



AROUND THE PALACE

Dear all,

It has been a pleasure to be able to welcome Mrs Laura Nike, our new Head of Nursery, Pre School & Prep to Old Palace this week as she takes up her new role. I know that the students, staff and parents are very excited about her arrival.

There is an opportunity for Prep and Nursery parents to meet Mrs Nike for breakfast on Tuesday, 3 March at 7.30am. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Elliot, the Deputy Head at Prep, who stepped into the Acting Head role for the last half term.

I would like to say thank you to the PTA and Ms Helen Richards for organising the House family presentations just before half term. This was to decide how to spend the £500 donation that the PTA had given to the Senior School, having done something similar last year at Prep. All the House families had to give a two minute presentation on how they would spend the money to a panel of judges. The ideas that the students came up with were fantastic - we had lots of proposals around gardening, 'chill out' zones, improving the sports facilities and many more. The finalists now progress to the next

stage and we will bring you news of the winners in due course. However, the girls have certainly given the school lots to think about in terms of how we could improve in certain areas and we will be looking at all of these in more detail.

Wishing you all a relaxing weekend.

Jane Burton, Head

Nursery, Pre School and Preparatory Welcome Mrs Nike

On Monday, we were delighted to welcome Mrs Laura Nike as Head of the Nursery, Pre School & Preparatory.

Parents will have the opportunity of meeting Mrs Nike at the Head's Breakfast next Tuesday. Meanwhile, here are some words from Mrs Nike on her first week at Old Palace.

"I've had a wonderful first week at Old Palace Prep. I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to the children, staff and parents for all making me feel so welcome.

It has been lovely to spend time visiting classrooms, conducting assemblies and getting to know all our wonderful children. It has been great to see lots of exciting learning taking place across the school and to see the children engaged in interesting activities."





Meet the New Head of Nursery, Pre School & Preparatory

SAVE THE DATE: We are delighted to invite parents to a **light breakfast** (tea, coffee, croissants and pastries) in the Small Hall, to meet Mrs Laura Nike, our new Head of Nursery, Pre School & Preparatory on:

Tuesday, 3 March 7.30am – 8.15am

Note: this occasion is for parents only; girls will be supervised in the Assembly Hall as usual.

Surrey Athletics Indoor Championship



On Saturday 15th February, I competed in the 75m Hurdles and Long Jump at the Indoor Surrey Athletics Championships.

I am pleased to say that I came 2nd in Surrey in the U15 girls Long Jump with a PB of 4.79m, receiving a silver medal. I also came 4th in Surrey in the U15 girls 75m Hurdles. I'm extremely encouraged by this as I only started Hurdle training in December 2019. I'm now working towards gaining a title in the Outdoor Surrey Athletics Champions.

Jessica, Year

Visit from Jane Austen Professor

Year 13 English Literature students were treated to a university-style seminar and workshop on Friday afternoon when Dr Kim Simpson came to visit Old Palace to discuss the life and works of Jane Austen. The students have recently started studying 'Sense and Sensibility' so this was a wonderful opportunity to delve into the world of Austen.

Dr Simpson, who specialises in the study of 18th and 19th century literature by women, is based at Chawton House where Austen lived in her later years, and she brought along volumes from the Chawton library collection as well as original letters written by Austen herself. The students were able to handle and explore these rare documents and enjoyed putting their detective skills to the test in trying to deduce information about the preoccupations of the Georgian era.

A huge thanks to Dr Simpson for sharing her wealth of knowledge with the students.



House Gymnastics



House Gymnastics for Years 6 and 7 took place just before half term. The competition was organised by Olivia in Year 12 who helps run the Gymnastic Club every Friday. The students performed a set routine and were marked on the execution of their skills.

The final individual results were:

Year 6	
1st	Sapphy
2nd	Amber
Year 7	
1st	Arabella
2nd	Isabella

The overall results were:

1st	Laud
2nd	Stafford
3rd	Hatton
4th	Anselm

Students were also able to collect points by coming along to support:

Anselm	8
Hatton	1
Laud	3
Stafford	3

Table Tennis Competition

On Friday 14th February, Mia, Anna, Aparnaa and Rebecca took part in the London Schools' Table Tennis competition at Whitgift. The girls played a series of matches with Mia going through to the Jack Petchey Tournament. Well done all.



Years 3 & 4 Netball v Royal Russell

Despite the awful weather, our Year 3 & 4 Netball teams managed to play against Royal Russell on Monday afternoon.

The results may have resulted in a draw and a loss, but we want to congratulate the girls for their valiant efforts.



PTA Second-hand Uniform Sale

Friday, 6 March
3pm - 4.30pm
Prep Assembly Hall



Old Palace
PTA

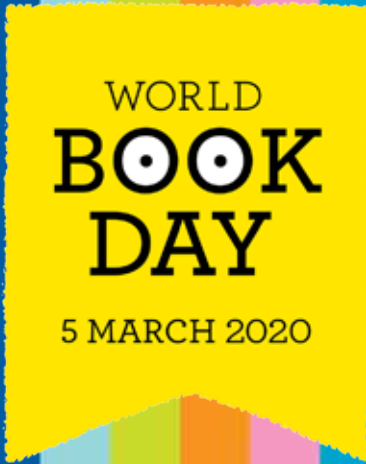
#WORLDBOOKDAY 2020



World Book Week

World of Possibilities

Monday 2nd – Friday 6th March



Tuesday 3rd March

Author visit: Sarah Govett 'The Territory' series

Year 7 & 9 English students will have the chance to hear her talk in their morning library lessons on this day. Other students have the opportunity to attend a free lunch time workshop in the library.

The Guard Room 12:45 – 13:30

Sign up in *The Friends' Library* from Monday 24th February to secure a place at this event. Suitable for Years 7+

Wednesday 4th March

Author visit: Adam Corsini 'Layers of London'

The Resources Room 12:45 – 13:30

(Above *The Friends' Library*)

'Layers of London': Maps meet digital technologies for mapping, histories, culture and memories of London
Book your space at this free lunch-time talk from Monday 24th February on the sign up sheet in The Friends' Library. Suitable for Years 7+

Monday, 2nd March - Friday, 6th March

Second-Hand Library Book Sale

Money raised is going to BookAid International (Charity No. 313869)

Shah Foyer 12:45 – 13:30

Win prizes and House Points by entering competitions including: **Guess the Staff 'Shelfie'** competition and **Guess the Fictional Map** competition.

Help 'Share a Million Stories' through reading activities throughout the week



U14A Netball v Streatham & Clapham High School

On Thursday, 13th February, the U14A team set out to play Streatham & Clapham; a team well-known for their fast play and accurate passing.

This match was preparation for the Croydon Schools tournament in which we are yet to play. It was a very tough game and, in my opinion, the score line did not reflect the great level of play.

Old Palace was particularly strong in the defence and centre thirds where we challenged their incredibly tall and accurate players. Although we didn't score as many goals as we would have liked, this match was a huge eye-opener to us as a team. Now we can begin to move forward and continue to play quality A team netball.

Zino, Year 9



Year 6 Hug Monsters



Year 6 designed and made a toy suitable for a partially sighted child. Their 'hug monsters' were made from soft fleece and had textured patches added to make them more interesting to feel. The monsters had sound effects added by inserting small containers filled with rice or crinkly, clean crisp packets. The results were a fantastic variety of huggable monsters and some students even had time to make a matching bag.

Gas Exchange



In Biology, we have been using a spirometer to measure the movement of air in and out of the lung as the person breathes. During inspiration, air is drawn from the chamber

and during expiration, air returns to the chamber. We recorded our tidal volume, the amount of air we breathe in and out at rest, and our vital capacity, the maximum volume of air we can breathe out. We recorded our data using a datalogger and then printed out our spirometer traces.

I found this practical particularly interesting due to its real life application. Spirometry is a simple test used to help diagnose and monitor certain lung conditions. Conditions that can be picked up and monitored using spirometry include: asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), cystic fibrosis, pulmonary fibrosis.

Spirometry is also a standard test for people who may be being considered for surgery, or to check the general health of people who have other conditions, such as rheumatoid arthritis.

Lisa, Year 12

Year 5 Netball Championship

On Wednesday, eight girls from Year 5 joined forces with boys from Elmhurst for the Bee Netball Croydon Schools Championships at Coloma school.

This is a first in a series of events leading towards the London Youth games in July.

The joint teams named the Sharks and the Tigers performed outstandingly well in what can only be described as freezing conditions! There was even some snow!

Well done to both teams – finishing 2nd and 3rd place overall, with the Old Palace/ Elmhurst Sharks making it through to the finals. Super work!



Combined German and Drama trip to see *The Visit/Der Besuch*



On Wednesday, 12th of February, the German and Drama students joined forces to watch a mesmerising production of *The Visit* at the National Theatre. The play is also referred to as *The Old Lady Comes to Call* and is based on the original text produced by Friedrich Dürrenmatt but has been adapted by Tony Kushner for a British audience.

The play itself is set in the town of Slurry, New York (Güllen

in the original text) and the post-war recession has had a profound impact on the community. Claire Zuchanassian, an alluringly pulchritudinous yet terrifying woman, returns to her hometown as the world's richest woman. The locals hope that she will be able to change their fortune, yet prosperity comes at a very costly price. She seeks ultimate revenge at the expense of her first lover's life.

Despite the lengthy nature of the play (containing two intervals), the acting was absolutely superb and I was particularly impressed by the main actress, Lesley Manville, playing Claire Zuchanassian who was charismatic and immensely magnetic. Furthermore, the use of realistic special effects such as smoke, haze, gunshots and flashing flights really immersed you in the action on stage. Being both a German and Drama enthusiast, I found the experience thoroughly interesting and after having watched the play, I conducted research on the historical and social context of the 1950s.

Overall, the production was thought-provoking, thoroughly enjoyable and enhanced my knowledge of the German Epic Theatre, which we discussed later on in class.

Fiona B, Year 12

Careers - Past Present and Future

Year 1 had an opportunity to meet Mrs Williams, Old Palace's Careers Coordinator, in their Learning for Life session in January. Reflecting on the meaning of past present and future, they shared what they remembered from when they were a baby, what they had done that morning and any jobs they knew about that they would like to do in the future.

First asked to choose their favourite picture ...chocolate or vanilla ice-cream, broccoli or carrots, green or purple, cats or dogs, beach or countryside, the children were really keen to share their answers.

Looking at some photographs of well-known important people, they had to identify who they grew up to be.....Barrack Obama, Queen Elizabeth, Boris Johnson and Donald Trump....they then worked on their own timeline.



By exploring: "What do you love, what do you like to make, what do you like to do and what are you are good at", they thought about now and if this had changed since they were a baby and a toddler. Encouraged by Mrs Williams, they have been tasked with finding out the names of the jobs their family and friends are doing and what they do every day, to inspire their future dream job.

Mrs Williams

Higher Education and Careers Coordinator

Parents' Christian Prayer Group

Meet on the first Wednesday of each month.

7.30 - 8.00am
in the Chapel

Parents who would like to join the group please contact:

hmsec@oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk



Year 10 GCSE Product Design Students Manufacture Biscuits

Mrs Osborne's Year 10 GCSE Product Design students got a 'taste' of what it would be like to work in a factory using the 'Lean Manufacturing' philosophy developed by Toyota to eliminate waste.

The students had to work out how to reproduce a design for iced biscuits in the most efficient way. They really had to think about planning to avoid defects, minimising the movement of the workers and not repeating tasks. They all agreed that it was much more challenging than they had anticipated.

Mrs Solari judged the final outcome and decided that the team with Alishba, Indrani, Alyssa and Ilma won the coveted 'Employee of the Week' badges. One aspect that they really embraced was avoiding overproduction – all of the biscuits were consumed!



Year 7 PE Creativity Project



As part of the whole school Creativity Project, Year 7 have been busy collecting plastic to reuse and highlight the need to reduce our plastic consumption. An assembly was held showing the impact that plastic is having on our oceans and sea life which in turn is affecting the areas in which water sports can take place. Students also researched and designed some posters with some really interesting but scary facts!

Year 7 were then challenged, within their forms, to build some boats to see the visual impact of the plastic that we have used within the last week. The boats were then put to the test in the swimming pool. There were some beautiful designs showing lots of creativity! Diya from Laud designed the fastest boat and there were several other categories including the most imaginative, the quickest to sink and the most house appropriate.

It made us realise how lucky we are to have such a clean and welcoming place to swim and we now need to do our bit to protect our oceans.



Jobs and Careers

In the Year 2 Learning for Life January session, Mrs Williams spent time with the students as they learnt the differences between a job and a career.

All were keen to add to the conversation with their own knowledge of different jobs and were tasked with looking at 'Careers Street' to identify the job each person may have just by looking at their appearance. Almost all the class were able to identify that there were also jobs you couldn't see in the picture such as the librarian in the library, the chef in the restaurant and the train driver.



From a prepared list of jobs they were tasked with choosing five and then considering which subjects at school they would need for each job. Mrs Elliot first went through the list to see if they all knew what each job title meant and highlighted that most jobs would need some numeracy and literacy knowledge.



One student was able to explain the blue flame the welder used and quite a few were interested in working with animals or in science.

Finishing with a video by Real Cool Futures, Year 2 listened to people talking about their jobs, which weren't around when Mrs Elliot or Mrs Williams were in Year 2. New companies exist now, like Plug into the Sun, Good Energy and Bioregional and new jobs, such as Recycling Liaison Officer, Innovation Executive and Climate Change Communications Officer, showing the children that the jobs are always changing.

Mrs Williams

Higher Education and Careers Coordinator

Join us for this new initiative!



Couch to 5k is an NHS programme that operates from an app and requires participants to complete each progressive session three times a week. It starts steadily and gets harder as the weeks go by.

We plan to help you out by offering one of your three weekly sessions at school and therefore have the support and comradery of others!

This club is open to ALL STAFF and SUPPORT STAFF as well as to students in the Senior School.

The plan is to enter a 5k Park Run in the future as a running club. This may be before Women in Sport Week – but we will certainly hope to do a run during that week as well.

Start Date: Friday, 6th March

**Meet: Shah PE Foyer
(Senior School)**

Time: 4.00pm – 4.50pm

Previous experience: None needed!

**Equipment: Footwear and clothing
suitable for walking and
running**

Interested? Please email:

alisonsmith@oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk



Creative Solutions to Climate Change

In Nursery this month we have been involved in **Developing Student Creativity** (a whole school initiative) by looking at creative solutions to the Climate Change crisis.

Nursery and Pre School children have been particularly good at this! They have focused on looking at specific environments; showing concern for living things and the diversity of the Rainforest and Oceans. Parents have helped collect materials for recycling and craft activities in the rooms which

resulted in a lot of enthusiasm for sorting the recycled materials into paper, plastic and metal collections, before using them to make all sorts of creatures and displays.

In the Pre School, children spent a week exploring media and materials by painting and assembling two very large giraffes that now stand in the cloakroom looking down on the recycling bags. Transition learnt about the characteristics of materials by creating a 'commotion in our ocean' display board complete with fish made of plastic and a tin can crab. Meanwhile, the Toddlers had

fun learning about the oceans, using bubble wrap to make a large octopus and sea weed and even the babies had a go, making footprint butterflies and spiders for their 'monkey puzzle' board.

We also had a visit from Croydon Libraries. Children were treated to some captivating storytelling and were all encouraged to apply for library cards and visit their local library. Finally, everyone had a go at making and tasting pancakes. Using all their senses, children learnt about combining ingredients and using utensils.





Afternoon Tea at The Palace

Saturday, **7th March**
at 3.00 pm

Preparatory Assembly Hall,
Melville Avenue,
South Croydon CR2 7YN



Reception – Year 6

For the month of March, the Old Palace PTA is organising an Afternoon Tea Party for the girls at Old Palace and their invited special guest.

We know how busy life gets and also how important it is to spend a little time reconnecting with the special and unique people in our lives.

Recent research shows that in the UK, we spend as little as just 30 minutes of quality time with our children. So, the OP PTA has organised an afternoon tea to give our girls the opportunity to have some one-to-one time with a special person in their world.

We are hosting an Afternoon Tea Party where each Old Palace girl from Reception to Year 6 can invite one adult, of her choice, to this special spring event. It might be a parent, grandparent, uncle, aunt any family member or family friend. Students will serve a delightful afternoon tea with sandwiches and

cakes and a cup or two of tea or coffee, provided by and with the help of the PTA.

This will be an ideal opportunity for your daughter to spend some valuable time with someone special and share afternoon tea at the Palace!

Spaces are limited so please make your payment via WisePay ASAP to secure your booking.

The ticket price for one student and her invited adult will be £8.

All profits from this event will go towards the PTA fundraising initiatives for 2020-21.

We look forward to seeing you at this and future events:

Easter Disco Prep
Reception – Year 6
Friday, 3rd April
4pm – 6pm

Bingo & Bubbly Night Seniors
19th June 7pm

Summer Fair
Whole School
Community,
Saturday, 27th June
11am – 3pm



Old Palace
PTA

