COLPAI NEWSLETTER

CITY OF LONDON PRIMARY ACADEMY ISLINGTON

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A message from the Head Teacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hats off to Gresham Class who led this week's 'Something Special' assembly, dazzling their audience of parents and peers with many geographical facts on the topic of North and Central America. As ever, my thanks to all parents of our Year Five families for supporting their child's learning. The children certainly showcased their impressive public speaking skills.

Likewise, my sincere thanks go to Mr Spencer, Ms Robey and Ms Wright for taking a group of COLPAI pupils to the recent Islington Boccia festival. As an inclusive school, COLPAI was proud to take part in this festival. Boccia is a Paralympic sport that was introduced in 1984 and involves athletes throwing, kicking or use a ramp to propel a ball onto the court with the aim of getting closest to a 'jack' ball. It was wonderful to hear about our children having such fun, fully determined to hit the 'jack' ball.

What a sporty week this has been! We also had a team of Year Six pupils who enjoyed a trip to Beacon High Secondary School where they represented COLPAI in a primary school athletics competition. Filomena and Zara reported with great excitement on the opportunity to compete in an exhilarating range of athletic competitions including running, high jump, triple jump, vertical jump and javelin. COLPAI teams were placed first or second in many of the races and we await to hear the final school ranking for the competition. Thank you, Ms Wright and Mr Spencer, for leading this afternoon of energetic sport.

COLPAI pupils will be performing in a City school musical event to take place in March 2025. This magical event will be hosted at the prestigious Guildhall. This week our ten choristers, selected from Year Five and Year Six, attended the City London School to commence rehearsals and planning for the big day. COLPAI pupils will be composing their own song based on the theme of resilience and the piece will be performed with the accompaniment of an orchestra drawn together from a selection of City schools. I can't wait for what will be a spectacular event. My thanks to Ms Crocombe and Mr Klein who chaperoned this week's visit.

As the festive season begins in earnest, I look forward to seeing parents, carers and friends of COLPAI at the Winter fair, Nativity and the Winter concerts.

With kindest regards,

Ms Kim Clapham
Head Teacher

A message from the Chair of Governors

Dear Parents and Carers,

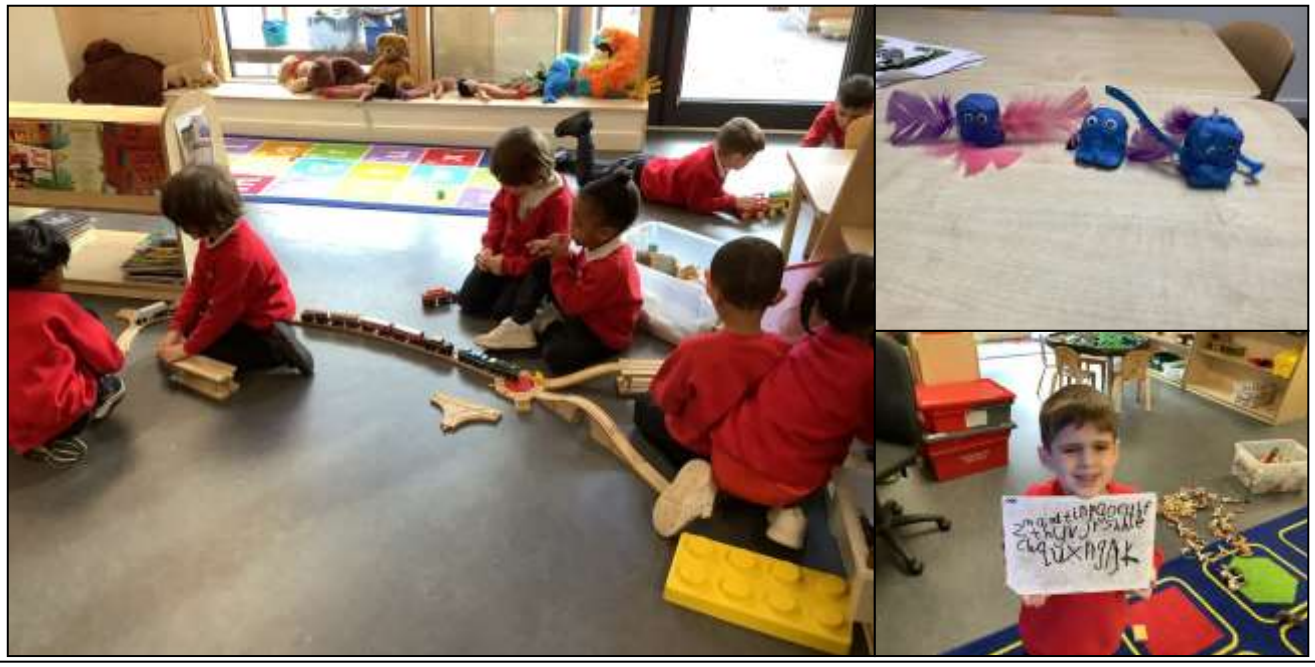
We are in the grip of 'lurgy' season and I wanted to say well done to the children for their common sense and hygiene awareness around coughs and sneezes and rigorous hand washing. Parents, well done. Attendance is still great in spite of the sniffles. I especially wanted to thank our SLT, teachers and support staff. The school diary is packed and complicated with assessments, training, pupil progress, trips and excursions, scrutiny visits, rehearsals for Winter productions and preparations for parent consultations alongside the core teaching day. You have really rallied in spite of many of you feeling very much under the weather. This is hugely appreciated and gives our children continuity, however good a supply teacher can be. Thank you all so much.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend,

Mary Robey
Chair of Governors

RECEPTION

This week in Reception, we've been working incredibly hard practising our Nativity. We're learning how to project our voices from the stage! Thanks so much to all the parents who have helped their children practise lines at home. We have also been learning about animals and their homes or 'habitats'. We've been talking about hygiene and washing hands carefully, especially at the moment as there are lots of winter viruses going around. It's been a great week of learning, play, routines and relationship building, as always.



YEAR ONE

In Maths, Year One students have been exploring the number 20 in depth. Through hands-on activities and visuals, they are learning to recognize, count, and represent 20 in various ways. The class has been using ten frames, number lines, and groupings to better understand place value and how 20 can be made up of tens and ones. These foundational skills are helping to strengthen their confidence with numbers and early arithmetic concepts.

YEAR TWO

This week in Art and Design, Miss Morgan was teaching Year Two how to make a vehicle with a wheel and axle mechanism. So far, the children have learnt how wheels and axle are simple machines and the history of the wheel. Year Two have really enjoyed making the base and next week, they will focus on the body and power source, so please remember to bring in your junk modelling! Using new materials and learning to join them together can be tricky, so well done to Year Two for their resilience and can-do attitude!

YEAR THREE

This week, the children started their learning about the Bronze Age. They learnt about how people lived in the Bronze Age through discussing illustrations of what settlements would have looked like and exploring primary sources. The children completed a carousel activity in pairs in which they examined and discussed photographs of artefacts from this period of prehistory. The children were so sensible and loved sharing their facts; great work, everyone!

YEAR FOUR

In Year Four, the students have been working hard on improving their writing by focusing on avoiding repetition. They've been learning how to use pronouns and alternative nouns to make their writing flow more smoothly. Recently, they applied these skills while creating instructional pieces on the process of mummification. The children were fascinated by the ancient Egyptian practice and enjoyed describing each step in detail, from the removal of internal organs to the final wrapping in linen. In Maths, the class has been tackling the challenge of multiplying and dividing three numbers consecutively. They've been using their knowledge of previous multiplication facts to make solving more complex problems easier and faster. The children have gained confidence in applying these strategies and are excited to see how their skills improve with each lesson.

YEAR FIVE

This week, Gresham Class embarked on a fascinating activity, diving into the big questions about the world and humanity's role in it. Using their creative writing skills, each pair turned one of their 'bad world' stories into a compelling news report for the fictional "God Watch News."

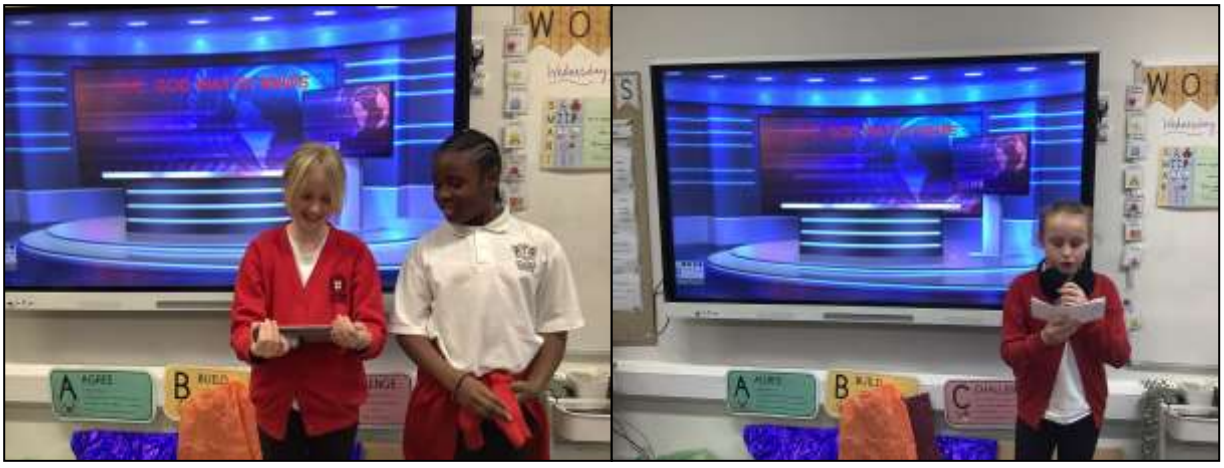
Working in groups, the children explored three thought-provoking viewpoints:

Could this event be absolute proof that God doesn't exist?

Does it show that God wants humans to take action and make the world a better place?

Or, does it reveal nothing about God, placing responsibility squarely on humanity?

Their reports featured anchors delivering the news with poise, eyewitness interviews sharing vivid details, and expert commentators adding depth to the story. The activity encouraged lively discussion, critical thinking, and a deeper understanding of different perspectives. Well done, Gresham Class!



Look out for news from Year Six in our next newsletter!

EXCEPTIONAL LEARNERS!

Silk Reception	Petra	For speaking kindly and positively interacting with many different friends in the class, showing independence during free flow time.
	Henry	For demonstrating his impressive sense of responsibility, helping the teachers with important classroom jobs.
Sun Reception	Ariana-Rose	For consistently showing the utmost respect to her peers and adults in the classroom. Her positive attitude toward learning is truly commendable and inspires those around her. Well done, Ariana-Rose!
	Zia	For demonstrating remarkable growth in his interactions with others and for stepping outside his comfort zone to share more during whole-class discussions. His efforts are truly impressive and contribute positively to the learning environment. Keep up the great work, Zia!
Rose Year One	Louie-Blu	Louie-Blu has shown an amazing effort this week, actively participating in class and improving his handwriting skills. He has really pushed himself, especially by challenging his independent writing skills and working hard to answer during class discussions. He has shown great focus and determination.
	Antonin	Tony has had a wonderful week of learning! He has displayed excellent effort in class, particularly during Maths, tackling challenges with focus and persistence and actively working on his engagement and participation. His hard work and determination have been evident; keep up the fantastic work!
Regent Year One	Freddie	Freddie's behaviour is nothing short of exceptional! His kindness, manners and positive attitude towards learning are a joy to see. Freddie shone particularly in our Geography lesson this week, using coordinates to navigate a map. Well done, Freddie!
	Solal	Solal has been a wonderful writer in our Literacy lessons this week. He has gone above and beyond, through challenging himself to include and spell complex adjectives to add more detail to his sentences. Well done, Solal!
Drapers Year Two	Reggie	Reggie is my Maths Marvel this week! He is has been working so hard during Maths, putting his hands up to answer questions and pushing himself to try out our Math challenges! Fantastic effort, Reggie... keep it up!
	Poppy	Poppy is my exceptional learner this week for her overall effort in all areas of learning! She has shown great concentration and dedication to getting all her work done to the best of her abilities! Poppy is also a superstar helper in class and is always finding ways to support her friends and teachers.
Dukes Year Two	Kiaan	Kiaan and Freddie have both blown me away and been my Math Marvels all week! I am so impressed with their detailed explanations and demonstrations to the class on the white board, modelling how to find missing numbers. They have both also used and modelled the hundred square correctly, ensuring the class are super clear on which way we count up and back in 10's and 1's. Thank you for showing such dedication to your Maths work, boys, and well done!
	Freddie	

Monument Year Three	Abdullah	Abdullah has recently been welcomed back into the COLPAI family and it feels as though he never left us! He has worked hard this week to settle in to new routines and make lots of new friends. He's been working hard to display the different ways in which he is a SMART learner. Well done, Abdullah.
	Charles	Charles has been reading confidently and proudly to his peers, adjusting his tone to convey different characters' thoughts and feelings. Varying his tone when characters are speaking has helped him where and why inverted commas are needed to indicate direct speech in his own writing!
Mansion Year Three	Gabriella	Gabriella has been the most fabulous learning partner this week. She has been helping people on her table to understand the four times tables by helping them count in fours, as well as showing wonderful respect by showing her partner magnet eyes and joining in for partner talk.
	Aidan	This week, Aidan has showed great perseverance. This week we tackled play scripts about the Stone Age, they can be tricky to format but Aidan kept on trying his best and didn't give up until it looked prefect! I was so inspired by your perseverance, Aidan and felt very proud; well done!
Fleet Year Four	Damian	Damian did an excellent job this week explaining the process of mummification, using clear and detailed descriptions. His use of fronted adverbials, like "After the body had been prepared," and "Afterwards," effectively structured the narrative, guiding the reader through each step.
	Araz	I was really impressed by Araz's independent work in Maths this week, particularly his dedication to improving his fluency in addition. He worked diligently, demonstrating great focus and determination. It was great to see him use manipulatives to represent his addition calculations. Keep up the excellent work, Araz!
Farringdon Year Four	Alin	Alin has shown she can persevere, ask questions and participate effectively in Maths. She was able to collaborate with her peers to overcome obstacles and succeed. I have been so proud of Alin's effort and aspiration towards beating her personal best! Well done, Alin.
	Ralph	Ralph has been a star this week, working hard to improve on his answers in Reading to explain how the author has chosen specific vocabulary to paint a picture of the characters. Ralph has shown he understands how using pronouns and alternative nouns makes writing less repetitive.
Gresham Year Five	Wren	You have worked extremely hard with your Maths this year and are really starting to master the Year 5 curriculum! Also, your writing, reading comprehension and contributions in lessons are wonderful. To top it off, you are a ray on sunshine and positivity in the class. Thank you and keep it up.
	Modasser	You work extremely hard in all lessons and are ALWAYS ready to contribute with insightful comments and questions. I really appreciate your high aspirations: you push yourself to 'flex' your brain in every lesson and have produced some very high-level work. Thank you!
Whittington Year Six	Mia	Mia's quick arithmetic skills are truly impressive; she can solve problems in the blink of an eye! Not only that, but Mia has shown excellent knowledge of ratios, effortlessly working out complex ratio word problems. Great work, Mia!
	Annie	Annie has been writing an excellent narrative. Her descriptions have been vivid and she has truly captured the voice of her character, bringing them to life by skilfully expressing what they think and feel. Amazing work, Annie!

ATTENDANCE

Silk: 92.96%
Sun: 94.14%
Rose: 95.00%
Regent: 98.85%
Dukes: 98.97%
Drapers: 93.33%
Mansion: 95.42%
Monument: 94.00%
Fleet: 97.60%
Farringdon: 96.40%
Gresham: 96.07%
Whittington: 97.93%
WHOLE SCHOOL: 95.16%

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Tuesday 10th December: Year 4/5 Indoor Cricket competition.

Wednesday 11th December: Individual parent/carer meetings with teachers.

Thursday 12th December: Reception trip to the Little Angel Theatre; Christmas Jumper Day; PTA Festive Fair.

Tuesday 17th December, 14.00: Reception Nativity play.

Wednesday 18th December, 14.00: Key Stage 1 Nativity musical, led by Year 2 with Year 1 forming the choir.

Thursday 19th December, 1400: Lower Key Stage 2 Winter musical, led by Year 4 with Year 3 forming the choir.

Friday 20th December: Last day of term.

Monday 6th January: INSET day.

Tuesday 7th January: Back to school!