

The Opossum Federation Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers

Another half term has flown by. The children, once again, have been very busy learning a wide variety of topics and skills and have enjoyed playing together. The children in Years 2 and 6 have completed their SATs assessments, which included tests in Reading, Maths, Spelling and Grammar. The staff in all our schools have been so impressed by the sensible and mature way children have approached these assessments and their desire to do their very best has shone through. We offer thanks to parents/carers for supporting their children throughout this period. We are also extremely grateful to all the staff members who gave up their time to lead programmes such as Breakfast Club and booster sessions to support the children and help prepare them to take the tests. Results will be shared with children and their parents /carers nearer the end of term when we receive them.

Many of you will be aware that new data protection rules (GDPR) come into effect today. We have updated our Privacy Notice, which is published on the schools' websites.

In line with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), we are no longer able to permit parents/carers to take photos or video at school events such as assemblies and performances. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

We have been fortunate in recent weeks with some glorious weather; we hope that this continues as we enjoy a break next week. We wish you all a very happy half term holiday and look forward to seeing you all on 4th June.



Summer Term Events

Stone Age to Iron Age

Year 3 have enjoyed learning all about the Stone Age to the Iron Age. At the beginning of the term, the children had the opportunity to spend a whole day learning about the Stone Age, Iron Age and the Bronze Age. In addition to their learning, the children got to dress up as a person from this period and have a look at a wide variety of primary and secondary sources. The jam-packed day of learning provided the children with a wide range of information that they were able to implement into classroom activities.

Shakespeare Week

The first week of this half term was Shakespeare week. Years 1 and 2 focused on 'The Tempest', Years 3 and 4 'Twelfth Night' and Years 5 and 6 'MacBeth'. The children were immersed in the learning and their Home Learning Projects were outstanding.

Royal Tea Party

Following on from the Spring Writing Project, all children took part in an afternoon of fun on 23rd April to celebrate the Royal Wedding – it was also St George's Day and Shakespeare's birthday of course. The sun shone and the children had a great time playing traditional games outside.

My Healthy Self, My Healthy Family, My Healthy Community

Next half term pupils from across the schools will all be focusing on 'Healthy Living'. Last year each class took a period of History in the 'London through the ages' topic which was very successful and ended with a performance. This year each class will be planning activities and creating leaflets, cooking healthy food and keeping active. Families will have the opportunity to take part in some of the activities and each class will produce an item to sell at the Summer Event.

Thorpe Hall Trips

Wembley Women's FA Cup Final - Year 4 pupils from the Enterprise, Reading and Writing Clubs went to Wembley to watch the Women's FA Cup Final between Chelsea and Arsenal. In all 18 pupils walked up Wembley Way to watch some of the leading teams in Women's Football. There was a record crowd of over 45,000 at the event and the stadium was a sea of colour as flags from both sides fluttered in the hot Wembley atmosphere.

Polar Explorers - As part of the Year 4 topic on Polar Explorers the children have been finding out about environmental issues. Mrs Brooks collected some plastic packaging for the pupils to put together to make a modern art installation. Plastic is a huge environmental concern in our oceans, it damages many habitats and kills wildlife. The children even designed environmental awareness posters to highlight the issues.

Cross Country - 32 pupils from Thorpe Hall braved the mud and cold and joined over 400 children from Waltham Forest to run the cross country event on Chingford Plains. A gallant effort from all the teams. Thank you to parents for cheering them on from the side lines and to Mr Mock for being there to organise everyone.





Year 1 Forest Visit - On Wednesday, Year 1 walked to the forest. *“When I went I saw some squishy mud. I heard some chirping birds. I laid on the long grass. I saw a ladybug. In the log there were some bugs. There was lots of dandelions and pretty blossoms. I smelt flowers and yucky mud.”*

By Simeone

In Year 2 we had some very special visitors - ducklings! We watched them hatch in the incubator - it was very EGGciting! When the ducklings were dry, we transferred them to their cage where they had food, water and a heater to keep them warm. We loved holding the cute, fluffy ducklings and they were very funny when they were splashing around in the water. Since the ducklings have returned to the farm, we have made David Attenborough style documentaries about the ducklings. We have also written leaflets giving other schools information about how to care for ducks or why they should hatch ducklings in their classroom.

Newport and Dawlish Trips

Rights Respecting Update at Dawlish – At Dawlish we are busy preparing and working towards moving from our Bronze Award to our Silver Award for ‘Rights Respecting School’, an award given to schools of behalf of Unicef UK. We are always striving to create the best possible learning environment for our pupils. The Rights’ Respecting journey helps us to improve well-being and to develop every child’s talents and abilities to their full potential.

Ragged School Museum - Year 5 went to the Ragged School Museum to experience what life was like at school during Victorian times. They really enjoyed travelling 150 years back to practice their handwriting, mental maths and pronunciation.

Lords Cricket Final - On Wednesday, our cricket team represented Waltham Forest in the William Greeves Memorial Tournament at Lord’s Cricket Ground. It was a fantastic experience for all involved and a real achievement to even get to this stage, with 150 schools entering the competition at the start. We finished 7th which again is a great effort in itself.

Cycle Training - Children have been participating in Cycle Training this week. Children who take part in this will have the opportunity to participate in this years ‘Tour de Waltham Forest’, a local cycling competition on Friday 15th June.



We now have a Girls Football Club run by coaches from Leyton Orient FC. Pupils will develop and strengthen their skills to take part in important Football competitions across the Borough.



Congratulations

Well done to Newport School on the achievement of the Healthy Schools London Gold award. This award recognises the work the school has done to promote healthy lifestyles in children and families. This week the Deputy Mayor of London, Joanne McCartney, Councillor Grace Williams and leaders from Public Health visited the school to learn more about the work the children and staff are doing in this area. The children made a very impressive presentation, showcasing the initiatives, including a new packed lunch policy which is being developed with parents. We look forward to exploring more of these ideas in the 'My Healthy Self, My Healthy Family, My Healthy Community' topic we will all be studying next half term.

'You have an amazing school community - Joanne was blown away by all of the wonderful opportunities that you provide for the children and the health promoting environment that you have created. Thank you to all of the staff and pupils.'

Alison Stafford, Healthy Schools' London

Attendance and Punctuality

As the weather improves across the summer term, we would like to remind Parents/Careers to ensure children are dressed appropriately for the temperature on the day and that the children are equipped with a water bottle.

During the summer period, some children will suffer from hay fever and other allergies. 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 authorise 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.

Save The Date

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

4 th June	First Day Summer 2 Term
5 th June	Year 5 Parent's SATs Information Session (5pm)
11th June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Test Week
11 th June	Year 5 trip to Royal Observatory
11 th – 15 th June	Year 6 Cycle Training
19 th June	Year 3 trip to Olympic Park
19 th June	Year 2 trip to Seaside
20 th June	Year 3 trip to Olympic Park
20 th June	Reading Breakfast (8am)
22 nd June	Year 5 & 6 Learning Workshop and Coffee Morning (8:50am)
22 nd June	Federation Eid Event and Fete
26 th June	Whole Class Photographs
27th June- 29th June	Year 6 Edinburgh Residential
28 th June	Federation Coffee Morning (9am)
29 th June	Year 3 & 4 Learning Workshop and Coffee Morning (9am)
4 th July	Reception Class Sports Day at Newport School (10am-11:30am)
5th July- 6th July	Year 5 Gilwell Park Residential
6 th July	Year 1 & 2 Learning Workshop and Coffee Morning (8:50am)
9 th July	Year 1, 2, 3 Sports Day at Leyton Cricket Field (9:30am-12pm)
9 th July	Year 4, 5 & 6 Sports Day at Leyton Cricket Field (1pm - 3pm)
12th July	Open Evening - Early Closure (1:30pm)
13th July	INSET Day - School Closed
16 th July	Year 6 Prefect Outing
17 th July	Year 2 trip to Lloyd Park
18 th July	Forever Curious Exhibition – Time TBC Leavers Assembly (2pm)
20 th July	Last Day - Early Finish 1.30pm

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; these are also printed on the following page.**

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'.

Term Dates 2017-18

Summer Term

28th May – 1st June	Half-term break	School closed
4 th June- 20 th July	Summer Term 2 Early finish on the last day of school (1:30pm)	
12th July	Open Evening (Early closure 1.30pm)	
13th July	INSET	School closed

Term Dates 2018-19

Autumn Term

3 rd September – 19 th October	Autumn term 1	
28th September 2018	INSET Day	School closed
22nd October – 26th October	Half term break	School closed
29 th October – 21 st December	Autumn term 2 - Early closure on the last day of term	
23rd November 2018	INSET	School closed
21st December	Nursery Closed	Nursery Closed
24th December – 4th January	Christmas break	School closed

Spring Term

7 th January – 15 th February	Spring term 1	
25th January 2019	INSET	School closed
18th February- 22th February	Half term break	School closed
25 th February – 5 th April	Spring 2 -Early closure on the last day of term	
8 th April – 22 nd April	Easter break	School closed

Summer Term

23 rd April- 24 th May	Summer term 1	
6th May	Bank Holiday	School closed
27th May – 31st May	Half term break	School closed
3 rd June- 19 th July	Summer term 2 - Early closure on the last day of term-	
22nd July	INSET	School closed
23rd July	INSET	School closed