

## Colindale Primary School Newsletter

### Issue 10: Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024

Dear Families,

The second half of the term has started well, with exciting workshops and lots of brilliant learning happening; despite the rain! All of which are in this issue of the newsletter.

This week we say **goodbye** to some **valued members of staff**.

After completing her teacher training, **Miss Edmundson** has secured a teaching post in another Barnet school. She worked at Colindale for 9 years as a teaching assistant and we are pleased that she can now follow her dream of becoming a qualified teacher.

Yesterday, we also said a sad goodbye to **Ms Napthine**, our Assistant Headteacher for Inclusion, who retired after 27 and a half years at Colindale. Ms Napthine has been a key member of the Senior Leadership Team, led the SEND team and ensured all children felt welcomed in our inclusive school. Her passion and dedication throughout her years here, has ensured Colindale Primary provides the best opportunities particularly for children with SEND. We will miss her very much and wish her all the best in retirement.



We have also had some lovely **baby news**... Mrs Ates gave birth to a healthy baby girl in January, and Ms Whiter gave birth to a healthy baby boy this week. Both mums and babies are doing well, and we wish them all the best in their new journey into parenthood.

#### After school snacks:

At the end of the day, during pick up time, I have noticed an increased number of unhealthy snacks being handed to children, by their parents, as they leave school, such as doughnuts, large packets of crisps, etc.

Occasional sweet treats are of course fine, as we sometimes have a Friday bake sale, but daily sugar or high fat snacks are discouraged. The **litter** caused by these snacks is also a problem around the school site.

At Colindale Primary we pride ourselves in being a healthy school and have been awarded the **Silver Healthy Schools Award**. If you feel your child really needs to eat something before they get home then we would suggest a piece of **fruit or vegetable snack** as a healthy alternative.



Thank you to all the parents that attended our **Online Safety Workshop** on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February. We had 50 parents attend and the feedback was incredibly positive. We more about it in this newsletter. Don't forget, we also send out **monthly online safety newsletters**, which are on our website.

There are lots of exciting events and trips planned over the next few weeks – including **world book day (we are celebrating on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March)**, **science week (11<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> March)** and **Red Nose Day (Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March)**. Look out for more information in this newsletter and regular updates via Arbor. Class photos are on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Mrs Jane Palmer  
Headteacher

## Attendance awards for 19.02.24 – 01.03.24

Every week we award classes with the highest attendance one of our very special trophy's- **Bronze, Silver, Gold or Super Gold. These classes were awarded a trophy this month:**



Super Gold (100% - this means every child in every day) –



Gold (highest attendance, but below 100%)- **4G (twice!), 2M**



Silver (second highest attendance)- **6R, 5T**



Bronze (3<sup>rd</sup> highest attendance) – **5M, 4P**

**Well done to all the winners!**

## Attendance

This term the governors will be reviewing the attendance policy and making amendments to support school attendance – in line with the governments improving school attendance agenda.

**Illness before and / or after a school holiday will be treated as suspicious and parents will be asked to prove they have not taken extended holiday.**

Every day at school matters! Both academically and socially.

Attendance levels at school are monitored very closely by the headteacher, attendance officer, EWO (educational welfare officer) and the board of governors. You may be contacted if we are concerned about your child's attendance.

99%-100%	<b>Excellent</b> attendance
96% - 99%	Very good attendance and at the expected level.
91% - 95%	<b>Careful</b> – Your child can't afford to have any more time off. Try and get the % higher as the year goes by. If not – they could begin to struggle in their learning and will not achieve the progress they are capable of. Do you really want them to fall behind in their learning?
Below 90%	This is the new threshold. If your child's attendance is below 90% they are known as a <b>P.A. Persistent Absentee</b>
85% - 90%	This could be up to 20 days = 4 weeks of lost learning by July!
Below 85%	This is very worrying. Your child has possibly <b>missed</b> up to <b>30 days</b> of school. This is 6 weeks worth of learning!

**The Local Authority can issue a fine to you if you do not get your child to school.**

**As a parent / carer it is your responsibility to do this.**

**Give your child the start in life they deserve and bring them to school**

**Attendance Matters**



## Rights Respecting at Colindale

### Articles 26 and 27

The right to food, clothing, a safe place to live and to have their basic needs met.

Governments must help families who cannot provide this.



Food



Clothing



Place to live



Basic needs of health and education.



What happens if families cannot provide the things children need?

Where can they go for help? How do Colindale pupils help others?

What could we as a school do to help those in need? Discuss with your family and class. Tell some of your ideas to your Rights Champion.



Comic Relief Red Nose Day is all about raising money for those who are in need. Get the whole family involved with raising money at home.

**FRIDAY 15<sup>th</sup> MARCH**

Colindale, let's get RED READY!

Details to follow, keep an eye on Arbor.



### **BIG WALK and WHEEL Challenge: 11.3.24-22.3.24**

Colindale Primary School celebrates 15 years of the UK's biggest active travel challenge. We will be taking part in the UK's biggest inter-school active travel challenge. Taking place **11-22 March 2024**, the Sustrans **Big Walk and Wheel** inspires pupils to make active and sustainable journeys to school, improve air quality in their neighbourhood and discover how these changes benefit their world.



The event sees schools compete each day to make the most journeys by walking, wheeling, scooting, and cycling to school. The challenge is seeing its 15th anniversary and is celebrating the success enjoyed across the years for pupils, parents, and schools.

Not only does the event help reduce pollution around the school gates but, in recent years, it has helped parents to save £1.6million in petrol costs during the fortnight. Just under 2.7million active journeys to 1,862 participating schools took place during the 2023 challenge, saving an estimated 1,890 tonnes of CO2 emissions if the journeys logged had otherwise been made by car.

Teachers also find pupils who walk, wheel, scoot or cycle to school arrive more relaxed, alert, and ready to start the day than those who travel by car. Please encourage your children to take part in the challenge and let's all enjoy the benefits of it. Thank you.

*Mrs Grigoriadou-PSHE, Healthy Schools and Eco Lead*

## **Animal workshop Y6**

Year 6 had the thrilling opportunity to interact with a variety of animals, fostering excitement and learning about their unique characteristics. The visit aimed to immerse the students in the world of exotic creatures, providing inspiration for their upcoming English topic where they would create their own imaginary animals.



One of the featured animals was Milkshake, the chameleon, whose camouflaging abilities intrigued the children. They eagerly held and learned about this fascinating creature. Following Milkshake, a tarantula made appearances, and many Year 6 children bravely volunteered to place it on their heads. The Burmese Python was a massive hit, with students lining up to hold the young snake and asking questions about its potential size. The cheeky demeanor of the meerkat captured everyone's attention as Year 6 discovered

how he used his powerful back legs to try and jump from table to table. A little owl created excitement when children found out that it could twist its head almost 360 degrees in a full circle!



Year 6 had incredible enthusiasm and were extremely brave, with most children holding the animals – even receiving high fives from the tarantula! They posed excellent questions and utilised their scientific vocabulary. The experience not only provided inspiration for their English project but also left a lasting impression, with students continuing to discuss and remember the fascinating animals they encountered.

Thank you to Animals UK for helping to provide this incredible experience for the children. [Animal Handling and Encounters - Animals UK \(animalsukltd.co.uk\)](https://animalsukltd.co.uk)



## **Lion Dance KS2**

On the first day back after half term, the KS2 children were treated to a Lunar New Year Lion Dance performance by the Bang Bang Lion Dance Team. There was loud drumming and impressive dancing. The KS2 children really enjoyed the performance and some were lucky enough to play the instruments and try the Lion costume.



## **CNY workshops Yr3+4**

Year 3 & 4 were fortunate to participate in a Chinese Dragon dance workshop last week. The children had the opportunity to learn about three types of Chinese dances, an umbrella dance, a fan dance and the dragon dance. It was quite challenging to learn a dance whilst using props, but they all showed good co-ordination and teamwork. The workshops culminated in a performance for the EYFS and KS1 children who were completely mesmerized by the Chinese Dragon as it floated past them! It was an exciting and memorable day, where children were able to celebrate one of the many cultures in our school.



## Online safety workshops - parents and Year 6

### Online Safety: A Partnership Between Home and School

We are thrilled to announce the success of our recent online safety workshop for parents! It was fantastic to see so many parents and carers engaged and learning more about how to keep their children safe in the digital world. The feedback we have received has been incredibly positive, and we are excited to plan more workshops like this in the future.

During the workshop, parents and carers gained valuable insights into the potential dangers that children might encounter online. We discussed strategies and resources to help parents safeguard their children effectively.

### Empowering our Students

Following the parent workshop, we also held online safety sessions for our Year 5 and 6 students. These sessions focused on helping children identify dangers and misinformation online. The session also equipped them with strategies and support for navigating popular gaming platforms like Roblox and Minecraft safely.



"In the workshop, I learnt how easily people can trick others and spread false information. I also learnt how to stay safe and how to tell if the information is true or false." - Hadya, Year 6

"The workshop was very interesting because I learnt many ways people can hack devices." - Matei, Year 5

"The workshop has made me realise how easy it is for people to scam you and make you feel uncomfortable while you play." - Alexandra, Year 6



### Parking

We recognise that everyone has busy lives and that pick up and drop off can be stressful, especially if you have to get somewhere fast. However, the **safety of everyone must always be a top priority** and parking illegally not only puts children in danger but also sets a bad example to them.

Please leave enough time to **find a legal parking space** or even better... **WALK to school**.

The school has a lot of neighbours who regularly raise issues relating to parents and their driving. Please remember:

- Pavements and other people's driveways are NOT THERE FOR YOU TO USE, even temporarily.



### Well Being Support

There are number of Wellbeing apps on the Barnet Wellbeing Service website that can help you get through challenging times.

According to Accenture's research, people in the UK are increasingly turning to tech to help them look after their mental health. Around 39% of people said they were using such tools as online services, apps, and wearables to manage their stress, improve sleep, and boost their mental wellbeing.

A lot of the apps are free. However, some do have a charge attached. CommUNITY Barnet does not endorse any particular digital service, including those listed on this page. This is due to the fast-moving nature of digital services, which means it's impossible to provide a complete list of online tools, sites, and apps. It is your responsibility to decide whether the service you are considering using is appropriate for you and that you have read the terms and conditions before subscribing.

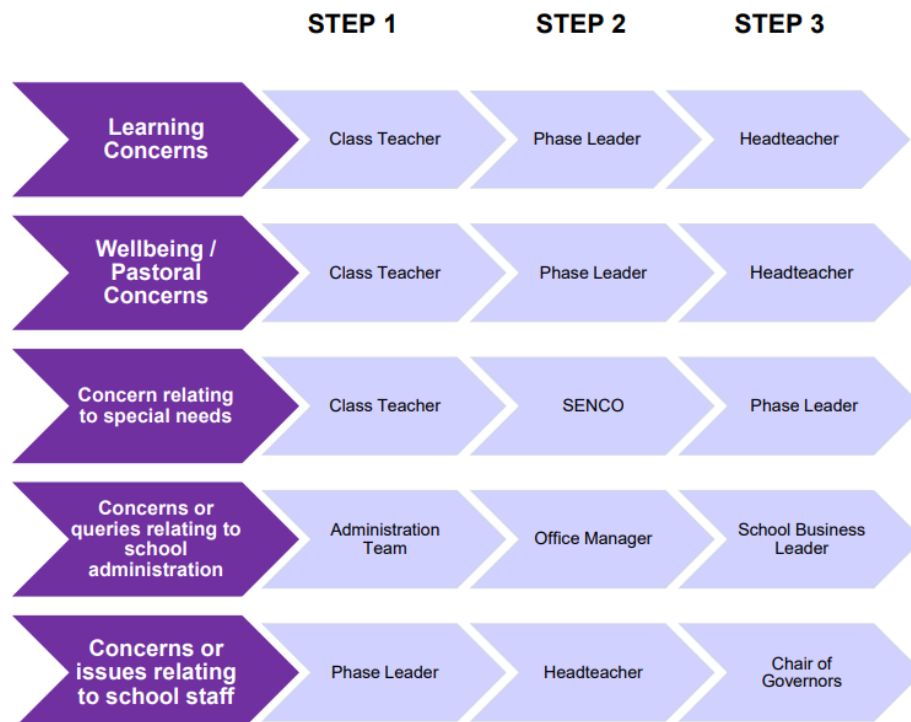


**my possible self**  
the mental health app

### My Possible Self

The Mental Health App has been clinically proven to improve people's mental health and well-being with stress, anxiety, and low mood. [You can find out more here.](#)

## Colindale Primary School Communication Flow Chart



How to contact the Colindale team  
Contact number:  
020 8205 8706

Email address:  
office@colindale.barnetmail.net

### Phase Leaders

- EYFS- Mrs Hurn
- Years 1 and 2 – Miss Parmar
- Years 3 and 4 – Mr Wild
- Years 5 and 6 – Mrs Robertson

SENCO – Mrs French  
School Business Leader – Mr Moor  
Headteacher – Mrs Palmer

**Calling all Year 5 Parents....** There are still a few spaces left on the **Residential Trip to Hindleap Warren**, a purpose-built outdoor activity centre in East Sussex, happening in October 2024.

A residential trip like this is a **truly memorable experience**; it gives children the chance to develop independence, make new friends and experience a range of exciting and fun outdoor activities within the woodland surrounded centre.

All activities are accessible to ALL children and are led by the centre's fully trained staff – Colindale staff members will also be present.

The dates for this exciting residential are Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October - Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October.

**Please contact the school office if you would like to reserve a place for your child. (Deposit required)**





## Messages from the school office

**Swimming** – Please send children’s swimming kit on the days when they have a swimming lesson.

**Payments** - please check your Arbor account to make a payment for school trips and breakfast clubs (if attending)

**Are your contact details correct?** - If you have changed my mobile / contact number or address recently you **MUST** tell the school office straight away so they can update the school system

**Messages From School** – All messages from school are sent to your email address. Please check your emails daily to see if you have received any messages. You will also get a notification in Arbor’s **In Message Arbor App** to say a message has been sent. Please make sure you download the app to your mobile.

### **Dates for your diary:**

Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Class photos
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	5T Class Assembly <b>AND World Book Day - Dress up as your favourite book character</b>
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Science Week Book Fair all week
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	4G Class Assembly <b>AND RED NOSE DAY - Wear something red</b>
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2024	4P Class Assembly
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Last day of term – <b>School finishes at 2pm</b>
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> March – Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	School Holidays – School Closed
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Staff INSET - school closed for pupils
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	All pupils return to school
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	5M Class Assembly
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	May Day Bank Holiday – School Closed
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	Last day of half term – school finishes at 3.30pm
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2024	Half Term Break – School closed
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2024	Staff INSET - school closed for pupils
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	All pupils return to school
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	Last day of term – <b>School finishes at 2pm.</b>

Term dates for next academic year are on our website:

[Term Dates - Colindale Primary School](#)