

## The Opossum Federation Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

Throughout this first half of the Spring term, we have witnessed the children grow and continue steadily on their learning journey. We encourage a positive, 'can-do' attitude towards learning and, as a result, we are seeing some very good progress across year groups and federation. We are proud of our curriculum which continues to provide the children with a high level of challenge and expectation, taught through interesting and varied experiences. We are already now half way through this academic year and, as always, every day of learning counts. With the continued hard work and commitment of the staff, alongside your valuable support in learning at home, our children will be able to reach the high standards expected of them.

We hope you have a relaxing and happy holiday. London has a wonderful variety of activities for children during holiday periods, many of which are free. For example, the Southbank Centre is hosting the Imagine Children's Festival, which offers a number of activities to enjoy.

**<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/festivals-series/imagine-childrens-festival?free=1#events>**

We look forward to welcoming you back rested and refreshed on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February.



## Spring Term Events

**Pupil Parliament** - Representatives from the Pupil Parliament committees across the Opossum Federation met at Thorpe Hall Primary School. The students took part in an anti-bullying workshop and discussed key issues to do with the language of bullying. They began work on creating a charter to prevent bullying, which will be used throughout the Federation.

**Anti-Bullying Parent Workshops** -Parents from Thorpe Hall, Dawlish and Newport had the opportunity to explore the topic of bullying this term with family therapist, Camilla Waldburg. Camilla led discussion about the nature of bullying and how we can all support children to manage the complexities of social relationships. Feedback from participants was very positive. This work supported the revision of our Anti-Bullying Charter, which can be found on the school websites.

### Trips

**Reception -Library** – Thorpe Hall pupils visited the local Hale End library to explore the wonderful books on offer. This is one of a number of visits to local libraries which help children to become familiar with the ones in their area. We encourage all families to register and use their local service.

**Year 1 -London Aquarium** – The children from Dawlish and Newport Year 1 visited the Sealife Centre this term. They enjoyed viewing and getting up close to the different species in the Aquarium, in particular the sharks.

**Year 2 -Kensington Palace** is a royal residence set in Kensington Gardens, in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea in London. Did you know that it has been a residence of the British Royal Family since the 17th century, and is currently the official London residence of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. The Dawlish and Newport visit tied in with the children's learning in History; they enjoyed walking around the state rooms and experiencing the wealth of art on display. Following the royal theme, the Year 2 pupils from Thorpe Hall will be visiting the Household Cavalry Museum early in the Spring 2 term.

**Year 3 -Surrey Docks Farm** - This half term, Dawlish and Newport Year 3 had the opportunity to visit Surrey Docks Farm near Canada Water Station. Throughout the day, an experienced teacher at the farm explained the importance of recycling and disposing of waste efficiently. The children had the opportunity to see the results of what happens when food is disposed of properly. The children then collected this compost and planted cress seeds, which they were able to bring back to school. The children had a fantastic day and learnt many new facts linked to their Eco -Warriors topic.

The pupils at Thorpe Hall were looking forward to an end of term visit to the local forest, however the rain and mud has resulted in this being postponed till after the half term break.

**Year 4 and 6 -Science Museum** – The children in Years 4 and 6 at Dawlish and Newport visited the Science Museum. This tied in with their learning in Science and all enjoyed exploring the collection within the museum. Children were particularly mesmerized in learning the fascinating histories behind the smallest of objects.

Thorpe Hall pupils have begun a very exciting STEM project about Polar Explorers. To showcase their learning, Year 4 will be hosting a pop up museum at the school which their parents/carers will be invited to attend. We look forward to seeing you there.

**Year 5 - Enabling Enterprise** – As part of the enabling enterprise project, Jamni class (Newport) visited Westfield shopping centre in Stratford, where they were able to speak to the crucial link between the skills built in class and the working world.





**Young Voices** -The Thorpe Hall choir performed in a combined primary school choir at London's O2 this term. Thanks to Angelina for sharing the experience with us. "Firstly, after we got off the coach, the choir walked across the carpark and walked in the direction of the O2 arena. When we finally made it in the arena we found our seats and got ready for the rehearsal. We practiced all our songs and some extra actions for the show. The rehearsal lasted three hours and we had so much fun. It was nearly time for the show but we had to have our packed dinner and a break first. It was time for the show! We all sat in our seats and tried to spot our parents. The lights dimmed and we were up. We cleared our throats and got ready to have the night of our lives. We sang and danced all night long until the last song came. There were celebrities—Natalie Williams and M4GNETS and us! When the night was over we scrambled out of the arena and our way back to school and arrived at 10pm.

Thank you to Miss Gilmore, Mrs Worrow, Mrs Mahmood and Mrs Bacaj giving up their time so we had a magical night".

By Angelina (Hawthorn Class)

**RE Day** - On Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2018, the whole federation stepped out of the normal timetable and spent the day on their RE theme for this half term.

We encourage an open-ended approach when exploring all values and religious stories through a variety of activities.

The children enjoyed learning about the differences and similarities between religions, their traditions, rules for living and stories. Some children were able to share their own traditions and experiences with their classmates.

Children were keen to share their learning and one child even said, 'I wish it was RE day every day.'

**Photography Exhibition** -On 24<sup>th</sup> January, pupils from Years 4 and 5 at Dawlish and Newport had the opportunity to showcase their artworks in an exhibition held at the Raven Row gallery in central London. Year 4 had created artworks on the theme of Democracy, working with resident artist Shiraz Bayjoo. Year 5 worked under the guidance of photographer, Andy Rumball, creating an exhibit entitled Chor:us, exploring the same British Value. We are pleased that so many members of our federation community were able to attend and enjoy the exhibition. Please follow the link for more information. <http://www.newport.waltham.sch.uk/page/default.asp?pid=3>

**Sporting News** - Congratulations to the Newport cricket team. They came first place in the CKC indoor kids cricket league, saving their best match for the final and scoring the winning runs with two overs to go. They now got through to the next round and have a chance of competing the grand finals at Lords Cricket Ground.

The children have also competed in 5 different sports this half term including football, cricket, athletics, tri golf and netball. Giving over 50 students from the federation a chance to compete in tournaments held in Waltham Forest. Highlights include great performances in the Year 3/4 athletics from individual students with the team coming 10<sup>th</sup> out of 35. The tri golf team just missing out on medals with a good team effort and the cricket team winning the CKC indoor cricket league tournament. Well done to everyone that took part.

**Thorpe Hall Year 3/4 Indoor Athletics** - On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January, 22 boys and girls from Year 3 and 4 represented our school in an indoor athletic competition. They competed against five other local schools in a variety of activities including; over and under obstacle course, relays, long jump and speed bounce. Overall, all the children enjoyed the afternoon and made Thorpe Hall proud. Well done!

By Ethan (Lime Class)

**Thorpe Hall Year 1 and 2 Tri-Golf** -"I was excited for the trip for many days and I was feeling proud when the day came. We all had a wonderful walk to Peter May with our teacher. When we got there we took our coats off and split up into two teams. We went over to one of the golf games and had a chance to practice holding the golf club and hitting the ball. Then all the children from the different schools were sitting together while the lady told us all about the competition. Everyone was ready and full of excitement.



Next we split up into teams of boys and girls. We played 8 different golf games and had a chance to practice before we did each one. For one of the games the highest score ever was 100, but we got 187! When we finished our final round, all the children were sitting together again and the lady told us, it was a great day! I definitely think it was fantastic!" The team were ecstatic to find out they came 2<sup>nd</sup> and received their medals in merit assembly.

**Thorpe Hall Year 4 and 5 Netball** -The team competed in the Waltham Forest Fast Five Competition at the Redbridge Sports Centre. Well done to the team, who had a wonderful time.

Thank you to all the volunteers who have accompanied trips and visits this term; we appreciate your support and assistance.



## Congratulations

**LAMDA** - LAMDA remains a fundamental part of the curriculum at Dawlish and Newport Schools, with Y2-3 at Newport and Y2-6 at Dawlish, having weekly LAMDA sessions. During these sessions, pupils, learn by heart, recite and perform pieces of poetry and prose using intonation to bring the piece to life. Not only does this develop the self-confidence of our young people but also enhances and embeds key reading skills which are vital for reading success. During the second half of the autumn term, thirty Y5 and 6 pupils completed their Level 1 LAMDA exams and the results were released this term. Twenty-five pupils received a 'distinction', with marks above 80% and five received 'merits'. These results are exemplary and are some of the best within London Primary Schools. We are extremely proud of our young people and know that these skills are laying great foundations for their future. Well done everyone.

**Spelling Bee Champions:** - Congratulations to Rex, Maryam and Manha.

**Millionaire Club:** -Our millionaire club are for those pupils in Y4-6 who have read over one million words using Accelerated Reader. The number of millionaire readers are growing and we would like to welcome three new millionaire readers into the club this term. They are, Cristian and Darnel (Or class) and Laal (Dahab class). Well done and keep reading!



## Farewells

A farewell to Jill Pastides, Newport School's Welfare Officer and Yasmin Vickers, Early Years Practitioner in Reception at Newport, both are leaving to embark on other opportunities and will be leaving by the end of February.

We wish them both all the best for the future.

## Attendance and Punctuality

During the winter period many children will suffer coughs and colds. Whilst we appreciate that this can be uncomfortable, it is rarely an acceptable reason to miss school. It is important that all children attend school regularly to make the most of every learning opportunity. Please remember that the schools do not authorize absence for illness directly before and after holiday periods without appropriate evidence. We recognise that pupils have regular termly breaks throughout the year, which are good opportunities for families to take holidays or visit relatives abroad; therefore we do not authorise term time absences. The term dates and INSET days for 2018-2019 have been agreed by the Governing Body and are published on the schools' websites – these may assist you with forward planning for family holidays.

Good punctuality is essential for children to achieve their full educational potential. It is also vital to form good habits for later life.

We would ask parents to support us in maintaining good punctuality by:

- Ensuring that their children get up in plenty of time to be ready and prepared for school.
- Ensuring their child has organised their bag and equipment the night before so that this does not delay departure in the morning.
- Discussing any issues of lateness with staff to ensure this does not become a habit.

We thank you for your support on these matters.

**Find us on:**  
<http://www.dawlishprimary.co.uk>

**Follow us on:**  
@Dawlish\_School

**Find us on:**  
[www.newport.waltham.sch.hk](http://www.newport.waltham.sch.hk)

**Follow us on:**  
@NewportLeyton

## Save The Date

The following are dates to look out for in the upcoming Spring Term:

<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February</b>	First Day of Spring Term 2
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> February 2018</b>	Year 4 Class Trip
<b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018</b>	World Book Day Reading Breakfast – Non Uniform
<b>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018</b>	Federation Coffee Morning
<b>Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018</b>	Open Evening – Early Closure
<b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018</b>	KS2 Disco
<b>Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2018</b>	<b>Nursery Easter Bonnet Parade</b>
<b>Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018</b>	Easter Bonnet Parade/Last Day of Spring 2

View other important dates on the school website, such as planned education visits, by visiting each school website. Keep an eye out for trip reminder emails which will inform you of all planned trips and what arrangements you will need to make.

Please note that we have also uploaded the **Term Dates for the Academic Year 2018/19** onto our school websites.

## Looking for More Information?

The school websites offer a wealth of information; you will find important dates, news updates, Home Learning projects, and links to other helpful websites. We encourage parents to regularly check the school websites for information, in particular 'Important dates' and 'Home Learning Projects'. All the information you need to know from your child's year group can be found in 'Learning at Newport'.

## Holiday Activities

**Holiday Flicks** - Holiday Flicks will be taking place throughout the school holidays at Leytonstone Library at 12pm

**Author Talk** - Meet and listen to Local Author RC Ajuonuma. His new book 'King Billy and the Royal Road' is a children's rhyming story offering a fun and accessible way into poetry.

**Craft Fun** - Strut along to Leytonstone Library for Craft fun to Celebrate Chinese New Year 2018 (The Year of the Dog)

For further information, visit <https://walthamforest.gov.uk/events>

Recommended Reading:

<https://www.explorelearning.co.uk/blog/recommended-reading-lists/>

## Term Dates 2017-18

### Spring Term

3 <sup>rd</sup> January – 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Spring Term 1	
<b>19<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>INSET</b>	<b>School closed</b>
<b>12<sup>th</sup> February- 16<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Half-term break</b>	<b>School closed</b>
19 <sup>th</sup> February – 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Spring Term 2	
	Early finish on the last day of school (1:30pm)	
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> March</b>	<b>Open Evening</b> (Early closure 1.30pm)	
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> March</b>	<b>Nursery Closed for Open Evening</b>	<b>Nursery Closed</b>
<b>28<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Nursery Closed</b>	<b>Nursery Closed</b>
<b>29<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>INSET</b>	<b>School closed</b>
30 <sup>th</sup> March- 13 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Easter break</b>	<b>School closed</b>

### Summer Term

16 <sup>th</sup> April- 25 <sup>th</sup> May	Summer Term 1	
<b>7<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Bank Holiday</b>	<b>School closed</b>
<b>28<sup>th</sup> May – 1<sup>st</sup> June</b>	<b>Half-term break</b>	<b>School closed</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> June- 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer Term 2	
	Early finish on the last day of school (1:30pm)	
<b>12<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Open Evening</b> (Early closure 1.30pm)	
<b>13<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>INSET</b>	<b>School closed</b>