

Dear parents and carers

This week

Nursery have been on their first phonics sound walk on the embankment and listened to the trains and the different bird sounds using listening tubes that they decorated themselves. They baked delicious banana bread on Wednesday and arrived on Thursday looking beautiful wearing clothes from their families' traditions.

Reception has been exploring the book 'The Everywhere Bear' by Julia Donaldson. The children have been discussing the bear's journey around school; we then wrote sentences together. During our outdoor learning session this week, the children created autumn frames by searching for natural objects they found. These are now decorating our classrooms.

This week Year 2 visited Hyde Park to learn more about habitats. We searched for living things under logs in the woodland habitat and discovered so many creatures while pond-dipping, including dragonfly nymphs and water boatmen. We even found a toad! Did you know toads swallow their food using their eyeballs? We had a great time!

In year 4, the children watched a demonstration of how the digestive system works using household materials and equipment. The children could clearly explain the stages of the digestive system and what happens in each part. We're all excited for our workshop in a few weeks where the children will investigate this further!

Today, the school council had their first meeting. They learned about the UN Convention on the Rights of a Child and talked about their rights at school and the responsibilities they have as part of a community. They will now talk to their classes about the right to play and be safe, and meet again next week to come up with a charter for OPAL play.

The **SIAMS inspection on Monday** went very well. Andrew Wignal, the inspector, met parents, staff, governors and some of the children who impressed him with their confidence and ability to talk about the RE curriculum and their learning. He felt that pupils value the opportunities they have to study a wide range of religions and to learn from their peers. He loved the joyous and uplifting singing which he heard and said that the Christian vision is life affirming for the school community. The report will be published in a few weeks.

We all enjoyed **Cultural Unity Day** yesterday. The children looked amazing in their costumes, there was a fabulous menu of food to sample and a varied music programme arranged by Mr Tang. Although the weather meant coming inside, it was still a wonderful event for our whole school community. Thank you to all the parent organisers and helpers on the day.

Head Boy and Head Girl

Following a fair and democratic process, today we announced the names of our head boy and head girl for the year: Frederick Weiler and Cora Calder. We are confident that Cora and Frederick will carry out their roles effectively and responsibly throughout the year. Next week all the other positions of responsibility (house captains and deputies, tour guides and librarians) will be announced.

PE at Princess Frederica

Today the boys' football team played in a Brent football competition at Harris Lowe Academy. There were 20 other teams and in the 8 minute games we drew 3 and lost 2. Mr Chantler was very impressed with the boys' team spirit and ball skills. Football team captains were also announced today. The boys' captain is Jackson Armit and the girls' is Rosa Kornstein

Collective Worship this week

Our theme for this half term's Collective Worship assemblies is the school value of kindness and this week we focused on Friendship. In Monday's assembly we thought about the qualities of a good friend and reflected on how we can be a better friend. The news related assembly considered the impact of AI on learning and the children learnt about the first teacherless classroom. Children concluded that they would rather be taught by a real person! (That means Freds teachers will still have jobs!)

Music at Princess Frederica

Lighting Desk

Our Lighting Desk's life is coming to an end. If any parents know of any available Lighting Desks that could be donated to the school please let Mr Tang know.

School Ensembles

We are currently offering the following for free:

Junior String Ensemble: Tuesday 12:00 PM (currently open to younger violinists)

Senior String Ensemble: Tuesday 12:30 PM (open to experienced violin, viola, 'cello and guitar players)

Steel Pans Band: Wednesday 1:30 PM (by invitation only)

Girls' Choir: Thursday 8:30 PM (currently open to year 5 and 6 girls. From October, this will be open to girls in year 4, 5 & 6)

Brass Ensemble: Thursday 12:30 PM (open to brass players)

Stage Band: Friday 12:30 PM

Boys' singing club: Friday 3:15 PM (open to year 4,5&6 boys)

Harvest festival donations

Harvest festival is fast approaching and this year our donations will be supporting The Marylebone Project. This amazing organisation supports vulnerable homeless women who are affected by issues including domestic violence and human trafficking. We are asking children to

bring in donations of food and toiletries from now until Wednesday 2nd October. These donations will then be delivered to The Marylebone Project by the school council. Organisations like this need our help now more than ever. This is a fantastic opportunity to support a local charity and to cultivate generosity, kindness and gratitude in our children. Many thanks for your continued support.

Photo permissions

As we are uploading content to the new website and are hoping to publish photos of the children. However if you do not wish your child to be included, please make sure that this is indicated on the google single permission form.

OPAL Play

With more rainy days expected, please ensure that your child has a raincoat and wellies so that they can play outside when it is raining.

Family Well Being Centres

Please see the attached leaflet about drop in sessions to discuss any concerns that you may have about your child. **attach**

Are you looking for work as an administrator?

Our partner school, St Thomas' is looking for an administrator to work term time only. If you are interested in the role please take a look at the advert on the school's [website](#).

Let's talk about our kids and their tech'

The PSA are excited to be hosting two workshops centred around helping our kids to thrive in the digital age. The first workshop is for parents and carers at **9am Friday 4th October**, presented by journalist and school parent, Pandora Sykes, and run by communication consultant, Jennifer Powers from Papaya Parenting. The workshop will offer advice and tools on creating a healthy balance with technology. It is free, welcome to everyone and morning tea will be provided.

The student workshop, for years 5 and 6, will take place within the classrooms on the 8th October.

Smartphone Free Childhood

A lot of our parents have already signed the parent pact. Here is information from the campaign group.

The Parent Pact is live - now let's make it take off in your area!*

Our new online Parent Pact is here – and we're embarrassingly excited about it .

We've made a simple online tool that enables you to stand up and be counted in your choice to wait to give your child a smartphone – and see how many others in your school and region are doing the same.

Every region in the UK has their own bespoke Parent Pact, because we know the collective action trap we're in can only be solved by parents in local communities committing to take action – together.

We want this to spread way beyond our existing community so please sign it yourselves then share it far and wide – it takes just 30 seconds and might just change the world ;)

<https://parentpact.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk>

The more of us who sign, the more powerful it becomes in shifting the social norm in your area, and we'll use the data to show the Government how much this matters to parents everywhere. Your choice – and your voice – really is powerful

Black History Month event at Newman College - please see the attached flier for details of this event on 16th October

Dates for your diary

Thursday 3rd October at 10:00am - Harvest Festival service at St Martin's

Friday 4th October at 9:00am - Kids and Tech Parent workshop

Wednesday 9th October - year 5 trip to the British Museum

Friday 25th October - end of half term

Friday 8th November - Headship team briefing

Class assemblies at 10:00am in the main hall

Friday 11th October - 6 Oak

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