attending clubs. We then watched a video about safe space and learnt about what the acronym 'RADIO' stands for and to use it during our link days so they were; R- respect; A-active listening; D-dialogue not debate; I-I statements and O-Ouch and Oops. Our last activity was to do an activity where we had to find three visible similarities and differences then share this with the other school. Although it was a short Link Day, we look forward to our second one in the New Year.



Making sandwiches

Year 3 enjoyed 'Sandwich making' in D&T last week. It was linked with their understanding and application of the principles of a healthy and varied diet, which they learnt in Science. During the week they generated their ideas through discussion with peers and adults in order to develop design criteria for their sandwich, which included appearance, taste, texture and aroma. Taking various dietary restrictions into consideration, they were able to select from a range of vegan ingredients according to their preference. They also learnt how to work hygienically and to use a range of utensils and techniques (including the bridge and claw technique, grating, peeling, chopping, slicing, and spreading) to prepare their sandwich. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed their finished product!

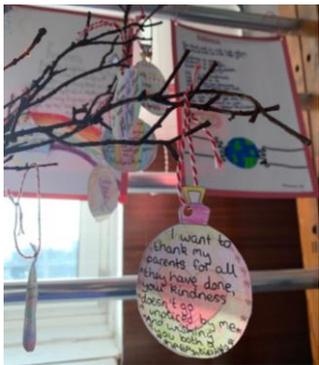


Kindness Trees

To continue to celebrate the importance of being kind to one another and the kindness we see each day this week, every class has created a Kindness Tree.

Every child decorated their baubles with a compliment to a friend or family member, an act of kindness they had performed or received or a message about what kindness means to them.

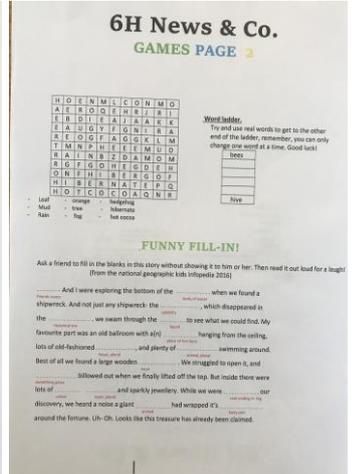
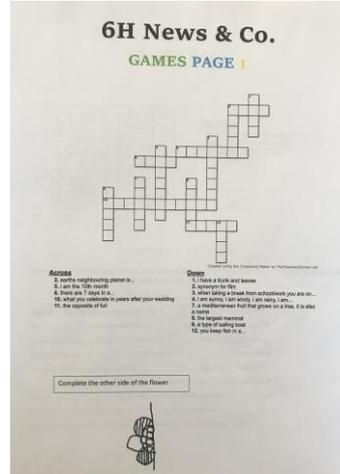
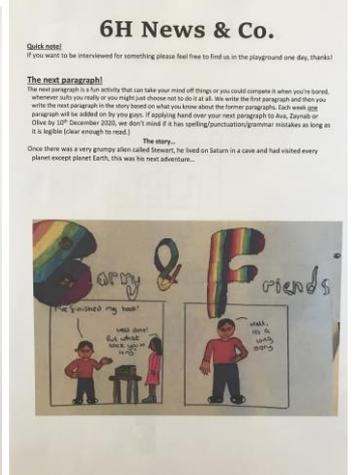
At William Patten we believe that acts of kindness, large and small, can multiply and positively impact the world in which we live and the kindness trees that have been created are a beautiful and meaningful addition to the school.



Year 6 newspaper

Olive, Ava and Zaynab in Year 6 have been busy producing their own newspaper for their classmates. A great mix of information and entertainment! Thank you for sharing your work with me last week.

P.S. Thank you for providing the quiz answers too!



We have a number of traditions that take place at this time of year and due to the current circumstances, we are having to do them all slightly differently! We have been collecting for the Hackney Food Bank www.hackney.foodbank.org.uk and the Spitalfields Crypt Trust www.sct.org.uk for a number of years and would like to do so this year too. Instead of physical donations of tinned goods, packets, clothing etc, we have set up a donation point on SIMS Pay in the 'Online Shop' section, where families can donate and we will split the money equally between the two charities, as we always do. We would be very grateful if you would consider making a donation if you can. The charities can then decide how best to spend the funds. The donation point is open now and will close at 3.30pm on Wednesday 16th December.



No Pens Day at William Patten



Today we are holding a No Pens Day at William Patten. "It is an annual day of speaking and listening activities that takes place in schools and education settings across the country. The event raises awareness of communication as a key life skill. Verbal communication skills (sometimes called **oracy**) are fundamental for learning to read and write, managing emotions, developing friendships and entering employment." ICAN Charity website Using wonderful resources from a local organisation called Artburst, children across the school will be putting down their pens and picking up their language to create puppet shows.

In EYFS and KS1 children will be watching a puppet show performance of Goldilocks using Makaton signing. (Makaton is a system that uses signs and symbols to help people communicate. It is designed to support the development of spoken language.) They will learn some key Makaton signs related to the story of Goldilocks and then create puppet theatres, puppets and put on their own puppet shows! In KS2 children will watch a puppet show performance of a Benjamin Zephaniah poem 'The Orange Tree'. They will then choose a poem to perform as a puppet show, also creating their own puppet theatres and puppets.

There is already a wonderful buzz in the school with whispers of 'No pens today!' as the children were coming in. I can't wait to see the results of their hard work, imagination, creativity and team work as the day unfolds!



Year 5 protest

This half term Year 5 have been working on a special project around protest with the support of Hackney Museum. In our Google Meet sessions we've been learning about why and how people protest and William Patten's own history of protest via the Hasbudak family protest in the 80s. Through a democratic voting process we decided the issue we most wanted to protest about and how we wanted to protest. 5E chose deforestation caused by palm oil plantations and its impact on the orangutans of Borneo alongside other wildlife. 5Y agreed and we started planning our protest! We created protest posters to advertise our demonstration to the rest of the school community, as well as protest badges to help spread the word. Today we held our demonstration and with our chants, placards, banners and music we filled the playground with the sound of protest power! Other KS2 classes came out in support and it was an amazing experience for us all. Hopefully we have inspired WP and spread the word about the power of protest.

Rivka: *I think that's the most fun I've ever had.*

Innes: *I want people to care about this as much as they do about other problems in the news.*

Siri: *I just want people to know about this problem – even if it doesn't change – I just want one person to change their mind and try to do something.*



Inclusion Toy Appeal



In the Inclusion Department Sian and I are always on the look out for toys, games and puzzles for children who need increased access to play based learning opportunities.

If you are looking to have a clear out either before or after the Christmas period, we would really appreciate donations of the following;

- Small world characters e.g. toy animals, Play Mobil figures or anything similar
- Toy vehicles
- A brio train set or similar
- Puzzles suitable for ages up to 7
- Turn taking games e.g. card games, board games also for ages up to 7
- A child's cassette or CD player and cassettes or CD's with children's songs or stories
- Puppets

Please can we ask that any donations are clean, in good condition and conform to safety standards.

Thanking you very much in advance and we wish you a happy and restful Christmas break!

Kindness Certificates



The following children have been nominated for their consistent kindness or super-kind actions.

Well done to: Margot 1C, Lily 1M, Nyren 1C, Leia 3C, Kaizer 4M, Charlie 4M and Ronnie 6H.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Many happy returns to Arthur, Valentine, Matilda W, Tristan T, Rex, Tobi, Cecily, Alexina, Clara and Jack S who recently celebrated their birthday. Also to Hattie, Amelie, Huxley H, Alexa, Hope, Abdurrahman, Lyra, Samuel-Eli and Yasmeen who will celebrate their birthday in the next few days. Happy birthday to all of you!

Eco Team

Since we launched our plastic and recycling scheme, in the week beginning the 23rd November, we have been blown away by our enormous totals! So far, we know that 4,072 reusable water bottles have been brought in to school, as opposed to single use disposable plastic ones, and we have recycled 1,704 plastic lids from the kitchen. In just a few small weeks we can already see what a huge impact this will have and how we are all making meaningful changes to be more Eco-friendly at WP. A special thanks to the Eco Team monitors who have had such an active role in counting and collating the data!



Recipe for mulled apple juice from Ali (WP chef)



Ingredients

1 litre carton apple juice
1 cinnamon stick
Peel of 1 large orange
Peel of 1 large lemon
Small knob of fresh ginger, grated
2tsp runny honey

Method

Add the cinnamon stick, orange and lemon peel, and a sprinkle of the grated ginger to a large saucepan. Pour in the apple juice and place the pan over a low heat, simmering for 10-15 minutes to allow the flavours to infuse. Stir in the honey (you can add a little more to taste if required). Strain the mixture into a jug and serve whilst still warm.

If the jug of mixture cools before you've finished drinking, you can simply return it to an empty saucepan and reheat it again!