



COLPAI NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents and Carers,

A message
from the
Head
Teacher

At the end of this half term, we will say farewell to Ms Olivia Staunton, one of our graduate teaching assistants. I know parents, carers and children will all join me in thanking Ms Staunton for her excellence and commitment to the school, first as an office assistant and then as a teaching assistant. After much careful consideration about her future career, Ms Staunton has decided to join the Civil Service to pursue a career in the development of government policy. My sincere thanks to Ms Staunton for leading a wide range of intervention programmes across the school. I am pleased to confirm, subject to final vetting and checking processes, that graduate Mr Jack Klein will be joining the team to take over from Ms Staunton. Jack will be visiting COLPAI on four days next week to get to know the pupils with whom he will be working, thus ensuring a smooth handover. I know parents will join me in warmly welcoming Jack on board.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend,

Ms Clapham
Head Teacher

A message
from the
Chair of
Governors

My Tuesday was brightened considerably this week by joining Gresham Class on a walk around the City of London to 'beat the bounds', an ancient custom to demarcate the boundary of a parish. We were the guests of Fr Jack at St Giles, Cripplegate and we joined a large party of local residents and members and officers of the City of London on a bracing walk. The children, bearing sticks and beating drums, were absolutely gripped by the history of the locality and the warm welcome they were given. A delicious tea concluded the afternoon. A huge thank you to Fr Jack and our neighbours for including us so generously and congratulations to Gresham, for your beautiful manners and impeccable behaviour.

On parent tours this week, every single visitor in my group had been recommended to visit COLPAI by an existing family. They spoke about what great ambassadors your children are and how highly you speak of the school. As you know, Primary schools across London are currently suffering from declining pupil numbers resulting in slashed budgets, year groups being combined, mergers of schools and school closures. The support and loyalty of our families and your positive engagement in school life help to ensure the future success of COLPAI with a thriving school community and our healthy pupil numbers. Thank you so much for spreading the word!

Have a glorious weekend,

Mary Robey
Chair of Governors



A PLAYGROUND PLEA!

As we head into the colder, wetter months, we're looking to refresh and expand our collection of toys and activities for the children to enjoy during wet play and on the playground. We would be incredibly grateful for any donations of gently used items that your children may have outgrown, or if you happen to spot any great finds in charity shops.

Here are some examples of what we're looking for:

- * Action figures and small toys
- * Duplo or other building sets
- * Dressing up costumes and accessories (hats, capes, old scarves, etc.)
- * Toy cars or vehicles
- * Blocks (wooden, plastic, or foam)
- * Board games and puzzles
- * Card games (like Uno, Snap, etc.)
- * Pretend play items (kitchen sets, play food, etc.)
- * Outdoor toys (balls, skipping ropes, hula hoops)
- * Arts and crafts supplies (colouring books, crayons, markers)
- * Soft toys (teddy bears, plush toys)
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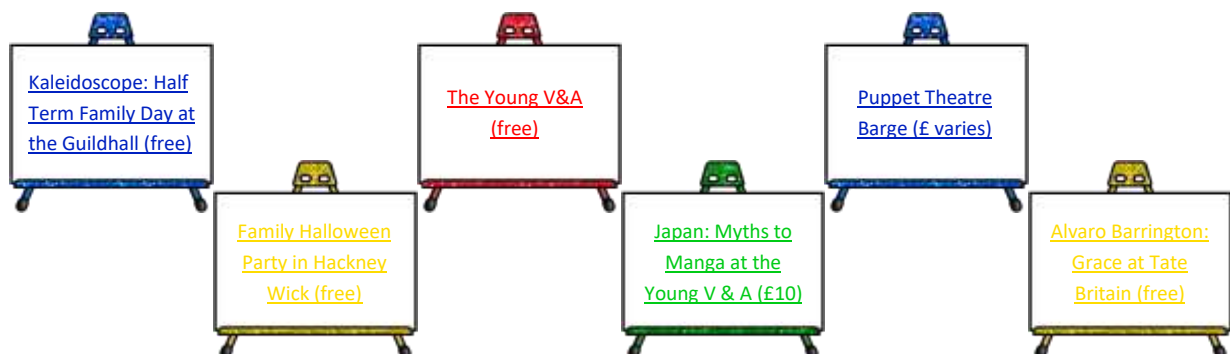
If you have any of these items that are no longer in use at home, or come across any during your next visit to a charity shop, we would love to give them a new home at school. Please drop them off at the main office. Your contributions will help ensure the children have plenty of fun activities to enjoy, whatever weather.

Thank you for your continued support!

PTA COFFEE MORNING

Come and join us for a coffee and a chat on Friday 25th October 2024 between 8:15 - 8:45am! The PTA would like to welcome and meet the new cohort of COLPAI parents, and catch up with the old. We would love all parents to pop by and get to know the PTA, and put forward any ideas for future events and fundraising. We are always looking for helpers and volunteers. So, please do come along to find out how you can help, meet other parents and get to know the PTA team.

With half term fast approaching, many of you will be on the lookout for fun cultural experiences to keep your children busy and learning during the break. Our lovely Art & Design Lead, Ms Morgan, has done lots of the legwork for you, finding six fun and festive activities you might fancy, all but two of which are completely free of charge! Click on the easels below to find out more about each event and book tickets. Thank you, Ms Morgan, for the recommendations!



RECEPTION

This week, Reception have been learning to write three letter words in Literacy and continuing to practise finding rhyming words! In Maths, we have been counting groups of objects and saying which group has more or less. We have been learning about the seasons and how to put our coats on independently now that the weather is getting colder!



YEAR ONE

In art with Ms Morgan, Year One have been working hard on refining their portrait painting skills. After practising each of the different features, we are now onto painting our portraits. We made sure we looked in the mirrors to match our skin, eye, lip and hair colour as closely as we could. Year One have also made colour 'patchwork' backgrounds, influenced by celebrated artist Bisa Butler.



YEAR TWO

In Literacy, we have been learning about traditional tales! We have learnt that traditional tales are stories that have been told and retold for many years. This week, we read 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' as well as a few other traditional tales such as 'The Three Little Pigs' and 'Little Red Riding Hood' to explore what the stories had in common! We found that each story had a hero and a villain and each story had a beginning, a build up, a climax, a resolution and an ending. After exploring different stories, we worked on retelling the story of 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' by drawing a story map of the journey the characters take. Then we acted out each part of the story and created freeze frames! Watch out, we had some really scary trolls in the class!



YEAR THREE

Year Three displayed their team work and detective skills this week as they became researchers when learning about our new book, 'Ug'. This launched the beginning of Year Three's exciting cross-curricular Literacy and History learning journey! The children were shown the front cover of 'Ug', and asked to predict whether the text is fiction or non-fiction. Next, the children were told to act like historians, undertaking research to find out more about the story's historical setting of the Stone Age. They used a variety of sources to gather information and share their newfound knowledge with their peers, working together to build a picture of what it was like living in the Stone Age.



YEAR FOUR

This week in Year Four, both classes have worked hard to plan out their writing using standard English, past tense and direct speech. We have culminated all of the hard work over this half term to produce a narrative that uses all of these features. The children have been learning about estimating answers in Maths, looking at the nearest multiples of 1,000 and 100 to work out which answers are more accurate. In Science, we produced a diagram of the water cycle, where children used scientific vocabulary accurately and intentionally. History saw us discuss and give opinions on the inventions of the Ancient Egyptians, helping to deepen our understanding of the impact their civilisation has had on modern day life. We are also nearly a third of the way through our Big Read book - Edward Tulane has gotten himself in all sorts of trouble! A brilliant week for Year Four!



YEAR FIVE

Last week, Gresham Class embarked on an exciting trip to the Greenwich Observatory, where they delved into the wonders of space. The day kicked off with a fascinating tour of different types of telescopes, learning how these incredible tools help astronomers explore the distant reaches of the universe. A real highlight was the immersive session in the planetarium, where students learned about the role of satellites in combating climate change by monitoring Earth's atmosphere and environmental changes. They also discovered which planets in our solar system are most similar to Earth. It was a day full of inspiration and awe, which left everyone eager to learn more about the cosmos!



Look out for news from Year Six in next week's newsletter!

EXCEPTIONAL LEARNERS!



Silk Reception	Melorine	For fantastic work trying to 'Fred talk' three-letter words.
	Sasha	For demonstrating excellent sitting and listening during carpet sessions.
Sun Reception	Ada	For her growing confidence and speaking skills in Sun Class, especially during show and tell.
	Cooper	For his determination and perseverance in independently writing a CVC word during Phonics.
Rose Year One	Alba	Alba has worked hard this week to improve her concentration and focus in class. She especially challenged herself in Maths, staying focused, completing all her work and assisting her peers! Her determination and effort has really paid off. Keep up the amazing work, Alba!
	Samuel	Samuel has shown great improvement in both his behaviour and focus this week. He has been working hard to be consistently ready to learn, particularly during Literacy, where he has been working hard to independently write sentences. What a wonderful week, Samuel!
Regent Year One	Get well soon, Ms Maric!	
Drapers Year Two	Nathan	Nathan is my exceptional learner this week for his perseverance in Maths! This week, we have been practising some tricky addition and subtraction questions in Maths, but this didn't stop Nathan from trying his very best and pushing through! I was so impressed with his resilient and positive attitude.
	Aras	Aras is my Computing Wizard this week and always; he is such a helper during Computing lessons. We have been learning to do some complicated coding on the computers and Aras was able to whizz through the lesson as well as help his friends out as well. Thank you for being such a lovely teaching assistant!
Dukes Year Two	Mia	Mia has blown me away this week with her continual effort and the resilience she puts into all areas of her learning,, even when she finds certain areas challenging! Mia has also produced some stunning home learning over the past few weeks. Well done, Mia; keep it up!
	Nathan	Nathan continues to impress me with the determination and growth mindset with which he approaches his school work. He is also a model of excellence to his peers, consistently showing great lining up and following instructions. Well done, Nathan!



Monument Year Three	Leo	Leo showed great perseverance and teamwork when at the football tournament with Mr Spencer on Monday. Despite the weather, Leo continued to shine, modelling excellent behaviour and a wonderful can do spirit... Great effort, Leo!
	Charlie	This week, Charlie has been a Maths Magician! She has mastered adding and subtracting using the column method, even with exchanging! Charlie always gives 110% effort, showing she is listening with her magnet eyes then diligently working to ensure her calculations are clear and accurate.
Mansion Year Three	Kaleilah	Kaleilah has displayed impeccable kindness this week when supporting friends who are in the 'blue' zone. She has drawn upon a range of strategies to ensure her friends transition from 'blue' to 'green' and are therefore ready for their learning. This supports a calming, relaxing learning environment.
	Arthur	Arthur has blown me away this week with his mathematical skills. He is drawing upon previous knowledge such as number facts to support his learning when adding and subtracting three digit numbers. His contributions during lessons are consistent and well thought through. Well done, Arthur.
Fleet Year Four	Anastasia	Anastasia's hard work and dedication to her learning has really shone this week. During Literacy lessons, her magnet eye focus ensured she knew what to do when she began her independent work. Her eye witness report written from the perspective of Beaver has been creative and accurate. Great work!
	Charles	Charles' ambition to be an excellent mathematician has been clear this week. Not only has he been working hard on perfecting his number formations but he's constantly looking for ways to challenge himself! He is ready to do Maths at any moment of the day! Impressive, Charles!
Farringdon Year Four	Malick	Malick has shone this week, working hard and being as determined as ever. He has shown he can work out two-step Maths problems, answer questions in Reading and be successful in Spelling. He has shown he can be a kind and caring friend and is an absolute joy to have in the classroom.
	Chloe	This week, Chloe has been a brilliant member of Farringdon. Not only is she a ray of sunshine to adults and children alike, but she has also excelled in her learning. From asking interesting questions in History, to planning out her writing with care and detail, Chloe has shown she takes pride in her work.
Gresham Year Five	Camille	Camille has had a super week. She has gone above and beyond when mastering direct speech during our literacy lessons, ensuring perfect punctuation and adventurous synonyms for said. Great work, Camille!
	Teddy	Teddy has worked so hard this week! He has been a super star mathematician and produced some beautiful handwriting! Well done, Teddy!
Whittington Year Six	Bradley	This week, Bradley really wowed me by working independently and putting in a tremendous amount of effort in History. It was fantastic to see him engage with the sources, as he explained what he could see happening in each one. Well done, Bradley!
	Esme	Esme has truly impressed me in Maths with her thoughtful contributions, understanding of efficient methods for tackling calculations and her speedy equivalent fraction finding. Keep up the fantastic work, Esme – you're an absolute star!

ATTENDANCE

Silk: 96.30%
Sun: 91.00%
Rose: 92.08%
Regent: 91.85%
Dukes: 97.24%%
Drapers: 97.78%
Mansion: 99.55%
Monument: 97.69%
Fleet: 99.20%
Farringdon: 98.80%
Gresham: 96.55%
Whittington: 97.24%
WHOLE SCHOOL: 96.21%



DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Monday 21st October, 08.40: Year 3 Monument and Mansion 'something special' assembly. Parents and carers of both classes are invited to attend. Year 3 and 4 girls' football tournament at Market Road.

Friday 25th October: last day of half term.

Friday 8th November: individual school photographs being taken. Year 2 school trip to the National Maritime Museum.

Thursday 14th November: Year 1 'Not Now, Cyril!' workshops in King's Square Gardens.

Friday 15th November: Year 5 school trip to the Emirates Stadium.

Monday 25th November: Year 5 'something special' assembly. Parents and carers welcome to attend.