

## WEEKLY NEWS

### From the Headteacher: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022

Dear Parents and Families,

Yesterday, we said goodbye to the Spring term 22. There have been so many things to celebrate and learning memories we will keep forever. First and foremost, I would like to say thank you to the staff, LAC members and parents who continuously strive to make Paxton even better.

Last week, after a lot of thought and consideration, I made the decision to send an email to families to say that due to the lack of attendance at the PTA meetings, I had to cancel the Easter Egg-stravaganza. This year, there would be no raffle, no Easter egg hunt and more importantly, no Easter eggs for the children.

After making the decision to cancel plans, I spoke with staff and shared my disappointment with a few close friends. However, the children of Paxton live in a community that cares, they live in a community that is filled with love and more importantly, they are surrounded by adults who go above and beyond.

After a request to provide 100 Easter eggs, members of staff and the community came to the rescue and donations soon began to arrive. By Thursday an Egg-mazing 300+ eggs had been delivered. Thank you to the staff and community of Croydon for your overwhelming, heartfelt generosity. This has created a memory that the children and their families will keep forever.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the organisations who have shared our journey to date. Since the start of the school year, we have been able to build partnerships with organisations who support us to enhance the learning and deliver a language rich curriculum which ignites the children's curiosity and instils a love for learning.

And to the new partnerships with organisations who create opportunities to empower our children and support our families.

### Sensory Garden

And it did not stop there! Just when we thought things couldn't get any better . . . today we received a letter from the School Food Matters organisation to let us know that we had been successful in our bid for a school garden grant application.

Our recent request for donations to create a sensory garden for the children was borne out of the idea to create a space for them to learn and explore first-hand the wonders of nature and life cycles. This grant, along with the donations and support from the PTA will enable us to create the sensory garden during the Summer term.

### Mr Fisher

After the endless success of the Spring term, today, I ask you to join me in sending love and best wishes to Mr Fisher and his family. As most of you are aware, Mr Fisher was absent from Paxton for the last two weeks. On Tuesday 15th of March, Paxton was filled with the beautiful sound of song. As part of our weekly routine, Mr Fisher spent time in each classroom and the sound of children's voices could be heard across the school.

At the end of the school day, in his after-school club, Mr Fisher, lead the school choir in song. Together, they sung out a chorus of songs in preparation for their upcoming event at the Fairfield Halls in Croydon.

After leaving Paxton, Mr Fisher then attended his own choir for rehearsals where sadly he collapsed. I know that your thoughts will be with Mr Fisher and his family and that you will want to send your love and best wishes so that he can gather strength and return home to his family.

On Monday 18th April, there will be a special concert, led by Mr Fisher's world renowned choir IDMC and leading gospel singers from across the country to be held at his church in Brixton. To find out more and book your ticket, [click here](#)

[www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/honorary-concert-for-john-fisher-bem-tickets-308304275387](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/honorary-concert-for-john-fisher-bem-tickets-308304275387)

## Summer Term Learning

As we say good bye to the Spring term, behind the scenes, staff have been busy planning the Summer term. After the success of the whole school books; The Colour Monster, in the Autumn term, Rain before Rainbows in the Spring term, the whole school will have the opportunity to further explore their own emotions and empathise with the characters and events in the Summer term book 'The Bear and the Piano'.

To find out more, parents and families will receive a copy of the curriculum web for Summer term 1. This will be filled with a snapshot of the new areas of learning across the curriculum and provide an insight into how links will be made with prior learning and opportunities to build knowledge and skills. Click here.

[www.paxtonacademy.org.uk/parents/keeping-in-touch](http://www.paxtonacademy.org.uk/parents/keeping-in-touch)

## Pupil Voice

This week, to help capture the children's voice, they have begun to complete a pupil questionnaire. Across the school, they have answered questions and shared their thoughts and views on ways we can make Paxton even better.

Once we have captured all of the voices, we will share the findings with the School Council who will share them with parents and present them to the LAC members in the Summer term.

## What's on the Menu

At Paxton, we are always looking for ways to extend and enrich the children's experiences. During the Spring term, the Trust, Pabulum and Winterbourne Infants School had a number of conversations regarding the catering of school meals.

Winterbourne Infants School is just a stone's throw away and I am pleased to announce that, at the start of the Summer term, Jenny: our Catering manager will cater for both schools. In the last week of the Spring term, I went to visit Winterbourne Infants School and Mrs Wigzell-Jones: Acting Headteacher came to visit Paxton. I hope that this will be the start of a new partnership, where both schools can share knowledge and expertise.

Click the link to find out more about what's on the menu and see the Summer term options filled with all things yum!

[www.paxtonacademy.org.uk/parents/lunch-menu](http://www.paxtonacademy.org.uk/parents/lunch-menu)

## Dates for your Diary

**Tuesday 19th April:** Children return at 8:35am

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April:** 'Palace for Life' in Years 2 & 6

**First day (for all): Tuesday 19th April**

**Monday 2nd May:** May Day School Closed

**Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June:** Summer half term

**Friday 8th July:** INSET day School Closed

**Thursday 21st July:** Last day of the Summer term School Closes at 2:15pm

## The Queen's Jubilee

This year, the Queen's Jubilee Bank Holiday falls during our May half term on 3<sup>rd</sup> June. The Trust have made the decision to take a day off in lieu on Friday July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Therefore, our summer term will end on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July.

## Attendance

This half term has been a roller coaster of attendance percentages. We have gone from achieving our best all time figure, to our lowest. I cannot express the importance of children being in school. Every minute missed is time they will not get back, learning that will not be repeated and gaps that may not be filled.

As we enter the Summer term, the children will have everything to play for. The results of the Spring term assessment week are in and teachers' will be ready to set targets to close gaps. Having had nearly two years of a disrupted education due to the pandemic, it is more important than ever before, that children are in school and continue to learn at home.

Please can I request that children read or are read to for at least 10 minutes each day as well as completing any homework tasks set. Fingers crossed, the children will be back in the building at the start of the Summer term and we will be able to continue to celebrate the success.

Class	Attendance
Reception	96.4%
Year 1	93.5%
Year 2	86.8%
Year 3	94.2%
Year 4	88%
Year 5	89.8%
Year 6	90.9%
Total	91.6%

Have a great Easter break,

Yours **Theresa Moses (Headteacher)**