

The Patten Pages

The William Patten Newsletter for Parents and Children

Issue 176

Wednesday 21st July 2021

Dear parents,

What a year! In fact what a year and a half! It has been a challenging year for every single individual and the pandemic has affected and impacted on everyone in many different ways. However, in our own way, we have all managed to cope with these challenges and have drawn on the support of our families, friends and wider community to give us strength, comfort and hope.

At this time of year, we reflect on the year that has gone and look forward to the holidays, as well as to coming back refreshed and ready for the excitement of a new term and a new beginning. Personally, I am so thankful for the hard work, determination and resilience that our families, children and staff have shown this year, despite all the unprecedented challenges, of which there have been many! Despite these challenges, and although we haven't been able to organise as many trips or events, or have as many visitors as we would normally like to, the children's positivity, kindness, creativity and energy have made coming into work every day a joyful experience. The children have been a true credit to all parents, carers and families and I am so proud of them.

I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing Nursery having so much fun in their water activity day with the Rainbow sprinkler and water piñata, Reception enjoying their Anansi workshop for Black History Month and Year 1 working on their 'Women in Space' topic and Windrush sculptures. Year 2 have investigated mini-beasts in the KS1 playground, enjoyed their virtual fire safety workshop and made lovely sand sculptures. Year 3 created wonderful group poems for the Ministry of Stories poetry anthology. Year 4 worked so well together to make their Pop Up cafe menus and items to share. Year 5 made bread that would rival the Spence and Year 6 had the best time at Kench Hill and performed a wonderful end of year show.

Thank you to the staff team The staff team are the best staff team ever! A huge thank you to them for making sure children have felt safe and enjoyed being back at school, despite how different everything has been. I would like to thank all staff for their selfless

commitment to the pupils of William Patten and the sacrifices they have made, whilst managing their own families and challenges at home.

I know that you will join me in thanking our teachers, teaching assistants, administrative staff, kitchen staff, cleaning staff, site team and Place2be staff, for their tremendous work over the last year. Their flexibility and commitment during a very difficult time is to be commended. Everyone has been amazing! All staff can always be relied upon to go above and beyond what is necessary, to ensure that we continue to offer wonderful opportunities to the children including a virtual World Book day during lockdown, Science Week and the Protest Project. Staff are so kind and supportive to each other and are always positive, cheerful and helpful. They have such high expectations of themselves and the children and are exemplary role models. I know how fortunate I am to work with this fabulous group of people and simply could not do my job without them. I hope they are all able to have a very well deserved rest over the summer and put their feet up!

Thank you to parents

I would like to thank all our parents for working with and supporting the school throughout this period and for all the positive comments, phone calls and emails of gratitude and appreciation for what the school has done. The words of encouragement and cake (and ice cream van!) have kept us smiling. The staff have felt so appreciated and valued by these gestures. The relationships between our families and school is a real strength at WP and make our school very special. Parents and carers need a special thank you too, for adapting to all the changes, including taking on remote learning - learning in the way you did to ensure that our children remained safe, happy and engaged throughout the lockdowns! We have also appreciated the constructive feedback of parents that allowed the school to reflect and adapt its provision. This has been very

helpful indeed. Thank you for your patience and support with the COVID-19 protocols, which have contributed to keeping the school community as safe as we possibly could. We have had no bubbles close since December and our attendance level has consistently been over 97%, which is above the national average.

Goodbye Year 6

To our Year 6 children who are about to leave us for their next phase of education; they have been super stars. Their year has not been what we envisaged for them at the start, but they have demonstrated the values of our school by showing resilience, determination, kindness, patience and good humour throughout. We are so proud of their achievements. They started their last year at primary school not knowing if they would be able to enjoy the traditional rites of passage of Year 6, such as the residential trip to Kench Hill and Year 6 end of year show. Not once did they let this impact on their time in school and I will never forget their response when we told them that the residential was going ahead! The disbelief, joy and sheer excitement on their faces will stay with me. I am incredibly proud of them all and wish them happiness in their futures. Please do keep in touch! No invitation is needed to come back and say hello and they are always welcome at WP.

For some families, their time at WP has come to an end, and I would like to extend my sincere thanks and good wishes to you all. Some families I have known for a very long time and it will be strange not to see you in the playground, but I hope to see you around N16!

We look forward to seeing all families back to school on Monday 6th September. More information about the drop off and pick up arrangements will be sent on Wednesday 1st September. We will not confirm details yet, as we will wait to see if there are any changes over the summer. We will also send our updated risk assessment to families before the children return. Here are several links to websites with activities that children may like to explore during the summer holidays:

[BBC summer activities for children](#)

[Morrisons - White Rose Maths activities](#)

[DfE suggested summer play activities](#)

[DfE suggested summer catch-up activities](#)

[Hungry Little Minds](#)

[CBeebies summer activities](#)

Have a super summer holiday and once again thank you for all your support.
See you in September!

Best wishes
Karen

A very big thank you to Marghanita and Sophie from the PTFA

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Marghanita who is stepping down as Chair and Sophie, who is stepping down as Treasurer, of the PTFA. Both will step down from the end of this term, which means both positions are vacant. Jonathan will continue to act as Treasurer.

I have thoroughly enjoyed working with Marghanita and Sophie, who have worked tirelessly to act as a liaison between school and the parent community, regularly communicating with school, as well as planning and organising the many activities which enrich the offer for our children.

Their roles have been challenging, particularly of late, with limited opportunities to raise money, but they have both been determined to ensure that the PTFA continues to play such an important role in our school life and brings the community together (think the Polar Express and Frosty Fridays!). This has never been more relevant with the pandemic meaning that many elements of the relationships between home and school have not been possible. I am very grateful for their kindness, patience, determination, consideration and positive energy, as well as the time they have given to the school. Nothing has ever been too much trouble and I think they are amazing! Thank you so much. I do hope that there will be parents who are interested in the vacant positions, as without our amazing PTFA we would not be able to offer the wonderful events and projects that we do, including the Protest Project and the ice cream visit yesterday! Please do contact the PTFA via williampattenptfa@gmail.com if you would like more information. The positions can also be shared if you want to take on the role with a friend or other parent in the year group.

Parent Governor election result

Thank you to all those parents who participated in the recent Parent Governor election. Helen McNulty (Imogen 2S) and Nandi Simpson (Tiarah 4H) have been appointed and will serve on the Governing Body for a term of four years.

Thank you Marion!

The Protest Project has come to an end and what a triumph it has been. The biggest thank you in the world to Marion, Year 4 teacher, who has planned and organised the entire project. It has taken hours, days and weeks with so much work going on behind the scenes. The whole school from Nursery to Year 6 has been involved in the project and it has been wonderful to see the children so engaged and active, thinking about and discussing issues which are important to them. I know that the project has been a real talking point for children, staff and families, with many parents contacting me to say that there's been lots of discussion in their house about the issues of the children covered in school. Absolutely brilliant. Thank you, Marion, for all your hard work and for bringing such an amazing project to WP.

So much super work has been done with the grass head protest dolls, the protest shields and capes, the Ministry of Stories anthology and the Year 6 memorial sculptures that we are planning to make an exhibition at start of the Autumn term. Hopefully we will be able to invite parents for a public viewing in September!

Final WP trip for Year 6!

The Hackney School of Food is a vibrant cookery school established by LEAP Federation of Schools in partnership with the charity [Chefs in Schools](#). They offer schools and the local community a broad range of cookery courses to teach children and their families to cook nourishing food from scratch. Set amidst beautiful productive gardens where they grow much of our produce from scratch, they offer an immersive experience in growing and cooking real food made from the freshest ingredients. They are also at the forefront of children's food education and research, working with Kings College Department of Nutrition to teach children about the importance of fresh food throughout their lives. Year 6 visited HSoF to make their own pizzas and had the best time as you can see from the photographs!

A very big thank you to the PTFA for funding this trip as part of the end of Year 6 activities.



Hispanic Week

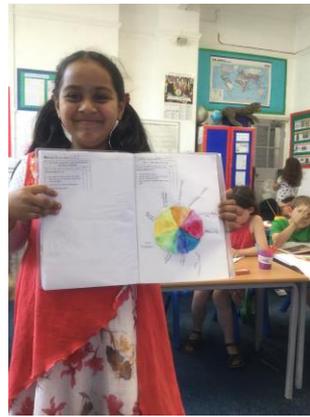
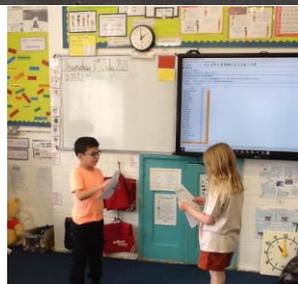
Last week William Patten celebrated Hispanic Week across the school! Hispanic Week kicked off with an online whole school assembly with Helen and the children were able to interact by answering questions like 'How many Spanish speaking countries are there in the world?'. Helen shared lots of information with the classes about Hispanic culture; language facts, Hispanic food, fiestas and played Hispanic music. During Hispanic Week the classes had daily Spanish lessons and enjoyed a range of activities to celebrate Hispanic culture and the Spanish language. Many of the teachers used Content Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) to teach Art and D&T lessons. This meant that some year groups had Art colour mixing lessons taught in Spanish and some year groups followed Spanish instructions to make the Spanish alphabet with playdough, this was a fantastic opportunity to immerse themselves in the language! Other fantastic Hispanic Week activities included learning salsa dancing, learning and making Hispanic food. A fantastic effort was made by the children for their Hispanic country research homework. There were beautifully drawn flags and some wonderful research which the children presented to their classes. It was also brilliant to see the children in Hispanic flag colours on Flag Dress Up Day- thank you!

Both Reception classes celebrated Hispanic Week by making pan con tomato. The children followed instructions using bread, garlic, tomato and olive oil to make the pan con tomato and we all enjoyed eating it together and talking about the different flavours we could taste! Reception also enjoyed listening to a range of Hispanic music and made maracas to shake along to the music.





Year 3 thoroughly enjoyed practising our Spanish conversational skills throughout the week. On Friday we got to dress up in the colours of the Uruguayan flag, and recap our colours in Spanish by painting a colour-mixing wheel.



The **Year 5 School Councillors** went to Kynaston gardens last week to attend the William Patten bed. The children pulled up the vine weed by tracing it back to its root and then planted a range of new plants (kindly prepared for the school by Pauline of the Kynaston Gardens volunteer group – thank you!). The plants included: Pink Agrimony, Lawn Camomile, and Linaria Canon Went: 'Pretty Pink Spires'. The children developed their knowledge of different plants and where best to place them. It was pleasing to see that the seeds previously planted by the year 6 group are now also growing really well. Special thanks to Innes, Cecilia, Matilda and Adnan for the super job they did in maintaining the bed. If you want to see the plot, it is next to the footbridge on the right when you enter Kynaston Gardens.



Year 2 have been busy harvesting vegetables from the roof garden in preparation for our DT lessons next week where we will be preparing and making our own savoury snack! Year 2 planted beetroot and rocket earlier in the year so it was fabulous to see how these have grown from tiny seeds! We are really looking forward to spending our final days in Year 2 washing, chopping, making and eating a delicious savoury snack featuring lots of different vegetables grown from the roof and edible gardens. Yum!



Year 5 have spent the past two weeks working on a special exhibition about Migration. After studying the movements of animals and humans around the world – with the help of some fantastic books, including Floella Benjamin's 'Coming to England' – we created postcards on the topic according to a specific brief. Every child illustrated their own postcard depicting a migratory animal, and then wrote a message or a poem in support of these often perilous journeys. The exhibition (invitation only) opened on Friday and the visitors were spellbound by the beautiful drawings and inspiring messages. They were gripped by the informative and professional exhibition guide too. Well done Year 5 – impressive work to end the year!



Nursery enjoyed a special 'Water Day' last Friday with lots of fun, water-themed activities including the following:

Catch the water balloon

Water bucket race

Rainbow sprinkler

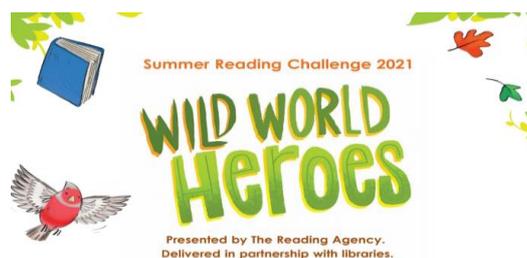
Hit the target with a wet sponge (including can you hit Wendy!)

Parachute games with water balloons

Water Pinata

The children were amazing and had a wonderful time.

They were all class Dojo winners on the day!



Go wild for reading with the Summer Reading Challenge!

The Summer Reading Challenge takes place over the summer holidays throughout the UK. For this year's Challenge The Reading Agency has partnered with WWF to create 'Wild World Heroes' which will inspire children to take action for nature and the environment. Join the Wild World Heroes for an exciting adventure in the fictional town of 'Wilderville'. Through reading books, collecting rewards and learning all about our planet, Challenge participants will help the Heroes make Wilderville a greener place to live. With exclusive incentives to collect and plenty of brilliant books to enjoy, the Challenge is the perfect summer activity to build young readers' skills and confidence during the long break from school. The Challenge is available in libraries across the UK this summer. Children can also take part online through the official digital Challenge platform

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

Over the summer, children will be able to continue to use their Sumdog login details to practise number fluency in preparation for the next school year. The programme is adaptive and so will set questions at an appropriate pitch for the user. The following is of particular interest and we hope your child enjoys the activities they can access.

‘A study of primary children in 2019 showed that ‘those who used Sumdog for 30 minutes a week over an 8 months period, made almost double the progress of those who used it less or not at all’.

Some year groups will be bringing home a White Rose parent Workbook which indicates the content that children in the year group would benefit from further consolidation of. Completion of these is optional, but those who return completed booklets to their new class teacher in September will receive a certificate for their efforts.

These booklets are available for everyone via the school’s website (just scroll down) – <http://www.williampatten.hackney.sch.uk/curriculum/curriculum-subjects/mathematics/>



Morrisons Supermarkets are also giving free paper copies of these workbooks to parents (1 per child). These can be collected in store and further details can be found at the link below. If you wish to collect these, the school would advise current year group for consolidation rather than the book which matches the year group your child will be in September, to avoid new content that hasn’t yet been taught in school. We hope that you and your child enjoy these activities if you choose to do them - we certainly wouldn’t want anyone getting bored over the summer if they have nothing to do! <https://whiterosemaths.co/morrisons/#>

Well done to all the children who went to the recent **HT tea parties**. So many children enjoyed their special party with Karen as you can see from the photos. Fun and cakes for all! The parties started off in Karen’s office but ended up in the middle hall as the numbers increased!!





Mia in 6H recently did a series of three paintings as part of an abstract series. Lovely work Mia, such beautiful use of colours!



Garlic Crop Harvested from Edible Playground

You might remember that in October, when we made our school film, year 6 planted garlic cloves (<https://vimeo.com/491182957>). This week, Alegria, Cameron, Cara, Henry, Hope and Mehdi harvested what they had sown as each clove had grown to make a full garlic clove! The children carefully dug out the garlic from the edible playground before cleaning it and tying it into plaits. The garlic will now dry out over summer for use by Ali in the kitchen in the autumn term. Thank you for all your help Year 6!



★ **HAPPY** ★
BIRTHDAY!

Many happy returns to who celebrated their special day since the last Patten Pages: Elise, Romeo, Jack C, Marla, Sadie, Iris, Lochie, Shraddha, Osi, Jae, Poppy, Dusty, Yusuf, Isa, Erdem, Aidan, Ephraim, Zumra, Eloise, Lily, Jere, Josh, Vanla, Haleema, Orla, Estrella, Areal, Mia, Ellise, Jonathan, August, Ada, Millie, Emily, Orhan, Marcelo and Eva. Happy birthday to you all.

And a huge happy birthday to all those children who will celebrate their birthday over the summer holidays!

Year 6 Show

The very talented Year 6 children worked incredibly hard together to create an exceptional end of year show. They dazzled their audience on Monday evening with their very polished performances and should be very proud of themselves! It was certainly a show to remember.



Message from Jim

To the wonderful parents of William Patten,
Just a quick note to say thank you for everything. Since my very first day, I've felt nothing but welcome and that's entirely down to you all. Many may not realise, but I'm a local boy, Stoke Newington born and raised. Working at this school has been an absolute honour and almost my way of giving back to the area where I walked as a child all those years ago. I'm saying goodbye with a heavy heart but will always carry a piece of this incredible school with me. Keep on smiling, keep on running and keep on playing sport.

Always love,
Jim

Message from Alison

To the wonderful WP community: thank you, thank you, thank you, for your gift. I remember visiting WP over 11 years ago, and using the school for a small music concert. Karen (then Deputy Head) said they needed a music teacher, suggesting I should apply. I [politely] said no thank you. Kathryn (then Head Teacher), was given my number from another WP teacher, and called to see if I wanted to apply to be the music teacher. I still said no, but agreed to meet, because I didn't want to be rude!

It seems ridiculous now, but I didn't even know if I wanted the job when I took it!

I had no idea how much I would utterly love my job at William Patten, and that it would become such a huge, wonderful, and important part of my life.

WP has allowed me to learn and grow and be a part of a truly wonderful musical, school, and community experience. I have been made to feel completely welcome, and totally supported sharing music and performances with you.

I am so full of gratitude to you all: for your words (I DID need a tissue); for your overly generous gift (I will use it for something representative of my WP time); and for the last 11 years together. I know that the years of concerts, trips, orchestras, choirs, shows, music lessons, bands, ukulele and singing was possible because we were ALL willing. Thank you for that. Thank you.

Obviously never forgotten, and always, always cherished.

Keep on singing, making, and appreciating music!

Alison