

## WEEKLY NEWS

### From the Headteacher: 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Dear Parents and Families,

Just when you thought things couldn't get any better . . . this week has been filled with magical moments the whole school community can keep forever.

As part of the Wandle Learning Trust, Paxton believes in the ethos that every child has unique qualities which the four schools each harness to ensure that the children are on a learning journey to becoming happy, creative and resilient young adults.

Whilst literacy and numeracy form the bedrock of academic success, students' curiosity is stimulated through exploration of science, sport, arts, music and an understanding of their world. No glass ceiling and no excuses are allowed to put barriers in their way.

On Monday, as part of the spring Trust peer review across the three primary schools, it was Paxton's turn. During the morning, 5 members of the Trust and an external advisor, spent time in classrooms and across the school looking at the quality of teaching and learning in Phonics and early reading.

The overall headline was that Paxton has risen to the challenge of using the Letters and Sounds revised Phonic programme, as well as making sure that children have great opportunities to enjoy a diverse range of books. We are also pleased to announce that Paxton will now deliver showcase Phonic lessons to schools in Croydon.

### Felix Project

On Tuesday evening, we received our first delivery from the Felix Project UK. The delivery was filled with all things yum, ranging from avocados, grapes and Brussel sprouts to hash browns, frozen veg bags and vegan fillets.

At the end of the day on Wednesday, we were able to display the food for our families to select and take home.

### Reflecting Realities

On Thursday, as part of the inspirational Reflecting Realities project at the CLPE, Ms Bryan, myself and staff from 9 other primary schools were able to extend and enrich our own thoughts on poetry.

Day two with Valerie Bloom, provided a platform to reflect and explore the value of poetry, both in and outside of the classroom and across the curriculum, using games and rhyme and rhythms such as 'Stagalee' or 'Who stole the cookies from the cookie jar?'

### Early Years Playground

On Friday, just when we thought things couldn't get any better, we got the **green light** to build our Early Years Playground. After 18 months of conversations, emails, visits and telephone calls, we have finally been able to secure a beautiful state of the art, fully equipped playground for our Reception children.

This will provide them with a safe space to run, climb, jump and have fun but most of all, be an extension of the classroom and an opportunity to learn through play.



We are so excited and look forward to the equipment arriving and the outdoor area being transformed during the Summer term. We hope to instil an slow mo camera so that we can capture the magic as it happens.

Thank you to everyone who has been involved in this project and to all our partners who support our children and make Paxton even better.

## Pupil Voice

This week, to help capture the children's voice, they have begun to complete a pupil questionnaire. Across the school, they will be able to answer questions and share their thoughts and views on ways in which 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 present them to the LAC in the Summer term.

## Sensory Garden

Living in an inner city, many of us have grown up without having grown our own fruits, vegetables or herbs.

Thank you to all the friends and family members who have already made a donation. No matter how big or small, any spare coins or notes can be donated and all monies raised will go towards creating a new sensory garden.

## Our Core Values

Our **RESPECT** core values underpin everything that we do at Paxton. Next week, our Core Value will be:

### Care

We look after our community, showing we care through our words and actions.

## Swimming is back!

At Paxton, we are always looking for ways to extend and enrich the children's experiences. With the easing of lockdown, we are pleased to announce that swimming is back on the timetable. During the Summer term, Year 5 will return to the water.

We hope that overtime, all of our children will have the same opportunity. In the meantime, as a thank you for choosing Better Leisure centres to deliver our school swimming lessons, they are offering our children a 25% discount on their Easter holiday courses from Monday 11th to Thursday 14th April.

Whether your child is new to the water or want to master their technique, there is a class for everyone. To find out more: [better.org.uk/swimming-lessons](http://better.org.uk/swimming-lessons) and use code **HAPPYHOLIDAY**

## Pride of Croydon Award

If you have not yet managed to vote, there is still time. To find out more and vote for Paxton before the closing date on Monday 28th March, go to [www.prideofcroydon.com/vote](http://www.prideofcroydon.com/vote)

## OURCAMPS is back!

If you have not yet managed to log on and book your child's place at OURCAMPS, there is still time. With **only four school** days left before the end of the Spring term, OURCAMPS will be back at Paxton during the Easter break **for four days** from **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April: 9am – 3pm.**

Children entitled to **FSM will a receive free place and hot meal.** Non-FSM children will be charged at £25 per day. To find out more or book a place click here: [www.schoolcamp.org.uk](http://www.schoolcamp.org.uk)

## Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Spotlight: Drama Workshop in Reception and KS1
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	End of Spring term *School finishes at 2:15pm*
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Inset Day
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> – Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> April, 9am – 3pm	OURCAMPS at Paxton <a href="http://www.schoolcamp.org.uk">www.schoolcamp.org.uk</a>
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> April	Bank holiday
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	Children return at 8:35am
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	'Palace for Life' in Years 2 & 6

## Attendance

Although, attendance is not yet where we would like it to be, it continues to be on an upward trend. This week, two classes managed to exceed our whole school target of 97%. Congratulations to Reception and Year 6 and to all our families.

With only four school days to go before the end of the Spring term, the children will be back in the building and we will continue to celebrate the success.

Class	Attendance
Reception	97.5%
Year 1	93.8%
Year 2	95.8%
Year 3	95.3%
Year 4	96%
Year 5	90.6%
Year 6	97.7%
Total	95%

It's not very often, I have to grumble at Paxton however, can I please make it known that any holidays taken during term time will not be authorised and may result in a fine.

Have a great weekend,

Yours **Theresa Moses (Headteacher)**