



AROUND THE PALACE

Dear all,

As we draw this extraordinary year to a close, I am so pleased that this week's Bulletin showcases what a wonderful school Old Palace is. Throughout the difficult times of this year our whole school community (students, staff and parents) have faced the challenges with positivity, resilience, flexibility and in many cases a much needed sense of humour! I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their contribution to the vibrant Old Palace community during this time.

Do take the time to watch the videos for the end of term Carol Service and the wonderful Prep and Pre Prep Nativity production which has the added bonus of featuring real livestock!

I would also like to say a big thank you to all who donated to the Big Give. We have had an amazing response from across the school community and I know our four local charities (Salvation Army, Purley Food Hub, Nightwatch (via the Minster) and We-Stap) will be very grateful to receive the donations this week.

There is still time for parents to donate if they wish – either on Wisepay, or via this Justgiving link: www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/oldpalacebigchristmasgive2020

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and I am sure we are all looking forward to a more normal situation in 2021.

Jane Burton, Head

Virtual School Carol Service available to view here: <https://youtu.be/MCe6WYpU8PE>

The Nativity: A Christmas Story available to view here: <https://youtu.be/9lziEUggdXY>

Happy Christmas From Year 13







Year 6 Demonstrates Excellent Team Work

This has been Year 6's first term at Old Palace Seniors and the first time they have all come together as one big group of students.

They have been working well this term, completing a variety of activities to get to know one another better. Recently, we put them into small groups of three, with names randomly picked from a

jar and asked them to come up with a short, three minute presentation which demonstrated them working as a team in a fun way.

Mrs Smith and I were extremely impressed with the outcomes, which ranged from short role-plays highlighting anti-bullying week, to Christmas poems, choreographed

dances and music performances. All performances reflected the hard work and effort which the students have put in over the past couple of weeks to make their performances so enjoyable.

Well done Year 6.

Mrs Solari



Year 3 Learns about Christingle

Year 3 have been making Christingles as part of their Religious Studies lesson with Mrs Coster.



Years 6 & 8 Make Christmas Cards for Whitgift House



Prep Introduces New Kindness Badges



At Prep, our five values are key to our students becoming confident, capable and connected.

Our focus this term has been on kindness and how acts of kindness can connect us and bring joy to others in our class, school and community.

The girls have all strived to be the best that they can be and we are impressed at how caring and thoughtful they have been.

You need only look at our kindness display or the kindness jars in Pre-school and Reception to see what we mean. The very fact that Reception needed a bigger jar was a true measure of kindness indeed.

We are extremely proud to present the following girls with our brand new kindness badges as they have shone out and demonstrated the values that are core to what being an Old Palace girl is all about.



Reception with their jar



Olivia and Rishika Reception



Alexandra and Kezia Year 1

Pre School	Aleena Elysia
Reception	Olivia Rishika
Year 1	Alexandra Kezia
Year 2	Kirstie
Year 3	Elissia Fatimah
Year 4	Avika
Year 5	Akshi Rishi



Kirstie Year 2



Elissia Year 3



Avika Year 4



Akshi Year 5



Rishi Year 5

PTA Competition Design A Christmas Decoration - Winners

We had some wonderfully creative entries for the PTA's Design a Christmas Decoration Competition, which made judging very difficult.

After much deliberation, we are delighted to announce the winners are:

Pre School	Venba
Reception	Katherine
Year 1	Saanvi
Year 2	Misha
Year 3	Olivia
Year 4	Jasmin-Lee
Year 5	Aashita

Overall Winner: Alice Year 1

Well done!!



Year 3 Decorate the Christmas Tree

Year 3 were very excited to be asked to decorate the Christmas tree in the small hall. They chose the decorations carefully before hanging them on the tree!

I'm sure you will agree they did a fantastic job!



Christmas Jumper Day and The Big Give

On Friday, we held a hastily re-arranged Christmas Jumper Day, in aid of our chosen charity, the Big Give. Thank you to all the staff and pupils who rose to the challenge and speedily put together such a colourful array of fabulous, Christmas Jumpers.



Christmas Jumper Day and The Big Give *continued*





The Sixth Form Student Leadership Team are launching the Old Palace **'Big Christmas Give'** campaign during December. They have selected four local Croydon charities to support this Christmas.

Each charity is working hard to support the homeless, refugees and those who are struggling financially – especially during Covid times.

Every donation will help to make local people's lives just a little easier.

Food items:

- Tinned tomatoes
- Tinned sweetcorn
- Tinned fruit
- Jars of pasta sauce
- Packet mashed potato
- Jars of honey
- Jars of peanut butter

Toiletries:

- Bars of soap
- Shower gel
- Deodorant
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Sanitary towels

Other items:

- Winter coats (adult)
- Woolly hats, gloves and thick socks (adult)
- New toys for young children
- Chocolate treats for children

Alternatively, you could make a small donation via WisePay

Open to Pre School, Prep and Seniors.

Staff and Alumni can use this justgiving link instead if they wish to donate:

www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/oldpalacebigchristmasgive2020



Charity No. 1152807



Charity No. 1060157



Charity No. 214779



Charity No. 274925

Engineering Development Trust Industrial Cadet Gold Award



Four A-level Physics students in Year 12 have just embarked on a 12 week project with the Engineering Development Trust www.etrust.org.uk/about-us

The project focuses on a real-life STEM challenge, with the support of a Mentor from a partnered company and a teacher, whilst the students develop key skills, such as problem solving, teamwork, careers awareness, personal development, required to meet the Industrial Cadets Gold level accreditation.

www.industrialcadets.org.uk/experience/gold-award

Following on from some problem solving activities at the launch event on 20th November, the students were introduced to their Mentor Andrew, from PCS Instruments, the company who had offered to be the industrial partner for Old Palace School on the project. Andrew is a Research Engineer at PCS Instruments and a qualified Mechanical Engineer with a Master of Engineering (MEng) from Newcastle University, specialising in machine design.

After the launch the team met with their Mentor virtually and discussed their ideas from a group of suggested projects the employer could offer support with:

- Intelligent recycling
- Air Pollution Monitoring and Reduction
- Sustainable Energy Generation
- Bird Deterrent

They had ideas for the first three and Andrew offered a suggestion for the 4th option. They discussed the feasibility of all their ideas with Andrew and between the group they chose to move forward with idea 3-Sustainable Energy Generation.

PCS Instruments is committed to reducing our impact on the environment and investigating that impact where possible. This project allows the team to choose their main focus in this area of green projects, which will be supported by the team at PCS.

The team now have to develop their ideas further to incorporate sustainable energy generation into the design of their product. We look forward to seeing their ideas in a future bulletin.

Mrs Wendy Williams

Higher Education and Careers Coordinator

Year 10 News

Many congratulations to **Zaynah** in Year 10 for achieving **Grade 5** in her Music Theory exam.



Kindness Advent Calendar



Year 3 pupils have been continuing with their Kindness advent calendar challenges.

Sofia, pictured above, has been helping to sort out washing machine tablets for the food bank. She had to count three tabs into each bag and tie them up ready for distribution.

Puzzle Fun Competition

A large roll of ribbon is 12m long.

If each package takes 65cm of ribbon, how many packages can be wrapped?



Answer on page 19

Classics Department Word of the Week 07/12/20

HIPPOPOTAMUS

Mosaic from Pompeii, 1st Century AD

Etymology: from Greek ἵππος (hippos) meaning horse and ποταμός (potamos) meaning river

Old Palace / John Whitgift School

Year 6: Christmas Craft Club

Year 6 have been busy little elves in their Christmas Craft Club every Wednesday lunchtime. They have been making a collection of adorable Christmas decorations with Mrs Solari, which they can take home to hang on their Christmas trees.

Well done Year 6, an excellent job.



Year 5: Tudor Activities

Aashita was so inspired by the Year 5 newsletter articles that she made an Anne Boleyn costume at home as part of her Tudor project.



1,000 Stars Challenge



Prep School pupils have been working hard over the last few weeks to contribute to the *1,000 Stars Challenge* at St Paul's United Reformed Church. The aim of the project was to create a hope-filled constellation during these challenging times; to spread light and positivity and to remind us of the star that shone over Bethlehem.

Using recyclable materials, the pupils created over 70 stars, which is a fantastic achievement!

The display is available to visit at the following times:

Thursday, 17th December at 7:30pm
Saturday, 19th December at 6:30pm

A huge thank you to all that contributed to this lovely community project!

The Nativity: A Christmas Story - The Film



Students from Pre school to Year 5 had the chance to be film stars for the day last Tuesday when they recorded their own individual songs for a special 2020 Preparatory School Nativity film, directed and organised by Miss Fitzgerald.

Each class had their own role as follows:

Pre School	Bethlehem Townsfolk
Reception	Stars
Year 1	Shepherds and Angels,
Year 2	Animals in the Stable
Year 3	Mary, Joseph and the Innkeepers
Year 4	Townsfolk from another land (celebrating the birth of Jesus)
Year 5	Kings, Pages, Royal Musicians and some doubles of previous characters in order to form the final tableau.

There were also two very special last minute guest stars who joined Year 2 for their animals scene, the donkeys Flash and Dougal – who were

fortunately also very well behaved!

The scenes were filmed all over the school (wherever there was a piano!) and songs were linked by one student walking out at the end of a scene and then walking in and 'discovering' the next. Well done to Arya A, Sion, Elena, Misha, Sophia (and Selena), Lola (and Lottie) and Riya for their extra work filming these links.

Girls have worked incredibly hard on their songs, and many included challenging small-group and part-singing along with complex choreography to give it a 'staged' feel. There was a wide range of influences and styles of the music – such as classical waltz, jazz, sacred choral and African and the songs were composed from the 1500s to the 2000s! A special mention to the Year 5 Royal Musicians and the Year 4 Class Orchestra for also performing on their orchestral instruments as part of it.

The costumes and scenery were a real team effort with many teachers and support staff helping their classes (and beyond) but an extra big thank you goes to Mrs McMullen, Nancy and Esther. A final vote of thanks to Mrs Newlands for her amazing piano accompanying as always!

We hope you will enjoy the film!

Miss Fitzgerald

Congratulations Libby

Libby recently took part in a virtual running challenge. We are delighted to hear that she won her age category for the 10km.

Here she is with her medal.



Year 5: Decorating Yule Logs



The Nativity: A Christmas Story





Dear all,

The last week has been very special. The girls took part in the Santa Dash, consumed a highly scrumptious Christmas dinner accompanied with crackers to pull and a hat to wear. They also performed in the Nativity and had the opportunity to meet our esteemed guests, Flash and Dougal, the donkeys.

It has been a week of fun and joy and I was particularly filled with festive cheer when I heard the girls singing the Nativity songs. You should be very proud of your performance - you did a great job. I am really looking forward to putting my feet up next to the Christmas tree with a mince pie and watching as you bring the Christmas story to life.

I am pleased that we have the first winners of the Kindness badge. Well done! Keep spreading your kindness girls.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas. I hope your time together is filled with love, joy and peace.

Mrs Nike
Head of Nursery & Preparatory

Mrs Nike's Christmas message can be viewed here:

https://youtu.be/tAYJeywTG_E









Reception Makes Soup!

Reception cooked up a storm making a delicious harvest vegetable soup! The girls chopped all sorts of seasonal vegetables including leeks, potatoes, carrots, onions and butternut squash. They enjoyed sitting down together at the end of the day to taste their soup with a yummy bread roll on the side.



Answer Fun Puzzle Competition on page 11

$12\text{m} = 1200\text{cm}$

$1200 \div 65 = 18.46$

So 18 packages can be wrapped properly (with a bit of ribbon left over).

Fun Puzzle Winner

We had nearly 20 correct answers to last week's puzzle. Congratulations to **Sapphy** in Year 7, who was our winner.

Year 5: Learns about Chanukkah

