

# Colindale Primary School Newsletter December 2016



Dear Parents and Carers,

This term we have had a few changes of staff at Colindale, which is only to be expected in such a large school. We say goodbye to Miss Katie Fox, who is leaving us for a promotion in another school; Mr Paul Bonavia, who is returning to Australia; Mrs Mona Coyne who is retiring after over 20 years of cooking at Colindale; Miss Sarit Gafan who is leaving us to explore a new career; Miss Fatima Rehman, who left earlier this year to get married and live abroad; Mrs Leza Krouwel, who has moved out of London; and Mrs Smith, who left us to look after her mother. We wish them all the best for the future.

We are pleased to welcome Mr Geoffrey Moor who is our new School Business Manager; Jason Varney who has taken over teaching 6S; Mrs Joan Butler who has joined our team of Nursery Nurses in the nursery; Miss Jennifer Murphy and Miss Hannah Christianson who have joined our team of Special Needs Assistants. I am sure you have all made them feel welcome. In January we will also be joined by Mrs Ruma Ahmad, who will be teaching 5F.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a peaceful and happy holiday!

Lucy Rodgers, Headteacher



## No nuts!

I am sadly still finding packed lunches which contain nuts or product with nuts in them. Please remember that Colindale is a nut free school. That means no nuts, or food that contain nuts e.g. chocolate spread, can be brought into school at anytime, in packed lunches, nor on school trips! This is very important as we have children and staff who are highly allergic to nuts.

Thank you.



It has been an exciting first term for the Eco Committee. They have been very busy making our school more Eco friendly. The Eco Councillors carried out an Environmental Review

which highlighted the areas we could improve to become more environmentally sustainable. They decided that the main Eco School topics to focus on for this year should be Energy and Waste. We had Switch Off Day on 15th November to save energy. All day the classes kept their lights switched off and didn't use any electrical equipment. This was a great success as we saved 28% of the electricity we usually use! This is the same amount of electricity a house

uses in 10 days! Since Switch Off Day the children and staff have been trying to reduce the amount of electricity they use by switching off lights when they leave their classrooms and turning off electrical equipment when they are not being used. Waste was also highlighted in the review as Eco Councillors recognised that we could recycle more within our classrooms. Every classroom will now have their own recycling bin to reduce the amount of paper we waste through not recycling. The Eco Committee were excited to announce all of this to the whole school on 7th December at their first whole school Eco assembly. During the assembly the councillors urged all the children and staff to work with them to make Colindale Primary an excellent Eco School.

Lisa Thompson 3T

## School Council Update



This half term the school council have been selecting furniture for our outdoor spaces. They chose from a wide selection of benches and picnic tables and decided on some rainbow coloured items, which they said reflected our school's Rainbow Values. The council were pleased that their suggestion of hav-

ing more play time and less queuing time at lunch break has resulted in a new system, to be introduced next term. The school council has planned a visit to the Houses of Parliament on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2017 for a *Your Voice* workshop. They will tour the Palace of Westminster and learn about how the UK is governed.

Wendy Wayland (DHT)



**Handwriting:** Over the last few weeks, the children have been learning a new style of joined up handwriting. This cursive approach ensures that all letters are continuously joined together, with a clear distinction between capital and lower case letters. Handwriting is taught in three, short, lessons a week and where possible linked to phonics and spellings. Pen licences can be gained from Year 3 once children have developed fluency, speed and neatness. In order to help your children gain their pen licence, you can remind them of the style they have learnt and ensure that they are sat on a chair at a table, which is the correct height. They should sit straight with one hand on their tilted piece of paper in order to keep it still. We look forward to seeing an improvement in handwriting across the whole school and to working alongside you and your children to ensure that this will happen.

Francesca Taylor, 5T

## Year 4 Animation Project

Year 4 have had the exciting opportunity to work with a professional animator to make one of their stories come to life. The children in all 4 classes have written their own fantasy story about a magic object. Then they voted for the best story in the class, wrote the script and designed and made each scene and all the characters. Reza, the professional animator then worked with each class, using the animation equipment to make their story come to life.

**Look out for the links on Frog and on YouTube to each animation.**

Mrs Susie Averbrook (Assistant Headteacher)

Making the scenes

Moving the characters

Working with an Animator

Using technology



During this half of the Autumn Term, pupils in Year 1 have been learning about different celebrations, across different faiths. They have learnt about Diwali, Harvest, Birthdays, New Year, Chanukah and Christmas and how and why these celebrations are important. The pupils have enjoyed telling their peers how they celebrate at home with their families. They have learnt about these celebrations across several curriculum areas. In Art and DT they have created diva lamps, Indian lanterns and made vegetable soup, snowmen, Christmas trees and mini hanukkiyahs (special me-

norahs). Each child has also made their own non-fiction book about celebrations. It has been a fantastic topic!



Ms Nisha Parmar (Assistant Headteacher)

**Dropping off at the school gates in the morning is essential to ensure your children are safely in school.**

**Please do NOT let them walk into school by themselves, unless they are year 6 Independent travellers.**

**All other children must be dropped off at, or taken through, the school gates. The car park gates at Clovelly and Poolsford are NOT entrances into the school. Please take your children up to, or bring them through, the gates where a member of the senior leadership team will be waiting to greet them.**



**Thank you.**

## FRIENDSHIP DISCO – WEDNESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2016

The PTA held their first event for the new academic year, a Friendship Disco, to coincide with anti-bullying week. The turnout was exceptional with a total of 303 pupils attending both discos. Everyone had so much fun dancing and of course eating pizzas!

We had lots of group dancing games and for the first time we held a dance off for the best boy and best girl. Our DJ, DJ Simon, said competition was tight, but four finalists were chosen at each event and **wow** they

danced their socks off in the final! Choosing a winner was tough but in the end the results were as follows:

In the Y1-Y3 category the winners were **Chloe (3D)** and **David (3D)**. In Y4-Y6 category, **Kayla (4M)** and **Muwahhid (5B)**. Well done to all of you, you were fantastic! The event ran smoothly. This could not have been achieved without the support of the brilliant parents and staff who volunteered to help and of course the PTA members. Thank you, your valued support is, as always, greatly appreciated.

The amount raised for this event was an impressive £637.38.

Mrs Michelle Grossi, PTA Chair

