

# The Patten Pages

The William Patten Newsletter for Parents and Children

Issue 254

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the latest edition of the Patten Pages. We celebrated World Diabetes Day today, with the children wearing blue and donating a pound at the gate in support of Diabetes UK. Thank you to our EDI Committee for promoting this important event. If parents would like more information about diabetes, or are interested in joining the EDI Committee, you are warmly invited to attend our EDI Cultural Connect Coffee Morning next Friday, 21st November, after drop-off in the Art Studio.

Year 3 hosted last week's bake sale with a delicious selection of cakes and some very talented junior assistants who helped to serve and handle the money. A big thank you to everyone who baked, bought, and supported the event.

We are also delighted to announce a new partnership with Hackney Rugby Juniors, who have begun coaching sessions for Year 4 on Friday afternoons. The children have thoroughly enjoyed their first two sessions, learning the basics and the five core principles of rugby - respect, enjoyment, discipline, teamwork, and sportsmanship. If any children have been inspired to take up rugby outside of school, visit <https://www.hackneyrfc.co.uk/>

Our Year 5 and 6 football teams played in a competition at the Hackney Hub on Wednesday and represented the school brilliantly. They demonstrated excellent football skills, great sportsmanship, and wonderful respect for their opponents. As always a huge thank you to Brian, our fabulous football coach and to the parents who accompanied the children to the competition. We could not participate in these events without the support of our families.

A huge thank you to everyone who has supported the Hurricane Melissa Appeal. The two staff members who are sending the barrels to Montego Bay, Hanover, and St Elizabeth have asked me to pass on their sincere thanks to everyone for your kindness and generosity. They were truly amazed by the incredible number of food and household donations received from the WP community and were deeply appreciative of everyone's support. We are pleased to introduce our new Language of the

Month, Hebrew, in celebration of the upcoming festival of Hanukkah towards the end of term. The children will be learning simple greetings and exploring the traditions and customs connected to this important celebration.

Finally, we are delighted to welcome 6H back from their week at Kench Hill. They had a wonderful time exploring the Kent countryside, taking part in outdoor learning, but it is great to have the whole school back together!

Have a lovely weekend

Best wishes

Karen

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This Halloween Martha and Elizabeth pulled out all the stops for **Hackney Foodbank**. In support of the Trick or Eat trail they fundraised from friends and neighbours (collecting more than £125 in loose change) and headed out to a local supermarket where they shopped for food for people experiencing hardship. Their donations filled a car! They planned their whole budget and shopping list and put such thought into everything they purchased. Thank you Martha and Elizabeth! We think you're incredible! And thank you from Hackney Foodbank to all the William Patten families who supported Trick or Eat this year.



On behalf of everyone at William Patten, I would like to extend our deepest thanks to Gail Atkinson for her outstanding service and commitment to the school, as she is stepping down from the Governing Body after 26 years. Gail mentioned that this would come sooner or later, but I replied that I would have preferred if it had come later!

With 8 years as Chair and then 18 years as a Co-Opted Governor, everyone is hugely grateful for Gail's unwavering commitment to the children, staff, and families of WP. Her contribution to the school has been extraordinary and far-reaching. She has provided exceptional leadership, guidance, and stability. Her thoughtful questioning, aura of calm, and wisdom have meant that, in moments of uncertainty or challenge, we always knew she would be there for us.

Gail has supported SLT appointments, overseen crucial financial decisions, and ensured that the school remains a safe, nurturing, and high-achieving environment for our children. She has been a constant source of support, always ensuring that the school and its community are guided with integrity and care.

Many of us have had the great pleasure of knowing Gail for many years. Her insight, dedication, and unwavering support have been deeply valued. She has made a lasting difference to the children, staff, and families of the school. I never quite thought the day would come when she would not be part of the Governing Body, as I imagined we might hang up our hats together! Although that is not to be, there is sincere gratitude for her kindness, patience, guidance, and friendship. She has never been afraid to ask the difficult questions or to challenge decisions when necessary, always with the purpose of achieving the very best outcomes for the children and ensuring that WP remains a very special and unique school.

Knowing that Gail was always there in the good times and the challenging ones has been a huge source of reassurance to so many. She will be very greatly missed. With all thanks, admiration, and very best wishes for the future.

Karen



We hope that everyone has had a great start to the second half of the Autumn term. If you were able to listen to some of our Dyslexia Awareness Week recordings, we hope that you enjoyed them and hope that they raised the volume on the experiences of dyslexia within the William Patten community. A big thank you once again to everyone who took part.

The deadline for submitting stories to the BBC's 500 Words competition has passed! If you submitted a story, a huge well done to you. WP staff who are volunteer judges this year have already been having a wonderful time reading the stories that have been allocated to us. If any WP children would like to share their stories with us just for fun, please bring the stories to Inclusion - we would love to read them.



## Needs and wants aren't the same thing

Just because we really want something, doesn't make it a need. Everyone has things they need. What we need may be different than what other people need, and that is OK.



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

**LEANS**  
Learning About Neurodiversity at School

Illustrations ©Claire Hubbard 2021  
Poster ©LEANS project 2021  
<http://dart.ed.ac.uk/research/leans/>



Just before the half term break, **3H** were treated to an **incredible magic show** performed by our very own Leo! It turns out he had some fantastical magic tricks up his sleeve. The class were blown away by objects and animals disappearing; mind blowing card tricks and more. Leo's stage presence captured the class's imagination as soon as his show began and he blew them away with the tricks he has taught himself. Well done Leo - you are incredibly brave, very impressive and a wonderful magician. We cannot wait to see what your future magic shows have in store for us!



Huge congratulations to Galla who recently performed at the **Lyric Hammersmith** (with her mum!) as part of the Amici Dance Theatre Company Production of 'Our Time'. The production celebrated 45 years of groundbreaking inclusive performances and the show follows two men whose relationship spans five decades, from the Cold War to today. Such a super opportunity and we are very proud of you, Galla.





Thank you to all the families who were able to join us for the **Year 5 Come Dine With Us**. It was so nice to see so many of you and thank you for your lovely comments about enjoying a roast dinner in the middle of a week! Thank you for your patience with the long queue too, but I think lunch was worth waiting for! The children were all so excited to see you too. A huge thank you to Ali and his kitchen crew for all their hard work preparing an extra 60 delicious dinners!









**6H** enjoyed their turn visiting **Kench Hill** last week for their residential trip. They enjoyed lots of new experiences and had lots of fun! A huge thank you to the WP staff team and the team at Kench Hill.







Inspired by **Mary Wollstonecraft** and the artist Stewy's representation of her, **Year 1** set to work in the playground communicating the message that all **children should be treated equally** - education for all!





WP was a sea of blue on Friday! Every November 14, **World Diabetes Day** is commemorated. This is an opportunity to raise awareness about the impact of diabetes on people's health and to highlight the opportunities to strengthen the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of the condition. To celebrate the day, many staff and children wore blue (including socks and shoes!) and donated £1 to Diabetes UK.





## Language of the Month

As the Jewish celebration 'Hanukkah' is coming up in December, our new Language of the Month is Hebrew! On Wednesday 12th of November, Helen introduced Hebrew as the new Language of the Month in a whole school assembly. This year, Hanukkah takes place from 14th - 22nd of December 2025.

The children learnt about the story of Hannukah, where a small container of oil, meant to last for one day, miraculously burned for eight days. Jewish people celebrate Hanukkah by lighting a candle holder called a menorah for eight nights. The menorah holds nine candles - one for each night, plus a candle called the shamash which is used to light the other candles. Traditional Hanukkah foods include deep-fried jam donuts called sufganiyot and potato pancakes called latkes. Both dishes are fried and represent the long-lasting lamp oil. After eating celebration foods, families might gather to take turns spinning a top called a dreidel, where players can win chocolate or coins if the top lands the right way. During the assembly, the children learnt about some of the language features of Hebrew and where it is spoken in the world. They also used the familiar Makaton signs that accompany the key words used during Language of the Month.

### Hebrew words and phrases

Have a go at saying some of these words or phrases

Hello - Shalom הלו



Good bye - Shalom שלום הייה



Good morning - Bohker tov טוב בוקר



Good afternoon - Erev tov טובים הצהריים אחר



School dinners - Betsefer ruh'at-tsahorayim

ספר בית



Packed lunch - Araz ruh'at-tsahorayim

אוכל קופסת



Please - Bevakasha אנא



Thank you - Todah תודה



**WP PTFA Film Night!** A very big thank you indeed to [@william\\_patten\\_school\\_ptfa](https://www.william-patten-school.ptfa.org.uk) for a fabulous film night on Friday. Such excitement to be in school after hours, watching a film and with popcorn and treats!

So lovely to see so many families come to watch 'My Neighbour Totoro'. Thank you to everyone who came along to support the event and especially to those who organised it and to everyone who helped out on the night and tidied up the sea of popcorn that was the bottom floor!



JOIN US AT  
WILLIAM  
PATTEN

WINTER  
FAIR

DECEMBER 6TH  
12 - 4PM

PHOTOS WITH SANTA - BAKE SALE - BBQ  
(HALAL) - MULLED WINE - MINCE PIES -  
TOMBOLA - JUMBLE - FACE PAINT &  
MUCH MORE

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!  
THE PTFA CANNOT DO IT  
ALONE, PLEASE SIGN  
UP TO HELP



This week **Year 4** have been putting on their aprons and getting stuck in to painting in the style of **Fauvism!** Using bright colours and short brush strokes the children have created some beautiful artwork that they can't wait to share with you!





**Year 4** really enjoyed their first **rugby lesson** last week and learned about the 5 rules of rugby: respect, enjoyment, discipline, teamwork and sportsmanship. A huge thank you to [@hackneyrugby](#) and [@hackneyrugbyjuniors](#) for this fabulous opportunity.



This week in **Nursery**, we have been looking at our new topic of **Fantasy and Adventure**. Our first focus story has been "Down the back of the chair" by Margaret Mahy. We enjoyed finding out what was down the back of the chair in the story and then work as a class to make and decorate our own junk model chair. We choose which boxes we wanted to use as well as choosing colours and materials to decorate the chair and the cushions. Later in the week, we looked down the back of the chair to see what we could find! We wonder if you can guess what we found?





**Year 3** continued the **bake sale competition** after school last Friday, with a delicious selection of tray bakes, cupcakes and big cakes to choose from. A very big thank you to everybody who made cakes, helped to serve (including some junior assistants!) or bought cakes. All money raised will go the PTFA

[@william\\_patten\\_school\\_ptfa](https://www.william-patten-school.ptfa.org.uk) to raise money for additional activities and resources for the children. The year group that raises the most money wins a prize! Will it be Year 3? We will have to wait and see!



**Congratulations to the latest children to receive an EYFS Super Achievers award or a HT award certificate. Well done everyone!**

**Friday 7th November**

Nurs	Hera
RJ	Jago
RS	Harrison
1A	Adelaide, Mio, Jagraj, Matteo, Theo
1M	Clara, Emil, Hannah Sarah, Ezra S, Sebastian
2C	Maleek, Darcey, Ruairi, Pippa, Hugh, Jessa
2YN	Adam, Bruno, Corinne, Maizie Belle, Zadia
3B	Rafael, Misher, Isla, Mira, Victoria
3H	Hana, Anita, Joey, Mabel Blue, Arlo
4A	Phoebe, Mayus, Iris, Sara, Robbie
4B	Sophia, Frankie, Owen, Eden, Alexander
5CG	Aroz, Eddy, Eloise, Taha, Aster
5CP	Lucas, Elijah, Clara, Kimora, Hafsa
6H	At Kench Hill
6S	Shaneeya, Eli, Theo, Phuong, Anas, Ava, Huxley

**Friday 14th November**

Nurs	Pax
RJ	Deniz
RS	Felix
1A	Miles, Heidi, Walter, Max, Grace
1M	Zaynab, Bernie, Gracie, Ezra, Amen
2C	Elijah, Yousra, Evelyn, Elias, Joey
2YN	Evangeline, Hugh, Finlay, Shanelle, Mahi
3B	Iris, Martha, Arlo, Ruben, Rai
3H	Marty, Elia, Lara, Leo, Violeta
4A	Ekin, Isabelle, Leul, Antonia, Kiran
4B	Thiago, Poppy, Yahya, Hunter, Dolly
5CG	Flora, Rafe, Eugene, Mya, Ayan
5CP	Suki, Marcelo, Nia, Elijah, Amos
6H	Hamza, Selah, Lea, Margot, Tobi
6S	Patrick, Amayah, David, Beatrix, Phoebe



**Happy birthday to the children who celebrated their special day since the last Patten Pages: Wilfred, Max, Scarlett, Simay, Hunter, Frida, Maizie Belle, Oscar, Nilay, Rai, Pippa, Leonardo, Winston, Luqman, Callum, Leire, Jagraj, Rafe, Isaac, Arlo, Hannah Sarah, Toprak, Taedon, Zaida, Frances, Heidi and Hafsa. We hope you enjoyed your special day!**



### Dates for your diary

19th	Big Art Day
21st	Steel pans performing-Bridge Academy
21st	Cultural Connect coffee morning
21st	5CP class assembly 2.45pm
24th	Y4 Roman Day
24th	Y5 trip to the British Museum
27th	NSPCC assemblies and workshops
28th	Y6 trip - Junior Citizenship Scheme
28th	6H class assembly 2.45pm
	<b>DECEMBER</b>
3rd	Christmas Jumper Day
4th	EYFS Superhero Day
6th	Winter Fair 12pm - 4pm
9th	EYFS Christmas show 11.00am
9th	Y6 Macbeth workshops
10th	Y1 & Y2 Christmas show 11.00am (Y1 parents). 2.00pm (Y2 parents)
10th	Christmas lunch
11th	Y2 trip to Gurdwara
11th	Y3 & Y4 Christmas show 11.00am (Y3 parents). 2.00pm (Y4 parents)
12th	Y5 & Y6 Christmas show 11.00am (Y5 parents). 2.00pm (Y6 parents)
12th	Y1 trip to St Matthias Church



### Attendance chart for w/e 7<sup>th</sup> Nov

Year group(s)	Attendance last week
Year2	99.2%
Year3	99.2%
Year6	98.0%
Reception	97.6%
Year5	97.5%
Year1	96.6%
Year4	96.3%
Nursery	95.5%
	<b>Average 97.7%</b>

### Attendance chart for w/e 14<sup>th</sup> Nov

Year group(s)	Attendance this week
Year1	97.6%
Year3	97.3%
Year2	96.8%
Year6	96.6%
Nursery	96.5%
Year5	96.2%
Reception	96.2%
Year4	95.2%
	<b>Average 96.6%</b>