COLPAI NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

A message from the Head Teacher

What a busy and rewarding few weeks it has been! As the evenings draw in, I have been struck again by how much our children achieve when they are given the chance to challenge themselves, contribute to our community and simply enjoy learning together. Here are just a few of the highlights from the past fortnight.

Firstly, I would like to give a much deserved shoutout to Zachariah who recently won a silver medal at the British National Junior Qingda Championships 2026 in the Boys 8–9, under 33 kg category. It caps a great year for him: in July he also won silver in light sanda and gold in an exhibition fight. He has trained very hard, and his Kung Fu instructors, his family and friends and his teachers so proud of him. Bravo, Zachariah!



Our Year 6 classes have just completed an intensive week of swimming. Each day the children worked hard to secure the national curriculum expectation of swimming 25 metres confidently, using four different strokes: front crawl, backstroke, breaststroke and butterfly. Alongside stroke technique, pupils learned vital water safety and life-saving skills, including how to stay safe if they fall into water unexpectedly, how to call for help and how to support someone else in difficulty. These are skills that can genuinely save lives, and it was wonderful to see the children grow in confidence over the week. A huge well done to every Year 6 swimmer and thank you to the swimming instructors, support staff, Ms. Reid and Ms. Tozer for their excellent work.

COLPAI Values

- Respect
- Excellence
- Aspiration
- Creativity
- Teamwork



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Our Gardening Club has been busy getting their hands dirty for a very good cause. The children are working on a biodiversity planting project, choosing and planting pollinator-friendly flowers and shrubs to help create a butterfly and bee pathway through the city. In a busy urban area like ours, small green spaces make a big difference. Each patch of nectar-rich planting acts as a steppingstone, helping pollinators travel, feed and thrive. The children have been learning about which plants attract which insects, how to care for them through the seasons, and why biodiversity matters for all of us. We are very proud of our young gardeners!

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It was a great honour for our school choir to be invited to perform at the Lady Mayor's Garden of Remembrance. The children sang beautifully and respectfully, and their performance was a moving tribute that added real meaning to the occasion. Our choir was made up of the following pupils: Castille, Liana, Elissa, Dalia, Gabriella, Isabella, Keira, Arya, Noa and Ema. Thank you to every one of these children for representing our school with such pride and excellence.

I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Ms. Eades Jones for expertly preparing the choir for their performance. My thanks also go to Ms. Wright and all of our parent volunteers for accompanying the trip. Trips like this simply would not be possible without their generosity and support.

Our PTA once again worked their magic with a fantastic Bonfire Bake Sale. The tables were piled high with delicious treats and the MUGA was full of warmth and good cheer. Thank you to the PTA for organising and leading the event, to all the families who baked, donated and bought, and to everyone who helped set up and clear away. Every penny raised goes directly towards enriching our children's experiences in school.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. It is the partnership between home, school and our wider community that makes our school such a special place to learn and grow.

With warm wishes,

Kim Clapham
Head Teacher



Rememberance Day

This Thursday, our whole school came together to celebrate Remembrance Day. We took part in a respectful two-minute silence to remember and honour those who have lost their lives in wars. In class, we learnt about the importance of Remembrance Day, the significance of the poppy and why it is so important to remember those who fought for our freedom.

In Year 5, some of children spoke of family members who had fought during WW2. They also mention how important it is to be grateful.



On 2nd November, ten Year 5 children had the honour of singing at the Remembrance Service at St Paul's Cathedral. Their singing provided a moving and heartfelt contribution to this special occasion. It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to take part in such an important civic event and to represent their school with pride.



Black History Month

Throughout October, our school proudly celebrated Black History Month, recognising and celebrating the achievements and contributions of inspirational Black individuals. During Wednesday and Friday assemblies, every class explored six biographies of influential activists, athletes, artists and advocates, learning about their lives, achievements and the barriers they overcame. Through reading, discussion and sharing their reflections, children were inspired by these remarkable role models and encouraged to think about how they too can make a difference. Celebrating Black History Month is an important part of our school community, ensuring that Black voices, stories and achievements are recognised, valued and celebrated. It provides a meaningful opportunity for our children to broaden their understanding, appreciate diversity and develop respect for different cultures and experiences. Most importantly, it reinforces our commitment to creating an inclusive school where every child feels represented, valued and inspired.





Pupil Voice

YEAR 1

Aretha Franklin is inspiring because she used her big voice to sing about respect, treating men and women equally and being kind to all people, no matter what skin colour they have.

Mae Jemison

"She made me dream about space."

"People can be whoever they want to be."

Nelson Mandela is inspiring because he has taught us to not give up on something when we know it's right.

Josephine Baker: She stood up for herself. She said "we have to be fair to each other".

When I see her dance, she makes me think of dancing.

YEAR 6

Frederick Douglass

Isaac - Frederick Douglass was born enslaved as an infant and he tried too escape and I can't imagine how much that would have hurt for him but he still managed to do great things.

Angela Davis

"We've been inspired to fight by Angela Davis because she stood up for what was right." Bella

"Angela Davis is inspiring since she fought for what was right no matter the cost." Haben

Bessie Coleman

"We've been inspired to pursue our dreams by Bessie Coleman because she never gave up and achieved her goals of being a pilot." Arwyn

"We've been inspired to try and try again by Bessie Coleman because she tried to enter flying schols but got denied and then moved to France to fly." Iggy

Shirley Bassey

"Shirley Bassey is inspiring because even though she had a hard childhood, she kept singing and recorded the title track on one of the most famous films." Zahrya

"We've been inspired to show off our talents by Shirley Bassey because she was singing and her soon-to-be manager discovered her." Oliver

"We've been inspired to follow your heart and work hard to achieve your dreams by Ousmane Sembene." - Imaya

Charles R Drew

"Charles R Drew is inspiring because he saved lots of lives." James

"We've been inspired to speak up by Charles R Drew because if you know something isn't right, try and change it." Janet-Victoria

Thurgood Marshall

"Thurgood Marshall is inspiring because he changed the segregation laws." Luca O'B

"We've been inspired to talk to people about what is right by Thurgood Marshall and if they don't do anything, fight for what is right." Nyla

RECEPTION SUN

Last week, Reception and Year 1 enjoyed a special visit from the Domestos Germbusters team! The children learnt all about germs, how they spread and the importance of good hygiene in keeping ourselves and others healthy. Through fun and engaging activities, they explored how to wash their hands properly and help stop germs from spreading.

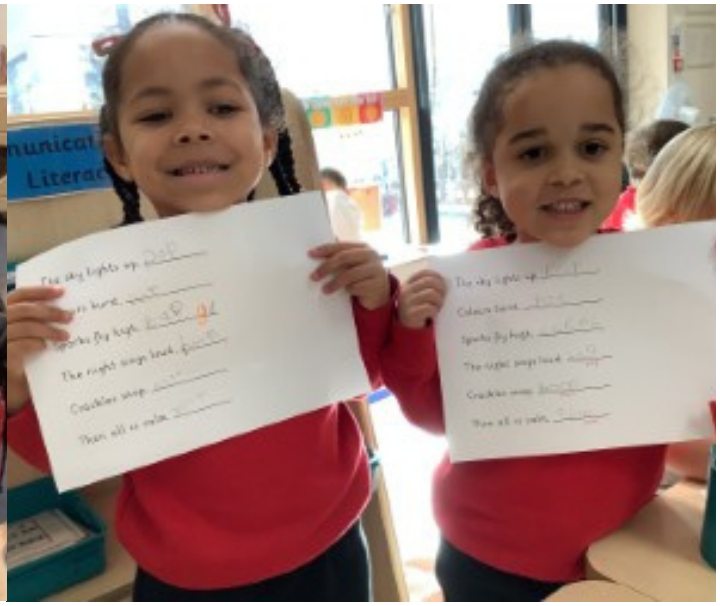
A big thank you to the Germbusters team for helping us become germ-busting experts!





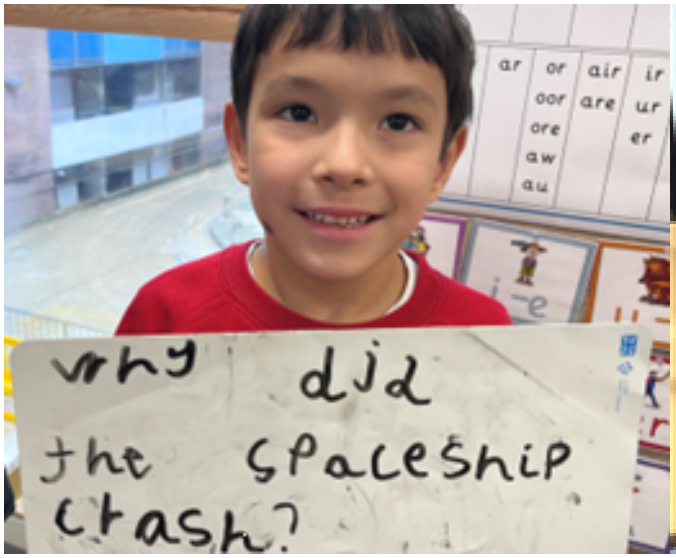

RECEPTION SILK

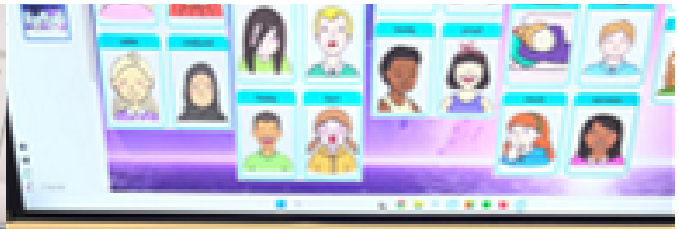
We have had a fun first couple of weeks into our new half term and have settled back into our routines well! We have enjoyed learning about two different festivals, Diwali and Bonfire Night. In maths, we have been exploring 2D shapes and finding one more than numbers within five. In literacy, we have written some brilliant pet fact files and exciting onomatopoeia firework poems! We have started our new unit in PE and have had fun exploring the space and completing challenges as we embark on our journey to Magic School!

YEAR ONE REGENT

Year 1 had a real surprise on the first day of half term when they walked in to find that a spaceship had crashed landed in their classroom! They immediately had lots of questions about the mysterious creature inside. They soon found out that it was Beegu - an alien who had become lost on Earth! Whilst reading through her story, the children discussed the feelings which Beegu must be experiencing and talked about how our bodies can show different emotions through body language. We then played a game where we had to demonstrate an emotion and others had to guess what it was!







YEAR ONE ROSE

This week, the children of Year 1 came to school to find an interesting scene in their classroom! It seemed a space ship had crash landed in our school, but whoever (or whatever) was driving the space ship was nowhere to be seen! The children were astounded at what they saw, and wanted to know more. The children then went onto writing questions to find out more information.





YEAR TWO DUKE

This term in Science, we have been learning about living things, including the life cycles of animals. To support our learning, we have been looking after some chicks in Duke's class! The children have loved observing how they grow and change each day, helping them to develop a deeper understanding of how animals develop throughout their life cycle. It has been a wonderful hands-on experience that has inspired lots of curiosity, questions, and discussions.





YEAR TWO DRAPERS

This week in History, we began learning about the life, travels and contributions of Christopher Columbus. To kick-start our learning, the children worked in pairs to play a true or false game, testing their knowledge and discovering interesting facts about his life and voyages. Next week, we will continue to explore his journeys and their impact, building towards an exciting debate where we will consider the big question: Was Christopher Columbus truly a 'great' explorer?

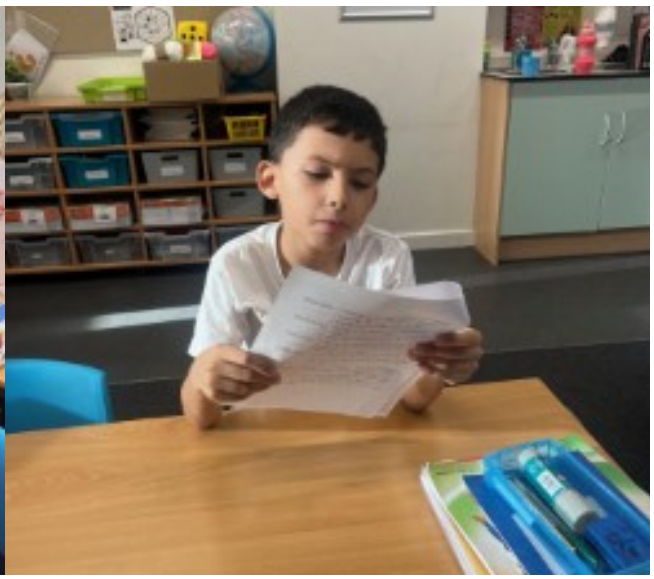




YEAR THREE MONUMENT

Monument Class have been thoroughly enjoying their Literacy lessons, which have been focusing on 'Ug: The Boy Genius of the Stone Age'. First, the children completed their comic strips, using tricks of the trade such as speech bubbles, different fonts and scene setters. Next, the children explored playscripts and their features, through acting out a playscript of Goldilocks and The Three Bears. Finally, the children began to write their own playscript for Ug. Well done Monument, you're unstoppable!





YEAR THREE MANSION

This week, Mansion explored different types of rocks, including slate, limestone, marble, pumice and sandstone. The children tested each rock to see if it contained crystals, absorbed water, made a mark when rubbed, and whether it sank or floated. Using water, torches and sticks, they carried out a range of investigations, made predictions and recorded their findings like real scientists. It was a fantastic hands-on lesson that helped the children learn about the different properties of rocks.







YEAR FOUR FLEET

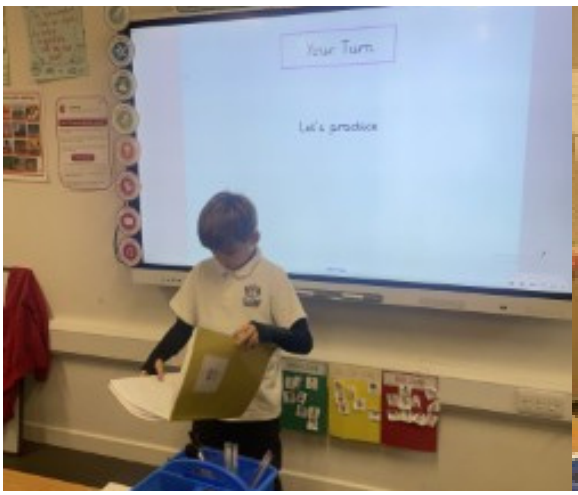
his week, Year 4 have been learning all about the human digestive system and discovering the journey food takes through our bodies! To bring our learning to life, we used everyday household items to create a model of the digestive system. From using food bags to represent the stomach to tights to demonstrate the intestines, we explored how food is broken down, digested and absorbed by our bodies.
The children had a fantastic time getting hands-on, investigating the different organs and understanding the important role each one plays in digestion. A wonderfully messy (but very memorable!) way to bring science to life!

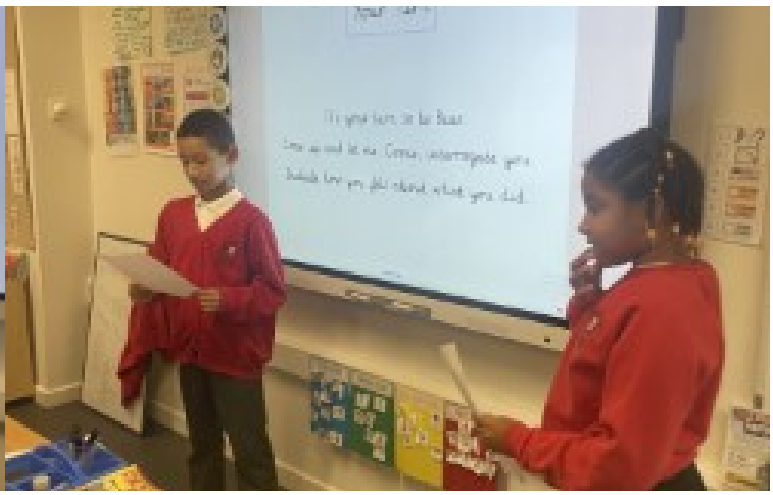




YEAR FOUR FARRINGDON

In Farringdon class we have loved exploring The Great Paper Caper by Oliver Jeffers. The children have become engrossed in the mystery of the missing trees and have enjoyed discussing the characters, their actions and their motivations. Using the story as inspiration, we have written detailed recounts of fictional events, carefully organising our ideas and including key details from the text. We have also developed our reasoning skills by writing balanced arguments, considering different viewpoints and supporting our opinions with evidence. More recently, the children have been stepping into the characters' shoes, speaking in role to bring them to life and deepen their understanding of thoughts and feelings. It has been wonderful to see their creativity, confidence and enthusiasm shine through in their writing and discussions.





YEAR FIVE GRESHAM

Gresham Class have been busy exploring gravity and air resistance through some exciting hands-on experiments! The children made predictions, tested how different objects fall and discovered how shape and surface area can affect the speed at which things fall. There were lots of fantastic observations, thoughtful discussions and plenty of curious young scientists!





YEAR FIVE GOLDSMITH

Goldsmith have demonstrated truly superb teamwork in the last couple weeks, as they have worked together on a variety of table projects in Geography and Science. In Geography, the class competition to find and name all the countries of North America sparked fierce contest. While in Science, our new topic of Forces has already involved experiments testing gravity and air resistance. I have been delighted by Goldsmith's keen curiosity as well as their respectful teamwork skills. A stellar start to the new half-term!




YEAR SIX WHITTINGTON

The children explored how light is reflected from different surfaces and how this allows us to see objects. They set up and carried out a fair test by creating a reflective light catcher using card and a torch, ensuring the distance from each surface was kept the same (15 cm) and working in a darkened room. The children observed how much light was reflected from a range of surfaces and recorded their results in a table. From their findings, they drew conclusions about which materials were most reflective and why.




YEAR SIX WALBROOK

Walbrook have been learning about the natural resources and features found on Earth, exploring how humans use the land and how land use changes over time. They discussed a range of natural energy sources and considered how human developments, such as the construction of roads and other infrastructure, can transform the natural environment. To demonstrate their understanding, the children created and labelled their own diagrams, illustrating different natural resources and features alongside the ways in which people have developed and changed the landscape. They showed great curiosity and thoughtfulness when considering the relationship between the natural world and human activity.




EXCEPTIONAL LEARNERS!

Silk Reception	Eva	For working really hard with her writing and carefully correcting her mistakes.
Silk Reception	Barnaby	Barnaby for really growing in confidence when taking part in our music sessions and for his brilliant subitising skills!
Sun Reception	Enea	For growing in confidence and becoming more willing to share ideas and contribute to our whole-class discussions. Well done, Enea!
Sun Reception	Fabian	For showing great teamwork by playing cooperatively and sharing with others.
Rose Year 1	Billy	Billy has demonstrated an exceptional attitude towards his learning. He consistently shows enthusiasm, curiosity and a fantastic willingness to challenge himself.
Rose Year 1	Esther	Esther is an exceptional learner who consistently demonstrates a positive attitude towards her learning. She is always focused, stays on task and approaches every activity with enthusiasm and determination.
Regent Year 1	Darcie	She has been working very hard in Maths to master subtraction, using her fingers and head to help her!
Regent Year 1	Nailah	Nailah worked so hard in DT this week! She carefully designed her bread roll and drew a picture which showed the fillings inside. She also used her phonics to write a list of equipment - well done!
Drapers Year 2	Freda	Freda is receiving this award for consistently demonstrating determination, resilience, and a positive attitude towards learning.
Drapers Year 2	Dylan	Dylan is receiving this award to recognise his dedication, determination, and outstanding hard work. He consistently demonstrate a positive attitude.
Dukes Year 2	Max	Max has been awarded Exceptional Learner this week for his fantastic contributions in History. As we began our new topic on intrepid explorers, Max impressed us with his thoughtful ideas.
Dukes Year 2	Petra	Petra has shown such a fantastic attitude towards her learning this week and has worked incredibly hard. She is always keen to put her hand up, share her thoughts and have a go.
Monument Year 3	Taylor	Taylor has had an outstanding week. I have been impressed with his behaviour both inside and outside of the classroom. He has been unstoppable in his lessons, especially in Literacy.
Monument Year 3	Darcy	For her hardworking attitude and resilience during our assessments. She applied her knowledge and dligently took time to work out each answer. Darcy could be chosen each and every week for her constant kindness too!

Mansion Year 3	Gelila	Gelila has shown a much more mature attitude towards her learning this term, taking greater responsibility for her work and demonstrating a genuine commitment to improving.
Mansion Year 3	Freddie	Freddie is our exceptional learner as he is exceptionally responsible and trustworthy member of the class. He can always be relied upon to complete jobs to a high standard.
Fleet Year 4	Tianne	Tianne is always striving to do the right thing and trying her very best in everything she does. She demonstrates all of our COLPAI values of Respect, Aspiration and Excellence through her positive attitude.
Fleet Year 4	Ethan	Ethan has made a positive start to this term, he is trying his absolute best every day and working hard to maintain a positive attitude.
Farringdon Year 4	Keliylah	For her consistently positive attitude and determination to always do her best. She approaches every challenge with enthusiasm, works hard in all areas of her learning.
Farringdon Year 4	Iniyaah	She has been showing our school value of teamwork brilliantly this half term! She has been working hard with her new learning partner, always listening carefully and respectfully.
Gresham Year 5	Lara	Her SMART sitting has blown us away. She has been extremely enthusiastic in all lessons no matter the subject! It has been lovely to see her get involved in all class discussions.
Gresham Year 5	Alex	Alex has been on fire this week! Not only has he done wonderfully well in his assessments but his enthusiasm in all lessons is infectious. I can count on him to have his hand up to agree with, build on or challenge his peers.
Goldsmith Year 5	Arya	Arya is my exceptional learner this week because I have been absolutely blown away by her growing confidence in every lesson. In particular, Arya has been trying really hard in Maths lessons.
Goldsmith Year 5	Harrison	Harry has been absolutely exceptional this week in every lesson by challenging himself to go the extra mile. I was particularly impressed by Harry's scientific thinking this week.
Whittington Year 6	Rojiyan	Rojiyan has impressed us with his fantastic ideas in Literacy, making thoughtful and creative contributions to his writing.
Whittington Year 6	Arwyn	Arwyn has made some fantastic contributions to our maths lessons as we have been learning to multiply and divide fractions. Her thoughtful ideas, enthusiasm and willingness to share her understanding have been wonderful to see.
Walbrook Year 6	Anastasia	Anastasia consistently embodies our school value of Respect. She shows great care and consideration for her classroom, her peers and the wider school environment.
Walbrook Year 6	Roman	Roman has shown great enthusiasm for learning, particularly in Science, where his curiosity and eagerness to learn really shine.

ATTENDANCE

Silk 94.8%:
Sun 92.9%:
Rose 94.2%:
Regent 96.9%:
Dukes 94.8%:
Drapers 97%:
Monument 93%:
Mansion 93.6%:
Fleet 97.1%:
Farringdon 97.8%:
Gresham 99.6%:
Goldsmith 90.8%:
Whittington 98.9%:
Walbrook 98%:
WHOLE SCHOOL 95.8%:



DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Tuesday 1st December: 2nd Virtual Parent Meetings 16:30 - 19:00
Wednesday 9th December: KS1 Winter concert 8:45 - 9:15
Friday 11th December: Reception Winter concert 8:45 - 9:15, PTA Winter Fair 15:30 - 17:30
Wednesday 16th December: Years 1, 2, 3 and 4 Choir performance 8:45 -9:05
Wednesday 16th December: Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas Lunch
Friday 18th December: Last day of Autumn term, 13:30 finish
Monday 4th January: INSET day, school closure
Tuesday 5th January: First day of Spring term 1