



AROUND THE PALACE

World Book Week



Welcome

My warmest thanks to our School Librarians Mrs Bhatt (Preparatory), Mrs Chevalier (Seniors), Mrs Moar and the English Team for the wonderful programme of inspiring visits by authors and other book related activities for World Book Week. Old Palace Students have thoroughly enjoyed so many of these events.

Congratulations to the Palace Singers for their performance in the Coulsdon and Purley Music Festival on Saturday 2 March. My thanks to Miss Fitzgerald for her hard work and dedication.

It was my delight to welcome parents to our Ash Wednesday Service on Wednesday 6 March and my thanks to Fr Andrew for leading this service.

Our musicians are hard at work preparing for the Spring Concert on Wednesday evening in Croydon Minster. I look forward to meeting with you all at this event.

Finally, we are looking forward to seeing our Year 10, 11 and 12 families at the Higher Education Fair on Thursday at 5.30pm.

Carol Jewell

Carol Jewell, Head



Mr Horton as Professor Dumbledore.



Toddler Class: Elmer the Patchwork Elephant



Kinder Class: 101 Dalmations



Transition Class: The Pirates next door



Pre School Class: Mr Men and Little Miss

World Book Week Workshop With Author Jane Ray

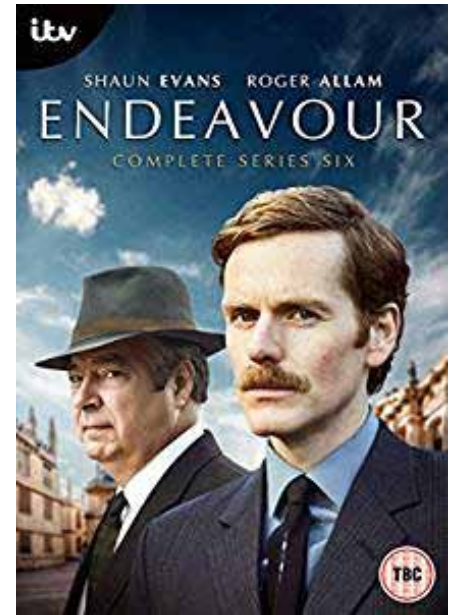


Thank you so much to author and illustrator Jane Ray who visited Preparatory yesterday as part of our World Book Day celebrations. The pupils were fascinated when Jane showed them her original, hand-painted illustrations and then the actual book that they appeared in.



Sasha's Stars In ITV's Drama *Endeavour*

On Sunday 17 February, Sasha in Year 10 performed in the television programme 'Endeavour'. Her character was Flora Humbolt. She was simply marvellous and this was a distinguished performance by Sasha.



Palace Singers Runners Up At The Coulsdon & Purley Music Festival



The U9 Palace Singers gave a fantastic performance at the Coulsdon & Purley Music Festival last Saturday morning. In their first song, *Colours of the Wind*, adjudicator Julia Dewhurst commented on 'a well-graded performance which maintained the mood and atmosphere throughout'. She also mentioned

'clear, well-shaped words and very effective softer singing'. She said that the performance of the second song, *Chatanooga Choo Choo*, really took off! She mentioned the 'lovely contrast, slick actions and well-prepared confident performance with focus and energy'.

Miss Fitzgerald was extremely proud of the performance. Well done to all the students who took part!

A big thank you to Mrs Newlands who accompanied the choir so brilliantly as always.

Half Term Spanish Language Trip To Spain

At half term, a group of students and teachers set off to the Costa de la Luz in Spain. We stayed in a residence, where we spent time having beneficial Spanish lessons and taking part in some enjoyable activities; these included flamenco dancing (which was quite difficult!), paella cooking and constantly speaking in Spanish.

As well as staying in the residence, we explored the town of Puerto de Santa María, took a ferry to visit the city of Cadiz, spent an afternoon on a local beach and, on the last day, we visited a small part of Seville, which was packed with beauty and history. I particularly enjoyed this last day, where we

visited a palace which encompassed an elevated sense of beauty and tranquillity (I took numerous photos of orange trees!)

I loved the rustic vibe of the city and the vintage buildings, which were very picturesque, and the people were extremely welcoming and serene. This was my first trip abroad with Old Palace, and it was immensely enjoyable. Thank you to Señora Pietragalla, Miss Trinidad and Mr Talleux for making this trip possible.

Sanaa, Year 10





The Past On Glass Project

As part of World Book Week, students attended a fascinating lunchtime talk by the Head Archivist of Sutton Libraries, Abby Matthews. Abby is also Project Manager of a very important local conservation project called The Past on Glass; an HLF funded project at Sutton Archives to conserve, digitise, research and make available over 10,000 glass plate negatives from the David Knights-Whittome collection.

David was a local photographer with studios in Sutton and Epsom from 1904-1918. His collection of negatives were discovered in the 1970s and subsequently lay untouched in the basement of the Civic Centre offices for many years, until its extraordinary value was realised.

Since 2014, The Past on Glass project has received two substantial awards from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the conserving and digitalising of this amazing collection of photographs.



Chorister For A Day



Students in Years 2-5 had a wonderful time at the 'Be a Chorister for a Day' workshop held last Saturday afternoon at Croydon Minster. Led by Mr Krippner and Minster Choristers from Preparatory and Seniors, the new girls learnt to sing two anthems, tried on robes and found out about the organ and the significant features of the church. They were also told about the busy life of a Chorister and all the opportunities the Croydon Minster Choir provides.





Old Palace *of*
John Whitgift School
Independent Girls' School



Spring Concert of Choral and Orchestral Music

Wednesday 13th March
at 7pm
Croydon Minster



Learning 4 Life - London Fire Brigade

Last week, during Learning 4 Life, the Year 8s were lucky enough to have a visit from two female officers from the London Fire Brigade.

We learnt about preventing fires, detecting fires and how to escape if there is a fire. I learnt how to act during a fire and how I have to plan my escape. I really liked the video that showed all the consequences of a fire, so that if I were ever in that situation I would know what to do.

Janice, Year 8



Make an appointment today for a **FREE** home fire safety visit



London Fire Brigade staff can visit your home, offer personal fire safety advice and will also fit free smoke alarms where needed. If you or someone you know would like a visit:

- Email smokealarms@london-fire.gov.uk
- Text/SMS 44786 002 1319
- Call us FREE on 0800 028 4428



[london-fire.gov.uk](https://www.london-fire.gov.uk)

Year 6 Visit from NSPCC



Recently, we had a visit from an NSPCC representative. NSPCC stands for National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. The charity aims to make sure every child is kept safe and that they speak out about problems that may be affecting them.

As the year progresses, pressure starts to mount up. Homework, exams and class projects are normally the source of these worries. They are like balloons; by blowing them up, (adding extra worries to them) they get bigger and bigger and the only way to pop them is to tell someone.

The NSPCC encourages children to speak to others about these worries so that they will stop plaguing you. Racheal (the NSPCC representative) told us who we could talk to about these worries and described Childline, a charity you can anonymously tell a counsellor about your worries.

They will offer a sympathetic ear and help you get rid of your worries. The Childline number is 08001111. Think your problems are too tiny? Well, the Childline motto is: *No problem is too big, no problem is too small*, so that ought to put your doubts at ease.

Lila, Year 6

In Learning 4 Life, we had a talk from the NSPCC because we will be doing a swimathon this Wednesday (6th March) to raise money for the NSPCC. The lady who came in, Racheal, told us about the work the NSPCC does in keeping children safe and she talked about different types of abuse that some children suffer.

She also made it clear that we can talk about our worries and that we have the right to 'speak out and stay safe'. We also learnt about how speaking to trusted adults or contacting Childline can change people's lives.

Natalie, Year 6





**Thursday 14th March
5:30-7:30pm**



**In Year 10, Year 11 or Year 12?
Starting to think about your
future after leaving Old Palace
at 18?**

Join us for our biennial Higher Education Fair to learn about what opportunities are available before and after gaining a degree.

Meet with a variety of people with experience of university and graduate careers including:

- University of Sheffield
- University of Glasgow
- Queen Mary University of London
- Surrey University
- Regent's University London
- University of the Creative Arts - Savannah College of Art & Design
- University of Exeter
- University of Warwick
- Lancaster University
- University of Southampton
- University of East Anglia
- Global Education with 16 International universities
- University Life in US universities

Graduate careers in:

- Oil & Gas industry Engineering
- International Banking
- Biosciences
- Earth Science degrees

Attend talks on Student Finance, Applying to competitive Universities, studying in the UK and abroad, Creative courses, Graduate careers and more...



Our Year 5 gifted and talented athletes took part in a half day workshop at Trinity. The girls were put through a series of sports tests and got to meet a professional sports star.

The day was organised by Croydon Schools Sports Partnership and consisted of different sports-based tests to look at various aspects of the girls' fitness.

Isobel

"My favourite part was the cricket ball dive test."

Amber

"I saw my cricket dive and catch improve significantly in 10 mins."

Sapphy

"The speed gate run was extremely exciting"

Carmen

"I had one of the highest vertical jumps of the day and the Strength and Conditioning coach from Harlequins rugby was super impressed. I jumped 44cm in the air!"

The next part of the gifted and talented workshop involves the girls attending St Mary's University for the day to study Sports Science and understanding the importance of this subject in assisting athletes to reach their full potential. The girls can't wait!



Year 6 Sponsored Swimming

The Year 6 girls had a change of theme in their Swimming lessons this week. They all enthusiastically participated in a sponsored swim for a very worthy cause; the NSPCC.

The total number of lengths covered by 6J and 6W was a staggering 785, which is 19,600metres, or 11.9 miles for those of us older readers!

We will be waiting with great anticipation to learn the total amount of money raised and look forward to handing it over to the NSPCC, who do such a fantastic job. Well done Year 6.



U15 Netball v Sutton High School



The U15 team played against Sutton High on Wednesday. The weather was less than pleasant but that did not affect the efforts of the players. A confident 3-0 score line at the end of the first quarter added to the confidence levels of the players and they rose to the occasion.

Some players played in different positions to try out new combinations, and all did well. The best thing was that the level of netball played was so much better. The players realised this and enjoyed the flow of the game and the feeling of playing netball to a good standard. Still plenty to work on but a real pleasure to watch girls enjoying playing good netball.

Emilia was named as Player of the Match by the opposition.

Final score 14-7 to Old Palace

Year 1 Weather Vanes



The girls made their own weather vanes and rain gauges over half term and measured the rainfall and wind direction over the week at home. They recorded these along with daily weather symbols and temperature on a weather chart.

Nursery Round Up - February

Nursery started February with two weeks of fun packed Chinese New Year celebrations. All rooms were decorated and the children were introduced to a wonderful range of activities including noodle play, steam bun tasting, using chopsticks, Chinese writing and plenty of crafts such as making fans, willow pattern plates, dragons and lucky envelopes.

Following this exciting fortnight, Nursery slowed down a little to explore the topic of 'Our feelings'. This started with Valentine's Day 'love' and involved looking and identifying our facial expressions. We also enjoyed stories including *Guess how much I love you* and *Hug*. Our learning helped us understand that all feelings are acceptable but not all behaviours are.



Old Palace Hosts CPS Tournament

On Tuesday, Old Palace hosted the annual Croydon Primary Schools Tournament with six local schools attending.

It was a fantastic atmosphere with some excellent Netball being played.

Old Palace managed to win all their games to get through to the finals at Croydon High on the 22nd March.

Good Luck!



Year 7 Croydon Schools Netball Tournament



Year 7 played remarkably well on Wednesday night to secure 2nd place in the Croydon Schools Netball Tournament.

Competition was tough with the girls playing a total of six matches. The girls got off to a strong start with a 3-0 win against Coloma, then they were unlucky not to take the lead against Shirley High, but managed to maintain a 1-1 draw.

The winning streak continued against Woodcote and Tensions with 3-1 and 5-0 respectively. Winning our pool, we then got through to the semi-finals and after another win, made it into the final against Coloma.

Unfortunately, the girls were unable to replicate their performance from earlier in the day and lost 1-0. This was not a true reflection of the game; they should be extremely proud of their achievements.

Learning 4 Life - Year 13 Self-defence

Year 13 participated in a LFL (Learning for Life) lesson where the owner, Mr Ahmed of Defence Lab, a global network of self-defence and fitness facilities, came into school to introduce us to the basics of self-defence.

He explained to us that he works with many different people, ranging from residents in Croydon to Bollywood stars. Self-defence is essential in any situation you are faced with and Year 13 were informed of behavioural traits to use when in public situations.

This was the first of three sessions and we are eager to learn more about these essential life skills.

Year 13



GCSE Choreography And Dance Exams

I was given the opportunity to be a dancer for one of the Year 11 GCSE dance choreographies. The dance was about a child going through a journey, encountering many obstacles along the way with a map.

Although the rehearsals were time consuming and it was hard work, I explored a different way of dancing, experienced new movements that I'd never seen before, and could have never thought of. This opened my eyes to the many assets used in dance which can communicate an idea. As a team, we overcame many challenges and worked together to build a close relationship along the way through communication and trusting each other.

Overall, I was inspired by this experience and look forward to utilising what I have learnt from it.

Dusita, Year 11



One of the GCSE Dance examination units is a choreography unit task worth 30% of our final grade. The examination board provided us with a choice of five different stimuli, which had to inspire our pieces.

In September, our main focus was to research a topic that interested us, linking it to one of the key questions. We then began to experiment with movement through creative improvisation tasks. These pieces of choreography, although created by ourselves, were performed by students in different year groups. This meant that we had to arrange all our rehearsal sessions outside of lesson times, as well as practise many leadership skills. Through this process we learnt the importance of scheduling rehearsals which suit the needs of each individual dancer.

Overall, it was very interesting to play around with a range of explorative choreographic devices. In addition, we built good relationships with students we are not used to working with.

At first, it was challenging taking up the responsibility of being a leader however, as a group we understood and learnt the true value of forward planning and being organised. It was also very rewarding to become familiar with each dancer's style of learning and adapt our teaching styles based on their individual needs and personalities. We found this a really valuable experience, developing many different life skills that are beneficial for when we enter the world of work.

Year 11 Dance GCSE students



Year 5 Netball Tournament At Caterham

The last netball match of the season for Year 5 saw the team take part in the Caterham tournament, where they played nine matches

Brilliant work all round from the Year 5 team and a fantastic end to the season. It goes to show that putting into practice all our training, really pays off.

Team placed 5th overall out of 10 schools. Well done. Mrs Coster is very proud of you.



Year 3 St Christopher's Netball Tournament

Year 3 enjoyed a wonderful afternoon in the sunshine at their first netball tournament.

They played a total of eight games during the afternoon and went from strength to strength, winning 4, drawing 2 and narrowly losing 2.

Congratulations to the following team members:

Chloe, Akshita, Charlotte, Ellie, Rishita, Niamh and Lola.



U12 A & B Netball v St Philomena's

The U12 A & B Netball teams travelled for a very short netball match at St Philomena's on Monday. The B Team started confidently and really passed the ball well down the court and made sensible decisions. We do need to be a little more careful in this team with our contact and work hard to intercept the ball cleanly. Some good movement in the shooting circle gave the shooters lots of opportunities and the final score was 4-1.

The A Team started more hesitantly and struggled to get the flow of the game. They were 0-1 down after the first quarter. Some changes were made as we struggled to get the ball out of defence over very tall opponents. This was more effective and the A team came away with a 4-4 draw.

Sumaiya was named Player of the Match by the opposition in the B Team, and Rebecca in the A Team.



House Football

House Football was fun and we were all very excited. We played matches against the other houses and they were all very energetic. Supporters from different houses came to encourage their teams and every player had great fun. We all played three matches each and we enjoyed every single one.



Year 7 Life Saving

We have been enjoying an introduction to Life Saving and Personal Survival during our Year 7 Swimming lessons over the past few weeks. We have had to wear extra clothing over our swimming costumes. The additional weight has been a bit of a shock to some of us who have never worn anything other than our swim suits in the water.

We have been learning new skills such as rope coiling and throwing to rescue casualties, the H.E.L.P position, which is a survival position to minimise heat and energy loss and what sort of floating aids we can use to assist people in trouble.

We have also been experimenting with different types of water movements and the effects on our swimming ability. We had great fun simulating choppy open water by using floats to create waves. We then took it in turn to swim along the middle, which I found really hard as I couldn't see anything and kept getting mouthfuls of water.

We also created a whirlpool in the water by running around in a circle

and laying down on our backs to float when Mrs Tamplin blew the whistle. The result was amazing! We followed the direction of the flow and some of us were projected half way down the pool.

When Mrs Tamplin then asked us to change the direction we were running, instead of floating. There was

screaming from everyone! None of us had anticipated how hard it would be to even stay on our feet.

This lesson was so much fun! I know it is a very serious subject but I can't wait to do more Life Saving and Personal Survival when we move into Year 8.

