

Dear parents and carers

The first half-term of the new academic year has been incredibly exciting with several new staff members joining us as well as lots of new families. Cultural Unity Day brought everyone together over a shared love of international food and musical performances. OPAL play has been a huge success and contributes on a daily basis to the well rounded experience that the children are fortunate to receive at Princess Frederica. The SIAMS inspection confirmed that our school is a “nurturing and deeply joyous” place where “adults and pupils flourish academically and spiritually.” We are extremely proud of the inspection outcome and report.

We thank our parent community for their support and we thank our staff for their commitment to providing the best learning experiences for our children.

Have a good rest and enjoy some time to relax before we start the next half term which will be a busy one as we lead up to Christmas.

### **What has been happening this week?**

**Nursery** has been reading Polar Bear, Polar Bear What Do You Hear? Children have been listening to lots of different animal sounds. We went to the embankment and talked about hibernation and what animals do in winter. The children all helped to make a hedgehog house and fill it with dry leaves just in case we have a prickly visitor that may want to spend the winter in our garden. They made pumpkin soup on Wednesday and all had a taste when it was ready. The children are getting very brave at trying new foods.

**Year 1** channelled their inner Kandinsky and painted the most beautiful concentric circles. They used powder paints and even mixed their own colours. We were also fortunate enough to have Dali's Nana present a Diwali workshop. We learnt some funky dance moves and listened to the story of Diwali.

On Tuesday **Year 3** children enjoyed their trip to The Gunnersbury Park Museum where they took part in a Stone Age Survival workshop. They had to build dens and forage for food.

**Year 6** enjoyed a trip to the Horniman Museum in order to support the learning they are undertaking on the Benin Empire in history. We were able to explore a wide range of replica artefacts, learn more about this period of history and debate the moral issues surrounding empire.

We were pleased to welcome police community officers into school to talk to us about safe bus travel in the city. As we approach the next stage in our lives and start to use public transport more independently, we discussed some of the issues we might encounter and how to keep safe on our transport networks.

The **School Council** visited The Marylebone Project this week to donate our Harvest collection. The children learned about what the project does to help women in need, how and why people might seek support there and what else we can do as a community to help. If you would like to

support The Marylebone Project, please take a look at their website for more information - <https://www.maryleboneproject.org.uk>

### **House Group competition**

Our newly appointed house group captains and deputies organised their first event today. They hosted a house group spelling competition for years 4 to 6. The children all enjoyed it, especially Anderson House who narrowly won the competition by the spelling of one word!

### **OPAL Play**

What an incredible start we've had with the implementation of OPAL Play at our school! The feedback from children, staff, and parents has been overwhelmingly positive, and we couldn't be more thrilled with how it's bringing our school community together. A huge thank you to everyone for your generous donations and for actively participating in PSA fundraising initiatives, which have been instrumental in ensuring the success of OPAL Play.

In the upcoming half term, we're excited to share even more updates about the next phase of OPAL Play and ways for you to get involved. Stay tuned for more communications on how you can contribute and be part of this exciting journey!

### **Music at Princess Frederica**

We enjoyed a fantastic concert on Wednesday afternoon. Mr Tang orchestrated a range of performances that included stage band, brass and string ensembles and steel pans from years 4 to 6. As always the children performed confidently and skillfully.

### **Head Boy and Head Girl**

Hi everyone, we have had a very exciting last week of half term and we can't wait to share.

At the start of the week in Monday's assembly we talked about the importance of loyalty and being loyal to our friends. Then in Wednesday's World of Friends assembly we learnt about music from different cultures and its significance around the world.

School council took a trip to the Marylebone Project where they donated all the Harvest gifts that you so generously gave to the school. Year 6 went on a trip to Horniman Museum where we had a workshop about the Kingdom of Benin. The half term extravaganza was amazing where the girls' and boys' choirs, steel pans and many other groups played to children and parents.

Hope you have a good half term

Cora and Frederick

## **Fidget toys**

We have noticed an increasing number of children are bringing in their own fidget toys from home. These must only be used by a child in the classroom if they have been supplied by the class teacher or Miss Skilton, our SENCO. Children must keep their own fidget toys at home.

## **Safeguarding**

Making a mistake isn't the end of the world, but that can be a difficult thing to learn for a lot of people. Most children are still learning it, in fact. These kinds of setbacks and the feelings they bring on can provoke severe and unhealthy reactions in young people, if they're not taught how to deal with their emotions in a healthy way.

However, it's sometimes tricky to know what you can do or say to help these youngsters develop the confidence and adaptability to process these feelings in the future. This week's guide features expert advice, letting you know how to build emotional resilience in the children and young people in your care.

[Attach pdf](#)

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Headship Team Briefing**

The next briefing will be held on **Friday 8th November** at 9:00am in the main hall. Ms Bouette and Ms Christopher will be joined by Ms Skilton, Ms Brookes and Mr Chantler and there will be presentations on sport at Princess Frederica, SEN provision and relationships & behaviour. We'd like hear parents' views on these topics and welcome feedback.

### **PSA**

The PSA AGM is scheduled for **Tuesday 19th November**, 8pm-9pm and we warmly invite all parents, carers and staff to attend. We will send a zoom link out closer to the time.

At the AGM we will go through fundraising achievements, PSA activities and investments made back into the school as well as planning for the year ahead and other fundraising opportunities. We will also cover the plans for Opal Play Stage 2.

### **School photographer - individual and siblings**

Vancols, the school photography company, will be in school on **Wednesday 6th November**. They will be taking individual and sibling photos.

### **St Mark's Light Show**

Please see the attached flyer for details of the annual Light Party at St Mark's church which takes place on **Thursday 31st October**.

**Attach flyer**

### **Kensal Rise Library**

Also see attached information about a half term activity on **Wednesday 30th October** which takes place in our local library. This is a children's comedy show with rapper and comedian Doc Brown. **attach flyer**

### **Dates for your diary**

Wednesday 6th November - School Photographs

Friday 8th November at 9:00am- Headship team briefing

Tuesday 19th November 8-9pm - PSA AGM

### **Class assemblies at 10:00am in the main hall**

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

Have a lovely half term break.

With kind regards

Nicola Christopher