

# Colindale Primary School Newsletter

## February 2017



### Family Matters Workshops

Our Family Matters workshops give parents an opportunity to participate in a variety of activities with their children. This term Reception and Nursery parents attended workshops with a focus on healthy eating, physical development and dental hygiene. They found out about the surprisingly high sugar content in some foods and drinks, such as yoghurts and fruit juices. They made healthy pitta pizzas with their children and joined in with an exercise session.

The workshops have been a real success with both parents and their children, with lots of positive feedback. One Reception child commented "I had the most amazing fun day at school today, it was my best day ever".

Thank you to the parents who have participated in the workshops so far. We will be running more Family Matters workshops in the future. We look forward to seeing you there!

Mrs Maria Andreou, Family Matters Workshop Co-ordinator



### Open Lessons

Last term we introduced a new way of forming letters in order to help the children join up from an earlier age and to be more consistent throughout the school. This new method is to use 'out strokes' so the joining of letters will be easier. Earlier this term, Year 2 held open lessons to share how handwriting is taught. The teachers showed parents different types of wrist and finger exercises the pupils do before each hand writing session. The pupils modelled how to sit correctly and how to tilt their books so that they could see what they

were writing at all times. Each hand writing lesson includes a physical warm up, writing individual letters and then practising the same letters joined up. By the end of Year 2, pupils are expected to use the diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters in their writing, with some children consistently joining up all their writing. Many parents came to the open lessons and found them helpful with how to help their children at home.

Ms Nisha Parmar (Assistant Headteacher)

### Year 5 Trip to the Science Museum

We made our journey by train to South Kensington. When we got to the station we walked all the way to the spectacular museum. Once we arrived, we first went to meet an experienced cosmonaut (a Russian astronaut). It was a man dressed up, but he told us all about what life would be like in outer space. Afterwards, we went to the incredible IMAX cinema to watch a movie on one of the largest screens in London! The

movie was about how we ruin our beloved Earth and how astronauts live on the ISS (International Space Station). We went to the Science Museum because in Science this term we are learning all about Space! This trip helped us learn lots more!



Jasmin Ahmadzai (5B)

### Future dates

Please go onto our new website at

[www.colindale.barnet.sch.uk/calendar/](http://www.colindale.barnet.sch.uk/calendar/)

The school calendar will let you know about all the important events coming up in school.

### Complaint from a neighbour.

I have had a complaint from one of our neighbours about the amount of litter our children and families are dropping as they go to and from school and about parking in private drives at the start and end of everyday. Please be considerate and treat our neighbours with respect.

Thank you.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Visit from IES Vegas Bajas Spanish School

On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February, Year 6 children and pupils from IES Vegas Bajas (a school from the south of Spain) enjoyed a fun afternoon together, where our visitors practiced their English and our Year 6 pupils practiced their Spanish. Children from Colindale School prepared a variety of typical dishes from different countries to welcome our visitors. Thank you very much to all the parents who helped prepare the food.



Children interviewed each other in the languages they are learning. A really fun and educational afternoon!



Our Year 6 ambassadors guided our visitors on a tour of our school. Our visitors were very impressed, especially with how well our pupils speak Spanish.



## ParentPay - our new online payment service

We are pleased to announce that we will shortly be accepting payments online for items such as dinner money, school trips, clubs and uniform. Using a secure website called ParentPay you will be able to pay online using your credit or debit card. ParentPay will be our preferred method of making payments to school.

### What are the benefits to parents and pupils?

ParentPay is easy-to-use and will offer you the freedom to make online payments whenever and wherever you like, 24/7. The technology used is of the highest internet security available ensuring that your money will reach school safely – offering you peace of mind. Payments can be

made by credit/debit card or also through PayPoint—full payment histories and statements are available to you securely online at anytime. Your children will not have to worry about losing money at school. Parents can choose to be alerted when their balances are low via email and/or SMS text

### What are the benefits to our school?

The more parents that use ParentPay, the greater the benefit is to our school. You can help us reduce workloads for all staff, creating more time to lend to educational support and the smooth running of the school. Using ParentPay also ensures that all financial transactions are safe and secure - helping us to remove costs associated with us having to manage cash securely on the school premises.

### How to get started with ParentPay.

We will shortly be sending you your account activation details, just follow the instructions in the letter we give you to get started with ParentPay.

