

Dear parents and carers

What has been happening this week?

Nursery has been reading The Ghanaian Goldilocks which is a story about a little boy in Ghana that loves African Kente cloth. The children have been making Kente cloth patterns with geometric shapes and tasting tropical fruits. We had papaya, pineapples, avocados and mangos. Opening the coconut and tasting the coconut water was the highlight of the session. Next week we will be reading the Goldilocks and the three bears story and comparing the two books, again the focus is on the number three and small, medium and large. On the embankment the children made some clay coasters with autumn leaf prints and discovered that the school has some very rare fungus plants called earthstars growing in our garden, they are like puff balls, non poisonous but inedible and really beautiful!

Year 1 children have been writing fantastic narratives based on Wild. They have also been having lots of fun mixing colours in art!

In science this week **year 3** have been learning about how animals move, first looking at how muscles and bones work together to help animals, including humans, to move. Then we explored the embankment to hunt for minibeasts and thanks to the wet weather they were able to find many, including snails, slugs, worms, woodlice and more! They then had time to find out how they moved by observing them. The children thoroughly enjoyed exploring and could talk about how animals move.

In **year 4** this week, we set up an observational experiment where we used egg shells to replicate teeth and we are observing over the course of a week what different liquids do to them. We are all looking forward to our science workshop day on Monday where we will consolidate everything we have learnt.

It's been a busy week in **year 5** with an informative and thought provoking tech workshop, a trip to the British Museum and assembly prep for 5 Ash! The tech workshop on Tuesday with Papaya parenting involved an engaging discussion on the pros and cons of tech use and how we can all take steps to reduce our screen time to improve our mental wellbeing. On Wednesday we enjoyed visiting the British Museum to see their new exhibition 'The Silk Road' where we saw many of the objects we have learnt about in our Islamic Civilisation history unit this half term.

This morning we enjoyed the first class assembly of the year and it was presented by 6 Oak. The assembly included every child telling us about the origin of their name, a quiz on classifying animals, history (the Benin Empire), RE (Rites of Passage) and some fantastic persuasive writing based on The Boy in the Girls' Bathroom by Louis Sachar. 6 Oak also impressed us with a brilliant version of the song This Is Me from the Greatest Showman film.

SIAMS Inspection report

This week we received the final report following our recent inspection.

We were pleased that the inspector noticed that everything we do is underpinned by our vision: 'Belonging, learning and growth for life in all its fullness'. He wrote, "The school embodies a life-affirming and vibrant Christian vision. This creates an environment where adults and pupils flourish academically and spiritually"

He was also impressed with the music in school and said "Music and singing is transformational in enriching the spiritual experience of worship for pupils and adults."

He described the school culture as "nurturing and deeply joyous" and wrote that, "Pupils are encouraged to stretch their capacities, fostering happiness, creativity and pride in themselves."

When addressing the Religious Education curriculum, he wrote: "The RE curriculum cultivates strong religious literacy among pupils and "the provision of RE is of exceptional quality, offering an inspiring and enriching experience for all pupils".

Please take time to read the full report which is on the school website:

<https://princessfrederica.brent.sch.uk/key-information/inspection-information/>

Food standards visit

This week we had a surprise visit from the Food Standards Agency. Sonia and her team in the kitchen passed with flying colours and we retain the 5 star rating for food hygiene.

Head Boy and Head Girl

Hi everyone Frederick and Cora here!

We've done so much this week. On Monday, in the assembly we talked about the theme for the week of forgiveness and how it helps us feel better if we say sorry and forgive one another. We also talked about the focus pupil routine this week:

Active attention.

1. Eyes looking, ears listening, brains thinking, ready to start.
2. Eyes or body on the speaker
3. Body or head moves to track the speaker
4. Whole body calm

The day after, year 5 and 6 had a workshop about online safety where we thought about our screen usage and how we can reduce it. At the World of Friends assembly on Wednesday we

looked at the news story involving Amazon making its workers go back into the office 5 days a week. We considered the benefits of working together and also of working alone.

6 Oak had our class assembly this morning which we all enjoyed but it is sad to think that it is our last class assembly in Princess Frederica. We'll wrap up there and hope you have a good weekend.

Cora and Frederick.

Music at Princess Frederica

Selected members of the Stage Band went to St James' church to play for the St Clement and St James school's Harvest service. These children played really well and lifted spirits. Some of the members even took the mic to support their school in singing the songs.

The String Ensemble travelled to St Thomas' church to play for the St Thomas' school's Harvest service. These children were an excellent support to the service and showcased the talent, the positivity and the joy of our school.

A brief reminder:

- Boys in year 4, 5 and 6 are welcome to join the boys' singing club; Fridays at 3:15pm
- Girls in year 4, 5 and 6 are welcome to join the girls' choir; Thursdays at 8:30am (they need to come straight to the hall in the morning)
- String Ensemble is on Tuesday at lunchtime

For children in years 3-5 who want to start instrumental lessons, fill in this form (if you haven't already) <https://forms.gle/drJP9WfQqLNEZwnt8>

Please note that spaces are very limited.

Year 3 lessons are opening up in January- after they have a term of learning the trumpet for free.

The Brent Music Service have a huge range of outstanding ensembles, with incredible performance opportunities.

Please see this link for how to apply:

<https://sites.google.com/view/bmsinformation/ensembles/bands-and-orchestras/bridge-orchestras>

The Bridge Orchestra is for beginners from year 2-6.

The Choirs are from year 3 upwards.

The Junior Ensembles are for children grade 1+.

We have a music concert coming up on Wednesday 23rd October at 2:45pm. It will include steel pans, choirs and the stage band. Please see attached programme

[Music Concert 23rd October 2024](#)

Governors meeting

The governors held a meeting on Wednesday evening to discuss various matters. During the meeting, our Executive head teacher shared her back to school report and partnership update. We looked at reports from an external advisor which included a deep dive of writing in our school. There was a safeguarding update and various policies were discussed, including the Relationship and Behaviour policy. Subject leaders shared their reports, highlighting last year's achievements and outlining action plans for the current academic year.

OPAL Play

Thank you for your continued donations this week, the children have especially loved the sleds! Please do keep donating, the list is not exhaustive, anything you think will enable creative play is welcomed. Donations still required:

- pots and pans
- brooms
- suitcases/trunkies/briefcases
- paint brushes
- dressing up clothes
- planks of wood

We have a few wooden pallets which need sanding down and making safe before the children can use them. Is there anyone who has an electric sander and could help please?

Dr Bike

Our good friends at Dr Bike would like to remind those in Brent that they are stationed at Willesden Sports Centre on the first Saturday of every month from 10am to 2pm, giving your bike a free TLC, checking and providing basic repairs to make your bike road worthy.

They are also providing free cycle lessons, also taking place at Willesden Sports Centre on its track, to all ability levels, from complete beginners to experienced cyclists. To book a lesson, you can contact them one of these 3 ways:

- email: info@cyclinginstructor.com
- call 0845 652 0421
- call John Hernandez on 07598 693897

These initiatives are provided by the council but if there is not enough demand, they could be terminated, so please make sure you use and spread the word!

Safeguarding - Helping Children thrive in the digital age

We'd like to thank everyone who attended the Kids & Tech Workshop last Friday, it was a great turnout.

It was a hugely insightful presentation on the risks of under protecting our children online. Jennifer Powers from Papaya Parents explained how access to the internet and social media, in

particular since the arrival of smartphones, has had an enormous impact on our children's wellbeing.

The top tip was to delay giving a smart phone until 14yrs and social media until 16yrs. 'It's not never it's just not now.'

Some good news to expect in 2025 is the development of a new type of phone. You can take the survey below to design your ideal one.

Xplora, take the survey;

<https://survey.xplora.co.uk>

For those who couldn't join but would like to know more you can watch this YouTube video here:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=6UFvXt1RhkM&t=147s&pp=2AGTAZACAcOFFnBhcGF5YSBEciBTdXNpZSBFYXZpZXM%3D>

Below are some useful websites:

<https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk>

<https://www.papayaparents.com>

Thanks again to Papaya Parents and Pandora Sykes. Please contact the PSA if you want to be involved in this initiative or have any questions. New faces and ideas are very welcome. We aim to continue providing advice at other events in the future.

Kensal Rise Library

Also see attached information about another half term activity which takes place in our local library. This is a children's comedy show with rapper and comedian Doc Brown.

Half Term dates

Some parents have asked about Princess Frederica having a different half term holiday this term. The decision to have a different half term to other Brent schools was not taken lightly and the aim was to align with the other schools in our partnership who are in Kensington and Chelsea and other secondary schools in other boroughs. It seems that Brent is out of step with most other boroughs in London.

We apologise for the inconvenience that this will cause to some families and of course any requests for absences will be authorised.

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 23rd October at 2:45pm - Music concert

Friday 25th October - end of half term

Friday 8th November - Headship team briefing

Class assemblies at 10:00am in the main hall

Friday 18th October - 5 Ash

Friday 15th November - 6 Chestnut

Friday 22nd November - 5 Birch
Friday 17th January - 4 Apple
Friday 24th January - 3 Hawthorn
Friday 31st January - 4 Cherry
Friday 7th February - 3 Bramble
Friday 14th March - 2 Thistle
Friday 21st March - 1 Thyme
Friday 28th March - 2 Honeysuckle
Friday 2nd May - 1 Sage
Friday 16th May - Reception Buttercup
Friday 23rd May - Reception Dandelion
Friday 20th June - Nursery

Term Dates

INSET DAY: Monday 25th November

Autumn Term 1: Wednesday 4th September to Friday 25th October 2024

Autumn Term 2: Monday 4th November to Friday 20th December 2024 at 1:30pm

Spring term 1: Monday 6th January to Friday 14th February 2025

Spring Term 2: Monday 24th February to Friday 4th April 2025 at 1:30pm

Summer term 1: Tuesday 22nd April to Friday 23rd May 2025

Summer term 2: Monday 2nd June to Friday 18th July 2025 at 1:30pm

Start of academic year 2025/26

Autumn Term 1 starts on Wednesday 3rd September 2025

Have a lovely weekend

With kind regards

Nicola Christopher