

Mabel Prichard School

Weekly Newsletter



Message from the Headteacher

28th June 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

What an exciting week week. Yesterday we were visited by the actress Pam St Clement, who played Pat Butcher for 26 years in Eastenders. She came as part of our 'careers encounters' programme, which is focusing on careers in the creative arts this term. Having already interviewed musician Nick Cope, and an apprenticeship specialist in school, and met with various people in their place of work, students were adept at asking questions and listening to Pam's responses. They asked her how long she had trained to be an actress and found out that there are other careers in television, such as hair and make up, and catering. Pam led a stage fight workshop, in line with her character's tendency to get into trouble, where students learnt how to do a fake slap. Students then served her tea and cake from Rosie's cafe and she was very impressed with how her order for very little milk was listened to.

We also welcomed new Early years and Key Stage One students and families to the school at our annual 'Teddy Bears' Picnic' yesterday. It was great to see so many new and existing families and to see the new children settle very quickly to play with our existing learners.

In the final week before the general election, we are holding a mock election for learners. Classes have drawn a party and are campaigning around school. We will share the results in next Friday's newsletter.

You may be aware we have a lot of illness in school currently and have a number of staff and students off with flu like illnesses (some testing positive for Covid) and a sickness bug. If your son or daughter has symptoms of these illnesses, please do not send them in. We do everything we can to manage the spread of viruses on both sites and we have some extremely medically vulnerable learners. We continue to teach high levels of personal hygiene through the curriculum, although this has obvious challenges with our learners.

We continue to look forward to the summer festivals on July 11th and 12th and you will shortly receive information about timings and events. Thank you to those who sent tombola prizes in. If you would like to donate, please do send items into reception.

Finally, have a wonderful weekend.

Best wishes

Lucy

Coming up:

Thursday 4th July
Mabel Prichard
Mock General
Election

Thursday 11th July
Secondary Summer
Festival
&
Speech & Language
Drop In

Friday 12th July
Primary Summer
Festival
&
Speech & Language
Drop In

Friday 19th July
Break up for summer
holidays 1pm

Member of the

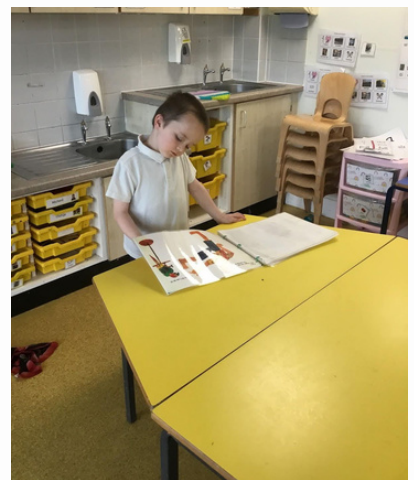


Artsmark
Gold Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England

News from the Classrooms

Yellow Class

The last few weeks have been busy. Yellow Class were involved in the Sports Fest where we did an opening ceremony as a lap of the field with the Olympic torch. We got involved in lots of ball games, the sack race and general running races aiming for the finishing line, made up of lots of hankies. We have been doing activities around the book *From Head to Toe* with Eric Carle, which has included playing with Mr Potato Head, naming parts of our bodies and dancing and singing to Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes.



We have also been contributing to the mural in the corridor when Jon McKay was in. It has been a mish-mash of weather but it has not put us off our outdoor play. We have been in our waterproofs when raining and more recently, have been enjoying lots of water play to keep us cool. We have also made weekly trips in the minibus up to Rosie's Cafe on the secondary site to eat our snack and explore the cafe and the learning spaces on the other site.

News from the Classrooms

Copper Class

Our final term is flying by and Copper class have been working hard as ever. We are now very confident with class routines and are subsequently thriving. We are a great team and learners support and encourage each other.

We have continued to embrace our phonics programme and look forward to individual and group sessions daily. Our intentional sound production has come on leaps and bounds and many learners are showing much greater familiarity with a range of phonemes and their graphemes. We really enjoy playing games such as 'can you touch your...?' to develop our awareness of oral blending too.

We have taken a very hands on approach to maths during our capacity topic and are developing our understanding of concepts such as full and empty. We have worked to generalise our knowledge by exploring a wide range of stimuli, containers and contexts. From cooking, to sensory exploration and problem solving, we are improving our perception and even now applying this to contexts such as preparing our own drinks independently and carefully filling ice lolly moulds to keep ourselves cool in this warm weather.



We have also kept up with our gardening and are finally seeing the results of months of hard work. We have taken home our pepper plants that we grew from tiny seeds, and have dug up our potatoes to take home. Several learners and staff tried baking them for dinner and reported that they were delicious!

This week we took part in Wimbledon day which was a great way of embracing an upcoming sporting event. We enjoyed a range of different racket and ball activities and showed impressive coordination and aim.

Of course another upcoming event is the general election and we have been learning about what it means to vote and ensure that our opinions are recognised. The secondary classes drew lots for a political party each and we have begun to learn about the party we will represent on election day. We have worked to recognise some of the symbolism associated with our party such as their logo and colour scheme. In addition, we have been thinking about ways we can appeal to voters, consider what is important to our constituents (our Mabel Prichard community) and how to encourage others to vote for us by making making a clear choice. We will be setting up our party stand on election day next week with our 'Spongebob' yellow ballot box and a range of activities that we hope our friends will want to vote for. Have a look at the pictures we created of 'the bird of liberty' logo and see if you can guess which political party Copper class are representing. Wish us luck!



HEADTEACHER'S
AWARDS



Teddy Bear's Picnic



Pat Butcher Visit

On Thursday 27th June, Pam St Clements who played the iconic Pat Butcher on Eastenders visited the school to share an insight into her highly successful acting career. The visit was part of our careers programme which seeks to introduce pupils to a wide range of careers. As this term's focus has been on careers in the creative arts. The visit came about after Jack, who is an Eastenders Super Fan, wrote to Pam St Clements.



Skills Builder Focus: Aiming High

This term our Skills Builder Focus will be on 'Aiming High'. Everyone can Aim High, we all have strengths and areas to develop. Aiming High is about having clear goals that are relevant and important to you.



With three weeks of term left everyone's minds are beginning to look to the summer holidays. Now is a great time to think about not only the summer holidays but of the future too. What would we like to achieve in the coming months or even just over the summer holidays? When thinking about the summer holidays consider what will a successful summer holiday look like? How will you achieve this and what might you need?

The Skills Builder Homezone has some great skills challenges for families that you might like to consider exploring over the summer holidays. They can be found at [Skills Builder Homezone](#).

We would love to see anything you do at home with your son or daughter that shows their success so please continue to share on Class Dojo.

SEND Oxfordshire Conversations for Parents and Carers

<https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/send-oxfordshire-conversations-for-parents-and-carers-july-2024>

Oxfordshire County Council are bringing together parents and carers of children and young people with SEND across Oxfordshire and representatives from the SEND local area, including the county council, NHS Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board and the Oxfordshire Parent Carers Forum in order to share a brief update on the overall progress they are making to improve SEND services and put a spotlight on:

- Listening to the voice and views of SEND children and young people.
- Their work with mainstream schools to develop enhanced support for SEND.
- Progress they are making to improve the timeliness of education and health care (EHC) needs assessments.

Throughout the events, there will be opportunities for attendees to ask questions and provide feedback. There are 2 sessions taking place on 1st July from 12:00-13:30 or 19:30-21:00. Booking closes on 28th June. Parents and carers also have the opportunity to complete a [survey](#).



Opportunity for Post 16 Learners

In September Mabel Prichard School will be partnering with The Story Museum in Oxford and some of our post 16 learners will have the opportunity to attend work experience placements every Thursday. We will be working in Visitor Services, the shop and in the Small World Galleries. It is going to be a great experience for us.

There are also opportunities to explore over the summer. If you would like your son or daughter to have either a week block or single day work experience placements over the course of the holidays please contact Tor Broadley at school to book an appointment to discuss this opportunity.

Please note that parents would be responsible for transporting their son or daughter to and from their work placement at The Story Museum and putting in any appropriate support to meet the needs of their child during the placement.

Upcoming Autism-friendly Openings at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History

Autism-Friendly Openings coming up at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History between now and the end of the Summer Holidays.

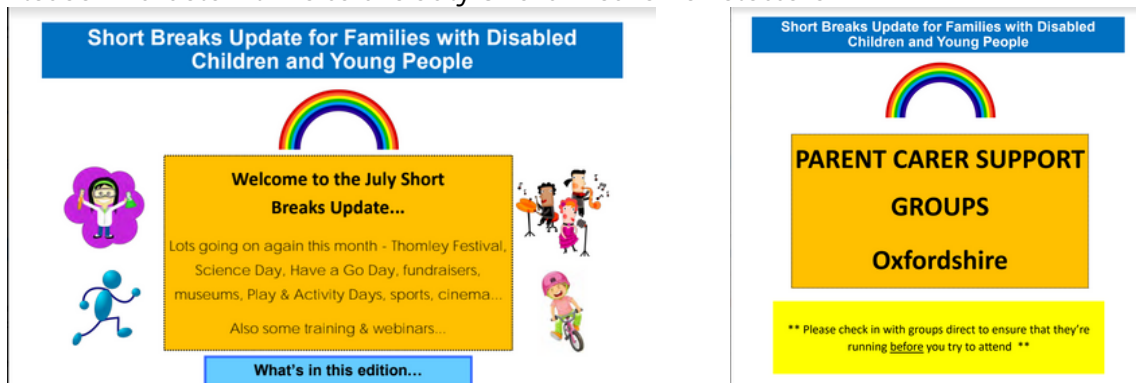
**Friday 31st May, 9am - 10am
Saturday 6th July, 9am - 10am
Saturday 3rd August, 9am - 10am
Friday 23rd August, 9am - 10am**

The sessions are free but booking is required which can be done via the [website](#).



Short Breaks

Please find below links to the July Short Breaks newsletters.



[Short Breaks Update for Families with Disabled Children and Young People March 24](#)

[Short Breaks update - Parent/Carer Support Groups](#)

Keeping Safe Online



Parents & carers

Advice for parents and carers to help support children and young people in their safe and responsible use of the internet.

 Childnet



Keeping children safe online

Learn more about children's online safety. Advice and support to help you learn about staying safe online as a family.

 NSPCC



Homepage

Working with online safety experts, we're here to provide parents & carers with guidance, advice and support to keep children safe online

 Internet Matters /



Parents and Carers

Tips, advice, guides and resources to help keep your child safe online

 UK Safer Internet Centre

[Internet Matters](#)

[NSPCC](#)

[Safer Internet](#)

[ThinkuKnow](#)

[Childnet](#)



Parents and carers | CEOP Education

Access information and resources for parents and carers on keeping your child safer online including...

 ceopeducation.co.uk