

## WEEKLY NEWS

### From the Headteacher: 6<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Dear Parents and Families,

The children have spoken . . . . At Paxton, we strive to prepare our children for the next phase in their educational journey and the ever-changing world in which we live.

Our Core Values instil a sense of belonging and key qualities which are transferrable, while the curriculum provides a platform for children to become confident in their own skin, articulate in their thoughts and to express their emotions.

At the end of the Spring term, across the school, children from Yr.1 to Yr.6 took part in the annual pupil questionnaire. A collection of 19 questions which ranged from

Do you enjoy being at Paxton?

Do you enjoy learning at Paxton?

Do the adults listen to what you have to say?

to

Is the behaviour of children in your class good?

Is bullying a problem at Paxton?

Do you feel safe when you are at Paxton?

The children were provided with five options to record their responses and on occasions, record their thoughts in a short sentence. Questions 20 and 21 asked the children to provide their thoughts on the three best things and the three things they would like to see improved at Paxton.

Next week, the information will be shared with the School Council for them to digest, before sharing it with members of the LAC. Once they have drawn together the findings, they will provide next steps for us as a school.

Alongside the curriculum, partnerships help us to capture the children's imagination and ignite their curiosity. The Centre for Literacy in Primary Education (CLPE) is one of those partners. Situated in Waterloo, South East London, the CLPE is a UK based children's literacy charity working with primary

schools. Their work raises the achievement of children's reading and writing by helping schools to teach literacy creatively and effectively, putting quality children's books at the heart of all learning.

The CLPE's work is informed by research and development projects designed to improve literacy teaching in primary schools. This include Reflecting Realities, the first UK study looking at diversity in children's literature. Their aim is to quantify and evaluate the extent and quality of ethnic representation and diversity in children's publishing in the UK.

During the Summer term, we will venture into a new project with the CLPE, one which will help us to reflect, enrich and enhance the curriculum. It will involve looking at the topics taught, links across the curriculum and text, to reflect our rich diversity and our community. We will ask the children and involve you to find out which aspects work well and discuss ways to help us make it even better.

The Yamaha Music School is another one of our partnerships. On Thursday we welcomed back Bethany who delivers weekly keyboard lessons to children in Yr4. During the Summer term, some of the children will have an opportunity to perform with other children who attend the Yamaha Music School, in a concert at the Fairfield Halls in Croydon.

This term we welcomed James and kick started our newest partnership with Palace for Life who will deliver two projects. In Yr. 2, 'Moving Maths' explores and extends children's understanding of mathematical concepts, while in Yr. 6 a unit on 'Equality' encourages debate and discussion.

Question: 'Who inspires you?' This term, our ground floor bookcases have been refreshed with new books which feature people who inspire us; from musicians, to scientists, world leaders to peace makers. Our beautiful new ground floor chairs now provide the perfect place next to the bookcases to curl up and lose yourself in the pages of a good book.

In class, each half term, the window displays showcase the range of genres which the children will explore during literacy. These include fiction (imaginary) non-fiction (fact) and poetry.



### Our RESPECT Core Values

Next week, our Core Value will be **Pride**:



### Age Related National Assessment Tests

Each year, children from across the school, excluding Yrs. 3 and 5, take part in age related National tests and assessments.

Reception: Baseline

Yr. 1: Phonic Screen Check

Yr. 2 and Yr. 6: Standard Assessment Tests (SATs)

Yr. 4: Multiplication check.

Next week, from Monday to Thursday, children in Yr. 6 will join children across the country, to take part in tests such as; spelling, punctuation and grammar, (SPAG) reading and Maths. The children's writing will also be assessed and moderated with local schools to ensure judgements are accurate.

Congratulations to all the children in Yr.5 who have just completed a two-week intense swimming course. All the children now have basic skills and have learnt techniques including lifesaving methods which they can use throughout their lives.

### What's on the Menu

On Thursday 19th May, Jenny, our Catering Manager, will provide the children with an extra special Favourites menu filled with all things Yum. On Friday 27th May, Jenny will also prepare a menu fit for royalty to help celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. To find out more click here:

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

As you may be aware, a four day UK Bank Holiday weekend will take place from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June. The special extended Bank Holiday weekend will provide the opportunity for communities and people to come together to celebrate the historic milestone.

On 6th February this year, Her Majesty the Queen became the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of service to the people of the United Kingdom, the Realms and the Commonwealth.

To celebrate this unprecedented anniversary milestone together, behind the scenes, we are planning to make Friday 27th May an extra special day to remember. If you would like to get involved and help us make it even more special, please complete the link sent to families.

\*Please note, change to dates

The Heyday Fest film premiere will now take place on Thursday 26th May at 5:30pm. Tickets will cost £3:00 and go on sale at the office on Monday 16th May.

### Bus strike

Over the next two weeks, planned strike days for bus operator Arriva will take place next week on **Wednesday 11th May**, followed by **Monday 16th** and **Tuesday 17th**. This will cause major disruption to daily routes and traffic congestion. Please can we request that you keep up to date with the information and plan alternative routes or modes of transport on these three days.

### Attendance

Our Traffic Light System helps us to monitor attendance across the whole school.



This week, figures demonstrate that we are on an upward trend. Congratulations to **Yrs. 2, 4 and 6** who managed to exceed our attendance target and to **Yrs. 1 and Yr. 5** who only just missed it. Well done to all our children and their families.

Class	Attendance
Reception	90.6%
Year 1	95.3%
<b>Year 2</b>	<b>97.2%</b>
Year 3	100%
<b>Year 4</b>	<b>98.5%</b>
Year 5	96.2%
Year 6	89.2%
Total	95.3%

Have a good weekend,

Yours **Theresa Moses (Headteacher)**