

# Colindale Primary School Newsletter

## April 2017



### Spring has Sprung!

In Reception, we have been learning all about sunflowers. We read the story 'Sam and the Sunflower' and found out about the sunflower life cycle. We enjoyed painting pictures of sunflowers, taking inspiration from Van Gogh's famous 'Sunflowers' painting. We also planted our own sunflowers, carefully reading through the planting instructions.

We have taken care of our plants at home during the holidays. We are planning to plant the sunflowers in the school garden so we can watch them grow taller and taller! Ms Emma Hurn (Assistant Head)



### Colindale Primary School is becoming a Unicef UK Rights Respecting School

We aim to be a school where children's *rights* are at the heart of our ethos and culture, to improve well-being and to develop every child's talents and abilities to their full potential. As part of this plan we are working towards recognition as a *Rights Respecting School*, an award given to schools on behalf of Unicef. Our children will learn about their *rights* by putting them into practice every day.

Our journey towards becoming a *Rights Respecting School* was launched with the children this week, where everyone participated in a workshop introducing some key

*rights*. We really hope that you will be able to support our school on this journey. Please speak to Mrs Wate or visit

[www.unicef.org.uk/rrsa](http://www.unicef.org.uk/rrsa)

if you would like to find out a bit more about the *Rights of the Child* or the *Rights Respecting Award*.



Mrs Sam Wate (RRSA Leader)

### Gifted and Talented English and Math competition

Last term, six Year 5 children (Jasmin, Mahdi, Sammi, Georgia, Xiang & Ashvin) were chosen to represent Colindale Primary School at an English and maths competition, which was held at a local primary school. They were challenged through team building games, involving making the tallest, but cheapest, spaghetti and marshmallow tower. They had to use their maths knowledge, as well as their speaking and listening skills to work with children from other schools in order to build the tower successfully. They then were split back into their school groups, where they competed in a *Spelling Bee* competition. They showed fantastic team work, persistence and the ability to use a range of math and English skills combined together throughout the whole day.

Well done!

Mrs Francesca Taylor (Class teacher)

### Attendance awards

This week the following classes won the *Colindale Gold Attendance Award* for the highest attendance: **3P and 1PF**



Well done!!

**Uniform:** Just a reminder, that all children must wear plain black shoes to school, nothing else will do. Also...if you want to beat the rise in the prices of uniform due in September, buy your child's uniform now! See a member of the Office team.



As part of their 'Raiders' topic, last term **year 4** learnt about the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. They looked at how English castles built different kinds of bridges for protection, for example the drawbridge. They found out that a drawbridge uses a winding mechanism to open and close it, to protect the castle. In DT, they investigated how a winding mechanism works and trialled lots of ways to make their own. Using their best ideas, they designed and made their own replicas of a drawbridge with a winding mechanism for their own castles. It took a lot of team work and discussion and here are some of their fantastic drawbridge models. Great work year 4! Ms Susie Averbrook (Assistant Head)



To support their topic on the rainforest, **Year 6** visited London Zoo on 20th March. They had a very interesting and informative day, including taking part in a rainforest workshop. The children explored the Rainforest Life section, searching for a variety of creatures living at different levels within the forest, and recording the temperature and humidity. They were also able to visit much of the rest of the zoo, seeing a wide range of animals, reptiles, birds and fish. Popular exhibits included the B.U.G.S section where they were thrilled to come close up to various spiders and other creepy crawlies, and *Land of the Lions* which was a fantastic opportunity to see these magnificent beasts, with only a glass wall to separate them from us! Some groups were also able to watch displays of animal skills, including seeing birds of prey fly over



their heads. All in all, it was a very enjoyable day, with the children on their best behaviour, showing great enthusiasm for all the zoo had to offer. Mrs Sarah Robertson (Assistant Head)



### Library help needed!

We are in the middle of upgrading our school library with more shelving and more books. If you have some spare time during the week, we could do with your help.

Please leave your details with the school office and Ms Lisa Dray will get in touch.



### Coffee afternoon with the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher.

Last week we held the first coffee afternoon of the year. 13 parents attended and we had a general discussion about school issues. We will be holding this meeting weekly and all parents are invited.

We look forward to seeing you then!



This term we are undertaking the annual **School Travel Plan**. The School Travel Plan monitors how staff and pupils travel to school and suggests ways to adapt our travel to become healthier and more eco-friendly. This year we would like to see a greater number of pupils travelling to school using a sustainable method of travel, for example by walking or using a scooter or bicycle. We have lots of bicycle and scooter parks at school. For those children that live far from school you could park and stride or hop off. Park and stride involves driving some of your journey but parking at least five minutes away from school so that children can walk the rest of the journey. Hopping off involves using public transport for some of your journey but getting off before the end of your journey so that you can walk at least five minutes. We expect children to travel to school in this way **at least** once a week but hopefully more. You can help your children by making sure they have the appropriate clothing for travelling in this way so that they can be seen and protected from the weather and talking to them about road safety. **Furthermore, the 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> of May will be walk to school week when all children and staff will be making an effort to walk part to school for the whole week. Look out for the exciting activities that will be taking place during that week.**