COLPAI NEWSLETTER

CITY OF LONDON PRIMARY ACADEMY ISLINGTON

A message from the Head Teacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been an action packed week for trips all round with Year Six visiting the Islington Ecology Centre in Gillespie Park, as well as the Sobell Leisure Centre to participate in the Junior Citizenship Scheme; Ms Robey's Literacy group attending the New Age Kurling Festival; and students from Years Five and Year Six taking part in the Islington inter-schools dodgeball competition. Without our dedicated and committed staff team, who always go the extra mile, these trips would not be possible. Please join me in showing much appreciation for our dedicated teachers and TAs.

This week, our awesome school choir, comprised of Year Four, Year Five and Year Six pupils, attend the iconic O2 arena to perform as part of the world's largest children's choir. Over 8,000 children took part that evening, representing schools from all over the UK. Our phenomenal children performed in a breathtaking concert alongside professional artists and the amazing Urban Stride dance troupe. The excitement and energy that filled the arena was unforgettable. I raved alongside Ms Robey and Mr Crump, our teachers and Tas, the children and all the mums, dads and invited family members, making this one of the most unforgettable school trips I have ever attended! Please join me in thanking our wonderful KS2 Music teacher, Ms Brown, and supporting staff, Mr Klein, Ms Godleman, Ms Morgan, Ms Robey and Mr Crump, who worked on until 10:30 pm in the evening to make COLPAI's participation in this event possible. My sincere thanks to all parents who supported and encouraged their children's participation, hard work and practice. At COLPAI, we promote music and singing as an integral part of our ambitious, broad and balanced curriculum and through our enrichment offer in the strong belief that singing promotes our children's wellbeing mental health, confidence and sense of community.

Hats off to all! What a resoundingly successful week.

Ms Kim Clapham
Head Teacher

A message from Mr Spencer

We kicked off our 2025 sporting calendar with two different events: the Year 3-4 Sports Hall Athletics on Friday 17th January and the New Age Kurling Event on Tuesday 21st January. The Sports Hall Athletics had a mixture of Year 3 & 4 students take part in a range of both field and track events, with each individual scoring adding to the schools overall points. Field events consisted of standing long jump, 5 stride challenge, chest push, javelin throw, vertical jump and speed bounce. Track events included 1 lap race, 2 lap race, 1 lap hurdles, 4 x 1 lap relay, over and under race and obstacle race. The over and under race proved to be a big hit with students! Participants had to race each other whilst simultaneously going over hurdles and under tunnels before passing on their baton to their team members. It was a fantastic chance to get a taster of competitive athletics with the Summer Finsbury Park Athletics coming up in the near future.

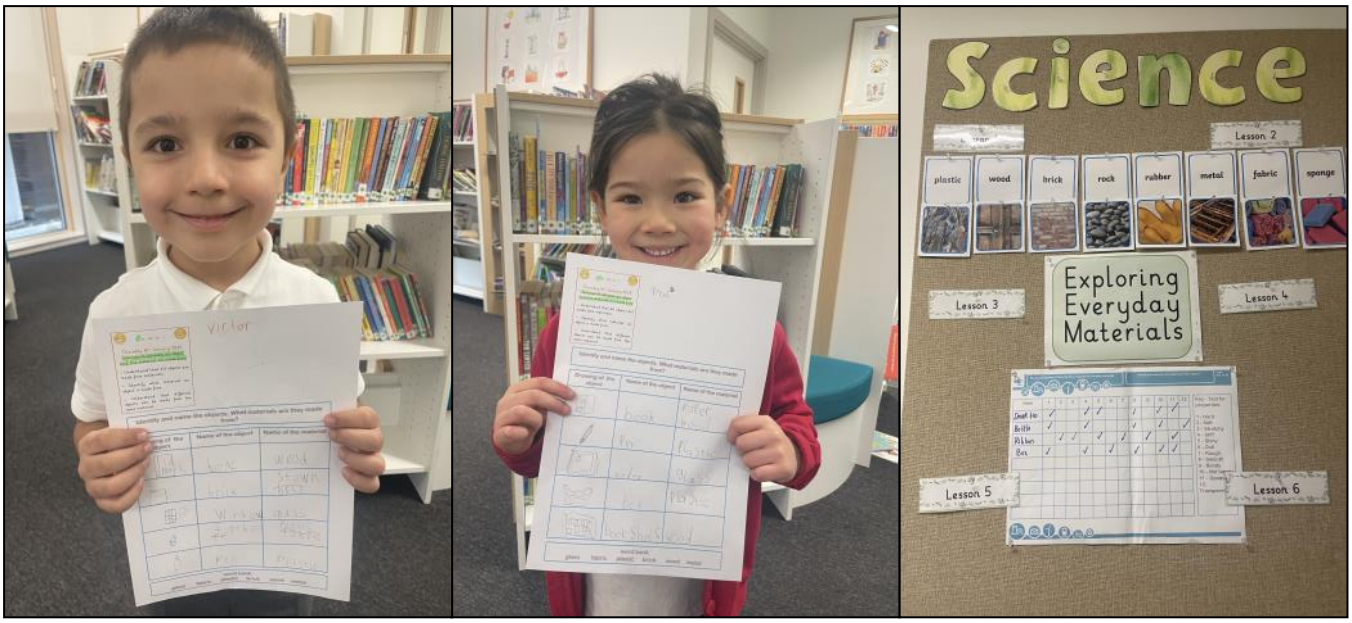
We had another event on Tuesday 21st January with the relatively unknown New Age Kurling. This sport is similar to bowls, but is traditionally played inside and uses a static target rather than a moving ball. Each team has a set number of stones and take it in turns to slide a stone towards the target.
The team which has their stone closest to the centre of the target at the completion of the end receives one point, with an additional point for each stone closer than their opponent's nearest stone. As well as the tradition games of Kurling, we also played some fun variations such as Noughts and Crosses Kurling and Bowling Kurling. A huge well done from me to everyone involved other these two events and looking forward to many more upcoming competitions.

RECEPTION

This week, Reception has explored their core Literacy book: 'Toys in Space'! We focused on retelling the story orally, using actions. The children created their own story maps and used their phonics knowledge to label their pictures. They used picture cards to sequence the events in the text whilst being exposed to time connective language such as 'first', 'next' and 'after that'. In the Art area, students also enjoyed making puppets based on the 'Toys in Space' characters. We are thoroughly enjoying learning about all things Space! This week, the children also enjoyed learning about the first moon landing and significant people in History such as Neil Armstrong and Mae Jemison.

YEAR ONE

This term in Year One, we've been diving into the wonderful world of materials! From the toys we play with to the tools we use, we've been discovering that everyday objects are made of all kinds of different materials. We've been on a mission to explore and describe the unique properties of these materials—like wood, plastic, glass, metal, and rock—and how they make up the things we see and touch every day! Guess what? Sometimes things are made of more than one material, making them even more exciting to investigate!



YEAR TWO

This week in Literacy, we worked in partners to read a text to help us with our Plague research. We discussed how the text was a secondary source as it wasn't written at the time of the Great Plague, and instead was written long after the fact using information taken from primary sources. After decoding the text together, we then used our comprehension skills to scan and retrieve facts to answer a range of questions to help us with our understanding. The children used iPad and dictionaries to help with their research.

YEAR THREE

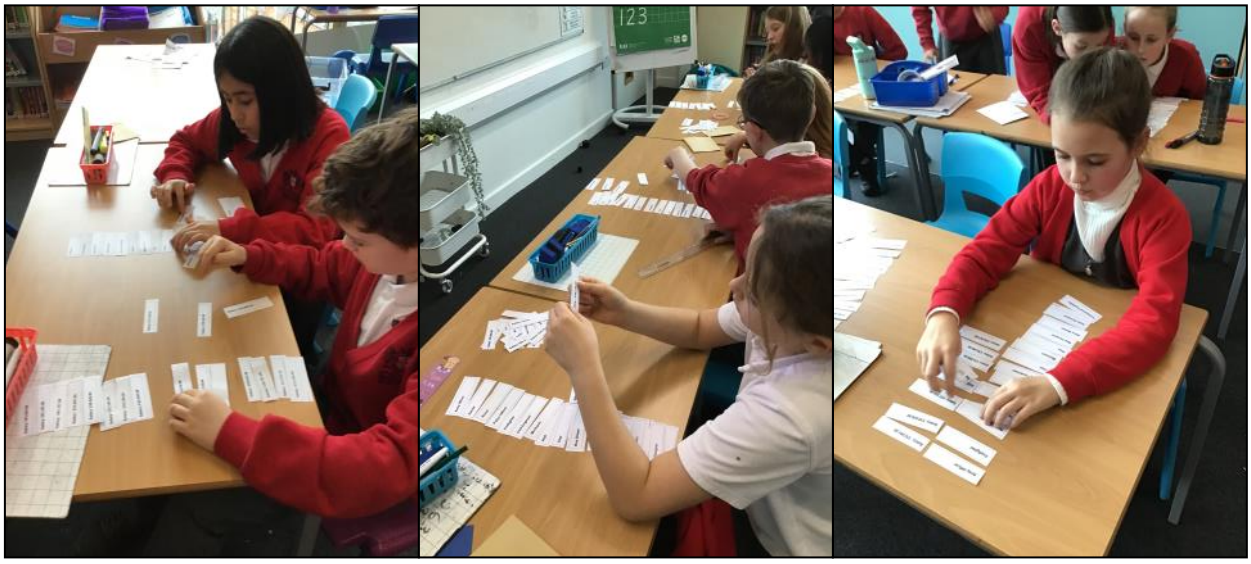
This week, Year Three are considering how changing different elements that plants need to grow will impact the plants growing process. They have started their experiment by planting seeds and controlling different variables and throughout the course of the next weeks will track the growing process, recording and discussing their findings. They have already started demonstrating their 'work scientifically' skills by asking their own investigation questions; for instance, what will happen if the plant gets only a small amount of light? We're looking forward to seeing the results!

YEAR FOUR

In Year Four this week, we have been including features such as fronted adverbials, rhetorical questions, expanded noun phrases and similes in our writing to aspire for greatness. In our writing, we've been exploring the chambers of Tutankhamun's tomb, describing the discovery of the different rooms that Howard Carter would have found when he discovered the tomb himself. From the Burial Chamber containing the ancient coffin to the Treasury Room featuring fascinating artefacts, Year Four have undeniably produced some exceptional writing about each hidden corner of the tomb. Meanwhile in Science, we have been developing our understanding of extreme weather conditions, with careful focus on what happens in different parts of the world and how extreme weather conditions occur. All the children in Year Four continue to diligently practice their times tables whilst learning how to complete correspondence problems. It has been a very successful week in Year Four; keep up the good work!

YEAR FIVE

This week in Jigsaw, Gresham Class explored the different occupations someone might have. We first enjoyed a fun game of Jobs Charades, where the children acted out a job for the class to guess! I was particularly amused by the 'teacher' charade. Next, the children ranked a selection of jobs in order of importance. Most children put jobs such as nurses and teachers at the top and footballers as least, and there was great discussion about why this was and whether it was right! The children then had to match the correct salary to each occupation; there were definitely some surprises! I was really impressed by the compassion and thought the children gave to the types of work that some people do.



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

EXCEPTIONAL LEARNERS!

Silk Reception	Hajime	For always approaching his learning with a positive attitude and a smile on his face. Silk Class appreciates his positivity!
	Aaliyah	For trying her best to listen with her whole body in carpet sessions and always participating in our songs and dances.
Sun Reception	Adam D	For his impressive retelling of the story 'Toys in Space.' He demonstrated a clear understanding of the plot and showed great attention to detail in sharing the story with his peers. Well done, Adam D!
	Aria	For strong Maths skills, particularly when learning concepts such as "more than" and "fewer than." She consistently demonstrates a clear understanding and applies these concepts effectively during lessons. Well done, Aria!
Rose Year One	Ripley	For her positive participation in all classroom discussions. Ripley always brings fresh ideas, thoughtful questions, and a positive attitude that helps make our conversations more engaging and meaningful. Her willingness to share and listen makes her an inspiration to her classmates.
	Richmons	For being an exceptional learner during all times of the school day! Richmond always makes good choices and does the right thing in class. He is kind to others and helps make our classroom a happy place. Richmond always tries his best and sets a wonderful example for everyone in Rose Class!
Regent Year One	Joel	Joel has been working incredibly hard on perfecting his writing skills in our Literacy lessons. This week, he blew me away with his carefully formed letters and his accurate spellings. He even challenged himself to use conjunctions in his sentences, too. Wow, Joel... keep it up!
	Haniya	Haniya has been building on her independence in our Maths lessons and this week, she has been mastering her numbers to 50! She shows resilience and care in her work, and it is lovely to see her confidence growing. Well done, Haniya!
Drapers Year Two	Isabella	Isabella was a superstar all week by putting in phenomenal effort into each piece of work that she completed. She has been focused and engaged in all lessons, asking and answering questions, using her magnet eyes and being a great talk partner. Well done, Isabella!
	Josh	Josh has blown Ms. Charles and me away during his Phonics lessons this week! Not only are we impressed with the progress that he has made since the beginning of the term, but we are also so proud of the way that he has been modelling SMART learning during the lessons. Bravo, Josh!
Dukes Year Two	Malachi	Malachi has really impressed me with his sensible and mature behaviour this week. Many adults around the school have commented on his expectational behaviour, good listening and following instructions. Thank you, Malachi; you are a super star!
	Tianne	Tianne is such a wonderful member of Dukes Class. I am blown away by her growth mindset and positive attitude. She displays acts of kindness daily and is always offering her hand to help with jobs. You are a pleasure to have in the class, Tianne. Well done!

Monument Year Three	Aidan	Aidan has been working hard in Literacy lessons this week. He has mastered using conjunctions and wrote them super neatly in his book. It was a tricky thing to learn but Aidan persevered and I am extremely proud; well done, Aidan!
	Keira	Keira is helpful, kind and friendly to everyone. As well as this, Keira has worked hard in Maths this week to answer word problems using multiplication and division. She has been focussed and diligent in checking her work, learning from her mistakes and trying her best. Great work, Keira!
Mansion Year Three	This week, each and every member of Mansion Class has blown me away with their considerable kindness to each other throughout the day. Inspired by our Kindness Ambassador program, Mansion have shown constant consideration to their peers, members of staff and everyone in our school community this week by working hard on their listening and teamwork skills, recognising the importance and impact of kindness. As always, I am so proud of you and again, it has been a joy teaching you this week!	
Fleet Year Four	Orest	Orest was a Spectacular Scientist this week. His engagement during the class discussions was inspirational. His ability to ask questions to further and deepen his understanding showed off his critical thinking skills. He was just as rigorous while doing research for his group assignment. Well done, Orest!
	Leo	Leo has been the ultimate Literacy Legend this week. His attention to detail meant that every single sentence he wrote in his setting description of Tutankhamun's tomb hit not only one but sometimes multiple success criteria at once! He included wonderful expanded noun phrases, creative similes and dramatic short sentence for impact. Keep it up, Leo!
Farringdon Year Four	Gabriela	Gabriela has been an exceptional member of Farringdon this week. Her dedication to improving her writing has been awe-inspiring, and her positivity and engagement with every lesson shows that she has a passion for learning. Well done, Gabriela… keep being your best self!
	Alex C	Alex has been so kind to his peers this week. He has been seen countless times helping others who may be struggling, caring for those around him and displaying empathy and respect for others. Alex has also shown improvement in his writing, taking care to include the features we've been learning about.
Gresham Year Five	Arabella	For demonstrating exceptional resilience and perseverance in mastering long multiplication. Your hard work, determination, and dedication have truly paid off. You tackled every challenge with a positive attitude and never gave up, proving that perseverance leads to success. Congratulations, Arabella!
	Elias	For showing outstanding enthusiasm and curiosity while exploring our reading text, Odysseus. Your ability to unpick tricky language and make insightful inferences brought the story to life for everyone. Your passion for learning and thoughtful contributions truly enriched our discussions.
Whittington Year Six	Annie	Annie made a brilliant start to our percentages unit and has demonstrated a solid understanding of the relationship between decimals, fractions, and percentages. Her enthusiasm and grasp of these concepts are truly commendable. Keep up the fantastic work, Annie!
	Emma	We've been planning an action-packed narrative and Emma has truly excelled. She's planned some clever use of close call moments and engaging dialogue that will definitely propel her story forward, making it exciting and dynamic. Well done, Emma!

ATTENDANCE

Silk: 97.04%

Sun: 93.93%

Rose: 95.65%

Regent: 97.31%

Dukes: 97.24%

Drapers: 98.52%

Mansion: 94.14%

Monument: 98.00%

Fleet: 98.80%

Farringdon: 97.20%

Gresham: 98.62%

Whittington: 99.31%

WHOLE SCHOOL: 97.19%

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Tuesday 28th January: Reception hearing and vision tests.

WC Monday 3rd February: Children's Mental Health Week, led by Ms Tozer.

Monday 3rd February: Years 5 & 6 London Careers Festival.

Wednesday 5th February: Viking workshop for Year 5.

Friday 7th February: Dress to Express Day and NSPCC Number Day; small group of Year 2 children attending Islington Working Together Festival at Arsenal.

Monday 10th February: Year 2 'Something Special' assembly; parents and carers welcome to attend. Small group of Year 5 children attending the Guildhall Maths Challenge.

Wednesday 12th February: Year 3/4 Tri-Golf event; after school Multiplication Tables Check workshops for Year 4 parent/carers.

Friday 14th February: last day of half term.