

Every now and then **we say goodbye** to staff who are leaving Colindale for new adventures.

This week we will be saying a very fond farewell to Mrs. Lazarus who has worked at the school for an incredible 27 years! At a farewell assembly on Monday, she spoke to the children about how she had taught some of their parents and how much she would miss Colindale.

At the end of April we will also be saying a fond farewell to Mrs Wate who has been with the school for 5 years. She is embarking on new adventure working in Mozambique.

We wish them both well and hope they will come and visit us sometime.

Mrs. Bianco (currently on maternity leave) will be taking on the role of SENCO vacated by Mrs Lazarus and Ms Matheou (currently in 2CC) will be taking class 1W when Mrs Wate leaves and ensuring a smooth transition for the children.



This Spring term, **Year 4** **have been learning Samba drumming** as part of their music lessons and on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, they got to showcase what they had learnt to their parents and the rest of the juniors. Year 4 did a marvellous job and

performed with great skill and concentration. They were following Raz, the conductor, well and focused hard on the rhythms they needed to play. In doing all this, and working together as a team, they created a wonderful and powerful piece of music. It was great to see some of the audience trying to join in with the rhythms too. Christian in 4M said *"The samba drumming was so much fun. I liked playing all the different instruments, but my favourite was the Tambo rim. I also liked it when we played loudly."* Lucas in 4R said *"The bass drum was my favourite instrument to learn because we were loud and we got to keep the beat."*

Well done to all the Year 4's and thank you to all the teachers and Raz for working hard to make the concert possible!

*Ms. Marshall (Music Leader)*



**Reception**  
**thoroughly**  
**enjoyed an**  
**exciting animal**  
**encounter** on

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>  
March. Ashley,  
from Ventura

Wildlife brought some animals to visit the children. They were introduced to a hissing cockroach, a giant snail, a tree frog, a snake, a tenrec, an owl, a tortoise and a meerkat. They learnt about different animal classifications, such as bugs, reptiles, amphibians, birds

and mammals. They were also lucky enough to touch the animals and talk about the differences between them. The children learnt some new adjectives such as *spiky, smooth, soft, furry, slimy and bumpy*. After the visit, the children wrote about their favourite animal.....the meerkat was very popular!

Please do have a look at reception's 'Animals' display in the reception corridor, to see the fantastic learning that has been going on since the animal visit. *Mrs. Hurn (Assistant Head)*



## **Attendance awards**

This month the following classes won the *Colindale Gold Attendance Award* for the highest attendance:

**4M, 2J and 3P twice!!**

**WELL DONE!**



Being an **Eco School** has become part of our everyday ethos. Children and staff are a lot more cautious of

their actions, making sure they are always thinking "eco". In Spring Term we have been focussing on waste, ensuring we are reducing the amount we use, reusing what we can and recycling when necessary. A waste audit was carried out at the beginning of our Waste topic and again at the end by an environmentalist team called Eco Active. All staff and children worked together to reduce the amount of waste we produce as a school. One class became very innovative, with photocopying their homework on scrap paper, a very good "reusing" technique! Well done 4R for this fantastic idea!



Year 6 have also been very helpful in creating wonderful Eco advice leaflets during their English lessons, these outline how to be eco-friendly, in school and at home. These fantastic leaflets are located at our reception foyer for you to browse and to see how you at home can become more eco-friendly.

We are also happy to announce that due to our Walk to School Month and our continual effort to walk, cycle or scoot to school, we are retaining our Gold level School Travel Plan Award. Well done Colindale!



*Ms. L. Thompson (Eco Leader)*

On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March, **Colindale Choir** took part in the most amazing singing performance at Wembley Arena. What a night! The choir sang amongst 5000 other children from different parts of the UK to form a massed choir. They all worked very hard, learning many songs off by heart and it really paid off. Not only did the children get to sing in

one of the most prestigious venues, they also got to meet and greet two artists, HRVY and Roadtrip who also performed that evening. All of the children got a special T-shirt to wear for the performance which they had signed by the artists.

It was a very long day with rehearsals beginning at 3pm and the concert



finishing at 9:45pm, but with all the excitement, the children were able to sing their hearts out until the end. The stunning banner that the choir made, was paraded on stage at the beginning of the concert, carried by Saman (4M), Vibushan (4G) and Sophie (6M) and we could hear the rest of our choir chanting out their

support as it appeared. Izzy (6M) said "I really enjoyed the singing and dancing and also meeting HRVY and Roadtrip. It was the best trip ever!" A parent said "This was an amazing experience for the children to take part in."

This concert, called *Voice in a Million* is an annual singing event organised to raise

awareness of the plight of children in care and the importance of adoption and fostering. We are looking forward to performing at Wembley Arena in the future, so if you would like a chance to take part in this singing event, watch out for the next choir letter.

*Ms. Marshall (Music Leader)*



#### UNICEF Rights Respecting School - Article of the Month

**March is Article 28 - Education. All children have the right to a good primary education, which should be free. Wealthy countries should help poorer countries achieve this.**

Each month the Rights Champions vote for the new article of the month. It was World Book Day and Science week in March, so Article 28 about a good education was the obvious choice. All of the 42 rights in the UNCRC are equally important, but at school Article 28 is particularly special to us. Children at Colindale enjoy their right to a good education every day, but for some children in other parts of the world it is not that easy. Rights Champions learnt that an estimated 61 million children around the world are not going to school. They felt passionately about this and went back to their year groups to discuss it further. Some of the issues talked about were barriers to getting a good education, how we can help to get more children to school and why education is important. It is wonderful to see children taking an interest in the world around them and working to make it a better place. *Mrs. Wate (UNICEF Leader)*



'Unfortunately due to the recently poor weather, only a few **football matches** have been played this half term. The boys football team played their quarter final match in the Martin Cup against Edgware at the beginning of March and played brilliantly. After 90 minutes the game finished 2-2 and went to penalties, where Colindale lost 4-2. The following week the boys played The Hyde and lost 2-1 but drew 1-1 with Broadfields. In the last week before Easter there are the final few league games for both the boys and girls football teams, it will be an exciting week to see where the teams finish in the leagues after an impressive season!



Please encourage your children to kick start their day with a healthy infusion of exercise by coming along to **The Daily Mile!** They can catch up with friends whilst doing some exercise. They don't have to run or sprint.....they can walk, jog, hop, skip or dance! I look forward to seeing everyone on the courts at 8.30am!

*Ms. Nuttal (PE Leader)*

## School Council Update

The school council met with our UNICEF Rights Respecting champions to feed back on how much our children know about their rights, and to see how we are progressing towards the RRSA silver award. The upper school council are currently looking into how much plastic we use in school and are speaking to their classes about how we, as a school, can reduce it.

*Ms Wayland (Deputy Head)*



Over the last couple of weeks the children have been writing a letter to the school governors to argue why they think London Zoo is a good trip for year 6 children to go on each year.

On Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March ninety year 6 children went on **a trip to ZSL London Zoo** in Regents Park. Even though throughout the day it rained and everyone got completely soaked, the children had an amazing time seeing all the animals that they had been learning about this term. They also took part in a habitat and adaptation workshop, which was practical and a lot of fun.

Here is an example from Georgia:

*Ms. J Thompson (Year 6 Teacher)*



Dear Mrs Franks

26<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Thank you so very much for your letter asking Year 6 our opinions if animals in captivity is a good or bad thing. I am extremely interested to hear that the parents of Colindale Primary School have complained that the trip to London Zoo (ZSL) was inappropriate as a result of animals being kept in cages.

My friends and I think that keeping animals in such a small enclosure is unacceptable; Yes, the trip was fun, but seeing most of the animals sleeping and bored wasn't. It is widely known that animals need lots of exercise in their natural habitat to keep them healthy and active. But being slumped on the Zoo floor just shows how poorly the animals are. Imagine you being locked up in a small room with nothing to do all day other than being fed.

It is argued that some animals are maintained in a very similar recreation of their natural habitat; the monkeys, bats and sloths are kept in a humid, spacious environment. However, animals such as tigers and lions live in a really cramped space. How are they meant to run around and keep healthy in such a small enclosure? Well, they can't.

Although most animals find it enjoyable to be looked at by the members of public - just like the penguins, who seemed to get closer to us - some are stressed. In February 2017, a gorilla broke out of its cage. They certainly don't need us to tap on the glass and interrupt their privacy.

Every living thing on this earth has the right to be free. It is right to say that zookeepers take good care of the animals. Helping, caring and breeding is what they do best, but all animals are capable of doing these actions themselves. In other words, these animals need to learn how to be more independent by feeding and caring for themselves. Don't you think?

To sum this up, the trip was a nice day out for Year 6 and the teachers. We still appreciate the teachers efforts even though seeing miserable, bored animals wasn't ideal.

Yours sincerely,

Georgia Etareri

If your child has an infectious illness such as Chicken pox, Measles or Slapped Cheek (Fifth disease or Parvovirus B19), please telephone the office and ask to speak to Mrs Celi or Ms Napthine. This is very important as we would need to alert the parents of children in our school who have low immunity. These illnesses could be dangerous for these children and their parents would need to contact their child's doctor or hospital if their child was exposed to such an infectious illness.

Thank you for helping to keep all of our children safe.



### Year 5's Trip to the Welsh Harp Environmental Centre

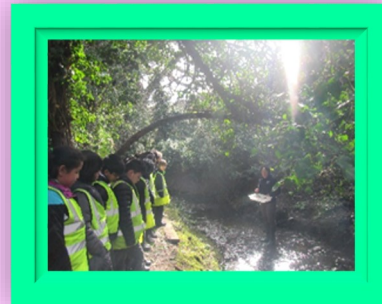
At the end of February, Year 5 went on a local trip to the Welsh Harp Environmental Centre. We went there to take part in a hands-on workshop learning about water pollution and its effect on the natural environment. Once we had arrived, the children became 'water scientists' as they found out about the different ways that our waterways can become polluted and they learnt how this can affect the animals that live in the environment and also the water that humans drink. Aydin said, *"One of the interesting things we learnt was about 'fatbergs'! This happens when cooking fat is poured down kitchen sinks and it gets stuck in the sewer pipes, this is bad because the sewers can get blocked."*

After the classroom activities, we went outside to the ponds to see how clean they were by looking at samples of the water and by observing some of the wildlife there. After, we walked through the woods to the Kingsbury Brook to find out how some pollution, such as rubbish and water from disconnected pipes, had affected this natural water way. We also found out that blood worms can be found in polluted rivers and we were able to see what one looked like in a water

sample. We then tested some of the river water using a simple scientific method which involved adding a small nitrate tablet to a water sample

and shaking it for 5 minutes. Our arms really ached afterwards! We noticed how the water had changed colour and we learnt that this was because of pollution.

At the end of the workshop, we returned to the classroom where we were able to study some insects and small animals that lived in the local waterways; the children had fun trying to identify them. Year 5 had an enjoyable time at the centre and hope to go back again one day. Mrs. Dray (Year 5 teacher)



**Parent  
Champions**  
Barnet  
Colindale Primary School

On March 7th, our Parent Champions ran an information event open to all parents with children aged 2-4 years old.

They gave parents information about local children centres, libraries, nurseries and child care providers, so that they could access lots of free events with their children like stay and play, toddler groups and ESOL classes for themselves. There are so many activities you can take part in around Barnet. If you would like more information please call our Parent Champions



on 07384 615 491 or meet them in the family room

I just want to take this opportunity of wishing all the children and families of Colindale Primary School a restful, peaceful and enjoyable holiday.

School returns on Monday 16th April.

Lucy Rodgers (Headteacher)