



AROUND THE PALACE



Dear all,

It has been an incredibly busy week, welcoming everyone back at both sites alongside running the lateral flow testing at Seniors. However, the fact that we now have a school full of students brimming with positivity has more than made up for this.

It is wonderful to be open again and the virtual choir's performance of 'Happy' certainly reflected the mood and has had over 1000 views on You Tube.

We also had the privilege of being involved in a Foundation wide webinar with the Archbishop of Canterbury this week. Well done to Lauryn in Year 7, who acted as an excellent ambassador for Old Palace.

Wishing you all a great weekend.

Jane Burton, Head

Lauryn Joins Webinar with the Archbishop of Canterbury



Lauryn Joins Webinar with the Archbishop of Canterbury *continued*



On Tuesday morning, one of our Year 7 students, Lauryn, joined a virtual panel of students, staff and care home residents from the John Whitgift Foundation for a webinar with the Archbishop of Canterbury, The Most Revd Justin Welby, to celebrate the Foundation's 425th anniversary on Tuesday 9th March.

Participants had the opportunity to ask the Archbishop a range of questions relating to his work and the issues and opportunities faced by the charity following the unprecedented times we find ourselves in.

In an address, the Archbishop highlighted the importance of the pandemic for the Foundation to find a renewed sense of direction to inspire hope and confidence through the original vision of its Founder, Archbishop John Whitgift, to educate the young and care for older people.

The Most Revd Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, said: *"It was a joy to speak to students and residents at the John Whitgift Foundation this morning. May God renew and bless their vision to be places of refuge, education and hospitality, so they might make God's promise of abundant life known to all."*



Tia-Amelie: Poem Success

Exciting news! Many congratulations to Tia-Amelie in Year 6 who entered a Peculiar Pets poetry competition held by young writers. Her poem (below) has been shortlisted and will be published in April.

Circus of Wonders (Peculiar Pets)

This is a circus.

A wonderful circus

A circus filled to the brim with magic and talent,

A circus of greatness and eye popping tricks,

A circus that is revealed in this very poem

This is the circus of peculiar pets...



A diva dancing dog,

with leg numbing moves.

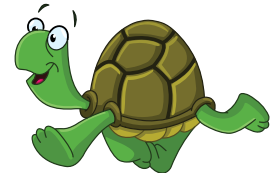
A basketball playing bunny

with legendary shots.

And not to forget the canoeing cat,

But make sure she doesn't fall into the water!

This is the circus of peculiar pets...



A sprinting tortoise,
as good as Mo Farah.

A talking guinea pig,
well, not the best.

And a beauty-pageant rat,

winning every competition she enters!

This is the circus of peculiar pets...

A shoe making snake,

his favourite type are sandals.

A swimming lizard,

the best of all.

And a hamster magician,

who pulls magicians out of her hat!

This is the circus of peculiar pets...



A florist gerbil,

rated 5 stars.

A constructor worker budgie,

who flies as high as the clouds.

And a formula 1 racing snail,

an undefeated prodigy.

This is the circus of peculiar pets...

This is a circus.

A wonderful circus

A circus filled to the brim with magic and talent,

A circus of greatness and eye popping tricks,

A circus that is revealed in this very poem

This is the circus of peculiar pets.

Tia-Amelie, Year 6



Founder's Day Filming

Filming at Croydon Minster yesterday for the John Whitgift Foundation's virtual Founder's Day Service. Wonderful to have our Choir back singing in person again (albeit socially distanced!).



Success in the National Cipher Challenge

We have received exciting news regarding Clodagh and her partner Phoebe (both Year 9) and their success in the National Cipher Challenge.

The National Cipher Challenge is an annual competition run by the University of Southampton, with the majority of entries coming from teams of A level and GCSE students. In addition, many of the teams would have been much larger than the two students entered by Old Palace.

This is, in fact, the first time we have entered the competition as a school and we did it on a smallish scale to "test the water". Consequently, both girls have done exceptionally well to come 51st out of approximately 7000 entries. Congratulations Clodagh and Phoebe. We are very proud of you both.



Comic Relief Day

Lets 'share a smile' for Comic Relief: **Friday 19th March**

Comic Relief continues to make a difference to the lives of millions of people across the UK and around the world, tackling four of the biggest challenges society faces:

- improving mental health
- tackling homelessness
- child poverty
- gender equality

In each of these areas, the Covid-19 pandemic has made people's lives even harder, so your support is as important as ever.

How is Old Palace taking part?

There will be a non-uniform day on Friday, 19th March.

Across the school we will also be sharing our favourite jokes.



World Book Day

On Wednesday, Year 5 pupils enjoyed an "Escape the Library" adventure.

They had to solve the clues and puzzles to discover the passcode number needed to unlock the door to find their way out of the library.

The clues were a mixture of mathematical problems and literacy puzzles involving anagrams and grammar!





Year 5 Create Mr Men Characters

Inspired by the Prep Staff's Mr Men Costume theme for World Book Day, Year 5 set about inventing their own Mr Men characters.

Lydia's Mr Head-in-a-book has been reading constantly for the last 100,000 years and takes on the emotions of his characters whilst Advika's Little Miss Smiley is constantly beaming, even when she receives bad news. Erin took us back to our 'Off With Her Head' project with Little Miss Tudor and after a story in English using bird metaphors, Elise created Mr Chicken.

Who might your character be?



Miss Rodwell's Year 9 PE Group

Student	Total Number of Steps or Flights of Stairs	Mountain Climbed
Tahalia	11,002	Ben Nevis
Rosemary	8,830	Ben Nevis
Dilana	8,004	Mount Snowdon
Samar	7,219	Mount Snowdon
Zainab	5,764	Slieve Donard
Emily	5,390	Slieve Donard
Feran	5,390	Slieve Donard



Mount Snowdon

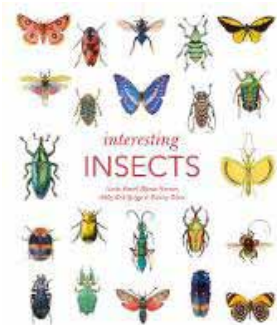


Ben Nevis

Well done ladies. Excellent effort!

World Book Day: Thursday, 4 March: The Natural World of Books

This year, World Book Day at Seniors became Virtual WBD! With this year's theme based on The Natural World of Books, we were 'visited' by a range of experts linked to the natural world. These included directors, authors and illustrators.



In the morning, 'In Conversation' took place with two leading experts: Dr Broad, Principle Curator of Insects from the Natural History Museum, who spoke to us about his new book, *Interesting Insects*; showing us through the rainbow coloured pages of different insects from around the world that can be seen at the Natural History

Museum, the importance of insects, to us and our planet.

www.waterstones.com/book/interesting-insects/gavin-broad/ashley-kirkspriggs/9780565095031

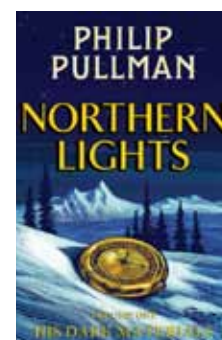
Dr Dickie, CEO of Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, spoke about how she made a career as one of the few female CEO's of a world leading conservation trust, set up 60 years ago by naturalist and author, Gerald Durrell. She mentioned five important things everyone can do to help look after our planet.

<https://www.durrell.org/wildlife/>



At lunchtime, we were joined for a live session with children's author and award winning illustrator, Chris Wormell. Chris talked to us about illustrating Philip Pullman's *His Dark Materials* books and Helen Macdonald's *H is for Hawk*, using wood and lino cuts.

He even drew us our own, unique Old Palace invented creature!



World Book Day *continued*

Other World Book day activities included Kahoot Quizzes, which ran on the day, as well as during Virtual Book Club. Congratulations to Isabella in Year 8 for winning this competition and showing an astounding knowledge of books!

Learning For life became Library for Life, with a range of bookish World Book Day activities for students to virtually take part in. These included a range of Kahoot World Book Day quizzes and the chance for both staff and students to take part in our Lockdown Literary Loo-Roles Competition, creating famous literary scenes and characters by creatively using loo roles. Mrs Burton had the unenviable task of judging this competition, as all entries were of such a high standard! Many thanks to everyone who entered. All entries are available to view in The Friends' Library during year group bubble library time.

Congratulations to Mrs Barden (staff) and Dimanthi Year 11 (student) for their winning entries, showing scenes from *Mary Poppins* by P.L. Travers and the Three Witches of *Macbeth* by Shakespeare. Both receive prizes of National Book Tokens. Highly commended staff entries go to Mrs Solari for her Lewis Carroll *Alice in Wonderland* characters and Mrs Parker for her Mr Bump!

Highly commended student entries go to Olive's *Doom Patrol* and Natalie's Jemma from *I Have No Secret's*, Anja S's *The B.F.G*, Nia's *Paddington Bear* and Zainab K's *Where's Wally?*



Winning Staff Mrs Barden



Winning Student Dimanthi, Year 11



Old Palace Virtual Choir Launches 'Happy'



There was certainly an air of happiness across both Senior and Prep on Monday morning, as we welcomed students back to school after what seemed like a very long three months.

In 'honour' of this, we are pleased to be able to share with you the Old Palace Virtual Choir's version of 'Happy'.

Please do watch this if you have a moment; it will bring a smile to your face!

<https://youtu.be/G0RVxmU9tqk>

Live PE

It has been great to have students back in school taking part in PE lessons with proper equipment!

We have focused on getting the students moving with some fun team games to encourage interaction and team work. This was followed by their all-time favourite activity of benchball, to get those hearts racing and find their competitiveness again!

Lots of fun was had by all.



Alumnae News

Old Palace alumnae and sisters, Uzma Hameed and Ambreen Hameed's first novel, *Undying Book 1: The Kinship of Djinn*s, was published last autumn to some great reviews.

The second book, *My Uncle's Son* will be out any day now.

Here is a review of *The Kinship of Djinn*s by Maggie Humm (Emeritus Professor of the University of East London) on Goodreads:

"Reading *Undying* is like having a front row seat for an emotional off-Broadway play... '*Undying*,' reminiscent of Susan Abulhawa's best-selling '*Mornings in Jenin*,' is a crucially significant novel for today."



This Sunday is pi Day – How Will You Celebrate?

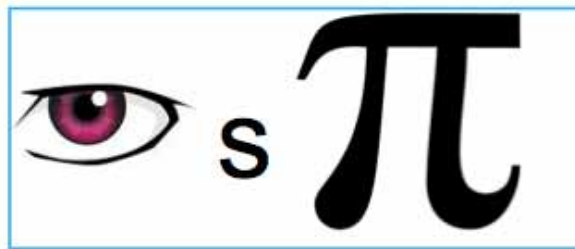
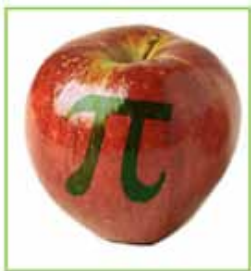


Pi day is celebrated by mathematicians around the world on 14th March.

This is because when the date is written in an American style it is 3.14 – the first digits of pi.

Pi is used to find the circumference and area of circles and has been known about for thousands of years. The approximations are becoming more accurate and we now know 3 trillion digits of pi.

Did you know we only need 5 digits of pi to get to the moon!



This week's puzzle is a pi(e) chart in honour of pi day and in school we will have some pi themed puzzles in our maths lessons on Monday.

How will you celebrate? Try a puzzle from below or bake a pie? TikTok even have a competition.



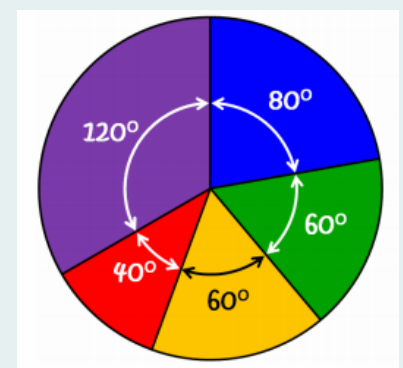
Try to solve these pi dingbats or the Pidoku challenge below.

Maths Puzzle

Favourite Subjects (36 pupils)

Here are the results of a survey into favourite subjects. As you can see, maths is the most popular subject.

How many students said maths was their favourite?



- English
- Science
- History
- Geography
- Maths

This is Sudoku with a twist of pi. The first 12 digits of pi are 3 1 4 1 5 9 2 6 5 3 5 8. Each block on the right has 12 squares – you need to fit all of the first 12 digits of pi in each section. Plus each of the digits needs to appear in each row AND each column. (So you can have 2 1s, 2 3s and 3 5s but no 7s!).

3			1	5	4		1		9	5	
	1			3				1	3	6	
		4			3		8			2	
5			1			9	2	5		1	
	9			5			5				
5	8	1			9		3			6	
	5		8			2			5	5	3
				5			6			1	
2			5	1	5			5			9
	6			4		1			3		
1	5	1					5			5	
5	5		4			3	1	6			8

A letter from Mrs Nike



Dear all,

It has been a really positive first week back at Prep since lockdown. The girls have been coming into school each day smiling and ready to learn. During the week, as I walked around the classrooms, the girls were engrossed in their learning and there was a tangible buzz and a feeling of excitement to be back in our school building.

I would like to say well done to all those girls from Prep who contributed to the 'Happy' song. It was an outstanding performance and it really raised my spirits. Thank you for bringing such cheer!

World Book Day was a huge success and yet again I was captivated by your fantastically creative costumes. I am also extremely proud of our very own Mrs Barden who won the Lockdown Literary Loo-Roles Competition. Your skills are remarkable.

Have a great weekend and see you on Monday bright and breezy!

Mrs Nike

Head of Pre School & Preparatory



Pre School News



It has been so exciting to see all of our children back in Pre school this week where they enthusiastically started their new topic learning about our families, and how we show that we care.

They have been extremely busy with their new specialist lessons in French, PE, Music and World Book Day too! Well done to all parents and carers for the amount of creativity put into the costumes for this whole school event. They were all excellent!



The children have been keen to get outside each day and have enjoyed looking for changes in our garden, which has sprung into life with crocuses flowering and buds on our plants. They built towers that were as tall as them, practiced throwing bean bags into buckets and worked together to construct a very long bridge using the crates and planks. Along with setting up a baby's nursery in the Home corner and plenty of Mother's Day crafting activities, they had plenty to keep them busy.



Swimming Lessons



In today's first Swimming lesson back with Miss Rodwell, we did treading water and a whirlpool at the end. To start, we did the three different types of treading water, front crawl kick, breaststroke kick and egg-beating. We found that the most effective one was egg-beating. Although I was unable to do it at first, I managed to get the hang of it. You have one leg out while the other is in and they switch. This keeps you afloat without bouncing you up and down. While doing these leg actions, we did sculling with our arms. Sculling is featured in all of the strokes, usually referred to as a catch and pull motion.

At the end of the lesson, the whole class got together and did a whirlpool. Firstly, we had to get into a circle, turn to our right and start running. When Mrs Tamplin blew her whistle, everyone put their right shoulder into the water, and eventually turned onto their back and followed the flow of the water. After doing this a couple of times, it changed to when Mrs Tamplin blew her whistle, we would change directions and run the other way. This was quite hard as it had a lot of resistance when we tried to change directions.

Arabella H, Year 8

Year 7 Swimming

Treading water helps your head stay above water. This movement is like riding a bicycle. When doing front crawl, you should always use push, pull, glide, kick.

When we did the whirlpool at the end it was difficult to walk the other way after a short period of time as there was a force pushing against us.

Kourtney-Rae, Year 7

We had a thoroughly enjoyable swimming lesson on our return to school this week. We practiced treading water and found the egg beater kick to be the most successful way to keep afloat in one place.

We also practiced sculling which is a hand technique. When sculling you move your hands back and forth through the water in the figure of eight, enabling you to move headfirst or feet first.

It felt great to be back in the pool.

Ava

Sports Leaders

Sports Leaders in Year 10 and 11 were back in action leading LIVE sessions this week! So good to be able to lead real people rather than through a screen!

Well done to Fizza whose session was based on benchball (Year 11) and to Rachel who based her session on Rounders; and to Atlanta (Year 10) who based her session on warm up exercises and team building and Knightly who led her session based on developing strength.



Staying Active

Tahalia has been staying very active over lockdown. These photos are of a 2.08 mile run that Tahalia completed after school on Tuesday. Tahalia is also keen to complete her steps for the house challenge.



John Whitgift Foundation Commemorates 425th Anniversary with Daily Posts



#425in365 Day 53:

In 1905, Restoration work on Old Palace Chapel carried out by the Sisters personally, and directed by Mr Fletcher Bannister, took over three years.

john
whitgift
foundation

Geography Competition Week 8: Where in the World?



Where in the World?

Discover the world: use the clues to guess what country this image is from!



1. This country's railway lines could loop around Earth twice
2. This country is the third largest country by area at 9,706,961 sq km
3. The world's largest Hydroelectric Dam is located in this country.
4. Stamp collecting is the number one hobby in this country.
5. Half of the world's pigs live in this country.



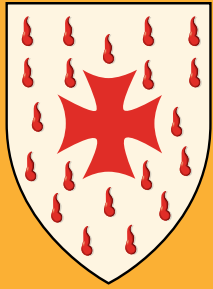
Submit your answer on Forms

Deadline:

Thursday 19th March

The answer to last week's Where in the World was **Scotland** (Carlton Hill in Edinburgh)

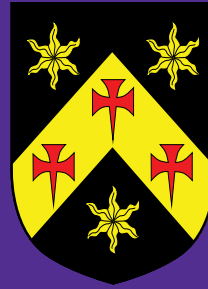
Week 8: House Challenge to Walk Around the World



Anselm



Hatton



Laud



Stafford

House	Total km walked this week	Total km 13/3/2021
Anselm	74	2,124
Hatton	83	2,821
Laud	158	1,920
Stafford	309	2,541

Stafford have had a particularly good week and are fast catching up with Hatton. Stafford are now also in Turkey with Hatton, Anselm have reached the beautiful Danube river, crossing into Bulgaria and Laud very close behind.

In total, the school has walked over 9400 now – it will be very interesting to see where we end up!

We may be back at school, but our challenge will continue until the end of April, so do keep active and recording your steps.

Click on this link to follow our progress and to find out more!

<https://arcg.is/1W4m1T>



Maths Puzzle Fun

Answer to Favourite Subject puzzle on page 10 is 12

1200 is a third of the circle and $\frac{1}{3}$ of 36 is 12

