



THE WHITE HOUSE

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

WOODENTOPS KINDERGARTEN
& THE WOODENTOPS NURSERY

16th December 2016, End of Autumn Term 2016 | 0208 674 9514 | office@whitehouseschool.com | www.whitehouseschool.com

End of Autumn Term 2016...

On behalf of The White House Preparatory School and Woodentops Kindergarten and Woodentops Day Nursery, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

It has been an excellent start to the academic year and I was very pleased to announce in November our inclusion in the "*The Sunday Times Top 100 UK Prep Schools*". We were listed at number 10 in London and number 54 for the UK. An excellent and pleasing achievement to see the hard work of our students and staff recognised in a National publication.

Autumn term is always such a busy one in the school calendar. Looking back through the term's newsletters it is amazing how much our children take part in. Some of the highlights this term have included trips to Brooklands Museum, Hampton Court Palace, The Royal Albert Hall, Kew Gardens, The Barbican Theatre and the Canal museum. Needless to say, the children have had a brilliant term full of great learning experiences and inspirational activities.

Science has been a focus for this term and it has been wonderful to see so many children enjoying a

renewed vigor for Science with visits to school by Dulwich College students and teachers, increased involvement in science club and excellent participation in Helen's weekly Science challenge. We look forward to Science week and a visit from a mobile planetarium next term.

The White House Preparatory School Sports Department continues to go from strength to strength with excellent results this term. Please remember hockey returns to the sport curriculum next term and full kit is required as normal but also the specialized equipment of a mouth guard and shin pads. If children do not bring both of these essential pieces of equipment, they will not be allowed to participate in the hockey lesson/fixture.

I am looking forward to 2017 which I am sure will bring continued excellent teaching and learning, sprinkled with a fun and inspiration to The White House Preparatory School.

Thank you to all the staff, parents and children that make The White House such a special place to be.

Best wishes
Daniel Cummings
Headmaster

Day Nursery

As ever, this has been an incredibly busy term at Woodentops Nursery full of activities and learning.

This term "Foxes" and "Bunnies" have been talking about Space and Planets and the life on the Earth.

Foxes made their very own space rockets and aliens from outer space. Bunnies and Foxes designed a large space rocket which we used for trips to and from the moon. Bunnies also created an exciting outer space sensory box which has been used for introducing them to new vocabulary and exploring different textures. We celebrated Harvest Festival, finding out how things grow and develop, enjoying a Harvest hunt in the garden,

Earlier this term we turned our classrooms into a tropical paradise with green leaves and tall tropical trees. The children in 'Bunnies' and 'Foxes' made lions, giraffes and snakes to live in our rainforest. They have been reading "Rumble in the Jungle" by Giles Andreae and David Wojtowycz to enhance their knowledge. For Christmas Foxes and Bunnies have been decorating the Christmas tree and making Christmas wreaths and decorations. We wrote letters to Santa and learnt Christmas songs.

Next term we will be exploring 'Animals in Britain' and 'Farmer's Duck' by Martin Waddell and Helen Ocenbury. Thank you all for your continued support and we wish you all a very Happy Christmas, we look forward to seeing you all again in the New Year. .



Kindergarten

Kindergarten class have had a very busy, fun and enjoyable term. Juliette refers to the class as the amazing eight, because they all play, work and get on so well together. They have looked at two topics: 'The Enormous Turnip' and 'The Gruffalo's Child'. The class now understand how to sequence a story and understand who the characters are.

The children have focused on learning the numbers 1-5 and have been introduced to letter sounds s, a and t plus the initial sound of their name. They have made 'Jingle Bells' and enjoyed using them for our Nativity song. Juliette is extremely proud of everything Kindergarten Class have achieved this term.



Pre-Reception

The Pre-Reception children have had a fantastic first term. We have used stories as a foundation for our learning, using the 'talk4writing' approach. We explored the story 'The Enormous Turnip', writing seed labels, measuring and comparing the weight of vegetables and printing using vegetables. The second story we looked at was 'The Gruffalo's Child'. The children loved reading the story in the Gruffalo cave and acting out the story using the stick puppets. We also made the Gruffalo Child out of clay.

Reception

The first term in Reception has been a great success! The children have settled into daily life with ease and enjoyed all that is on offer in the classroom. The 'Talk4Writing' approach in Literacy has enabled the children to explore the story of 'The Little Red Hen' in detail, through actions, props and story maps. A highlight was the fascinating trip to Wimbledon Windmill and the chance to grind the grain into flour! 'Stickman' proved to be another very popular 'Talk4Writing' book with the children creating fantastic stick models for display having collected sticks on the Common during our 'Muddy Monday' forest school lesson. This Monday afternoon outdoor activity programme has continued to be extremely enjoyable for the children and allows them the opportunity to use all their senses and learn more about the world around them.



Year One

Year 1 have had a brilliant start of the year! This term the children have learnt about 'Houses and Homes'. We greatly enjoyed visiting Hampton Court Palace and in the classroom we journeyed to different periods of time to learn about a range of homes. In Art, we made a cross section of a Tudor house in clay and the class produced wonderful sketches of The White House School.

We have developed our fiction and non-fiction writing in Literacy and a highlight was creating alternative and imaginative endings to the story of 'The Three Little Pigs'. The class have also written some wonderful poems on weather and the seasons. We experimented with materials and light and dark in Science, focusing on shadows and how they are made. The class loved visiting the Barbican to watch the London Symphony Orchestra. What a term!



Year Two

The Year 2 class had a busy term both in and out of the classroom. The children have enjoyed a number of trips, a highlight was our fascinating visit to Brooklands Motor and Aviation museum as part of the children's work on their topic, *'Travel and Beyond'*. The children learnt about the history of aviation as well as both motorised and non-motorised land modes of transport, they even got to sit on a Concorde! The children have also, along with year 1, been on a visit to the Barbican theatre, where they collaborated with the London Symphony's Orchestra singing along to music written for *'Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type'*. We also managed to squeeze in a visit to the London Canal Museum, the children travelled down the canals in a canal boat and experienced life in the industrial age by dressing up in appropriate attire. I have thoroughly enjoyed my first term as class teacher of Year 2, especially getting to know the children, a highpoint being our exploration of our science topic of *'Circuits'*. The children have discovered what makes a circuit and how to stop current, we have explored conductors and insulators and learnt the symbols for each piece of apparatus, some of the children's excellent work is now on display for all to see.



Year Three

Year Three have had an extremely positive and action-packed start to the year. The class have been learning about *'Teeth and Healthy Eating'*, *'Magnets'* and how to plan and execute their own experiments in Science. In Geography, *'Weather around the World'* has been our focus; the children have produced a wide variety of fact files about different countries around the Globe. 3S' *'Window of Wonder'* and *'Think about it'* boards have raised many interesting philosophical questions and debates.

This term in Literacy, Year 3 have been reading *'The Mousehole Cat'* and have produced beautiful descriptions of The Great-Storm Cat, vivid acrostic poems and clay fish to celebrate the story. The class have been working hard in Maths to solve and create their own mathematical word problems and have been avidly learning their times tables. Independence and resilience have been a focus this term and this was demonstrated superbly when Year 3 led the Harvest assembly. The class have visited a local synagogue as part of an RE trip, the Barbican as part of a musical celebration of Roald Dahl and have created a good relationship with the librarians at Balham Library. The whole class has settled fantastically into Key Stage 2 consistently illustrating their developing skills of perseverance, collaboration and active listening.



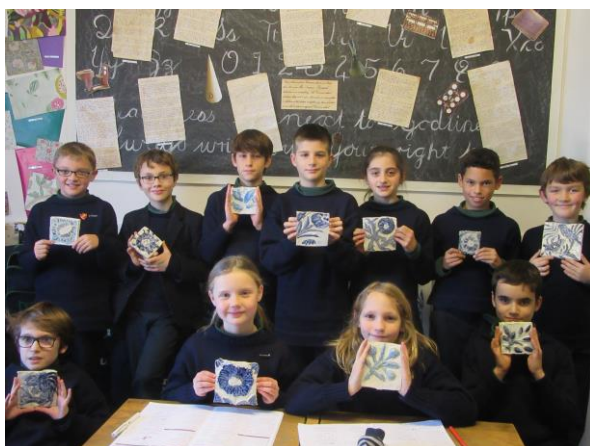
Year Four

This term we have been reading 'Journey to the River Sea' by Eva Ibbotson. The story is set in the Amazon rainforest and has inspired us to do lots of descriptive writing using similes, personification and metaphors to create imagery. We also researched the plight of the Amazon, and wrote persuasive texts about deforestation, using rhetorical questions to make the reader think. In science, we learned about the journey of a river, from the source to the mouth, and created 3D models using soil, stones and water, labelling the different features. We learned about vertebrates, invertebrates, their habitats and created habitat boxes for vertebrates that can be found in the Amazon. In art, we learned how to draw leaves and flowers using curved lines and painted them using natural dyes from different fruits, vegetables and spices. We also looked at the work of George Seurat and explored how he used pointillism to blend colours. The children have loved learning all about the Amazon and really enjoyed our trip to Kew Gardens where we were able to explore the tropical plants inside the Palm House and learn about how plants survive and thrive in rainforest habitats.



Year Five

Year 5 have had an exciting term, celebrating Roald Dahl's centenary with reading his brilliant childhood autobiography 'Boy'. They have been fascinated to learn about his life and understand the source of inspiration for the many children's books he has written, which they all dearly love. In addition to this, we have immersed ourselves in our Victorian history topic. We enjoyed a wonderful tour of The Royal Albert Hall, which took us back to its opening in 1871. In art, the class have created ceramic tiles and enlarged prints after the Victorian artist, William Morris. Mike Davison gave us a lesson on The Potato Famine, which has inspired the class to write stories about Irish and Scottish emigration during the Victorian era. However, our main focus has been children at work and at school. All the children in the class now subscribe to the engaging 'Week Junior', which has been an amazing learning tool. Year 5 now have an impressive understanding of current events.



Year Six

This term, Year 6 have had a superb term, working hard in preparation for their upcoming 11+ examinations and enjoying the broad range of extra-curricular activities they have taken part in. The term started with an outstanding trip to The Kings Cross theatre to see a spectacular performance of 'The Railway Children' - this has been our class reader over the last term. Other highlights have included a First Aid workshop led by The British Red Cross, a visit from TfL to promote safe and responsible independent travel in London, a trip to the Jewish Liberal Synagogue to learn about Judaism, and more recently a trip to The Barbican to hear the LSO celebrating Roald Dahl's centenary and re-living the magical stories through music, alongside classical music that Dahl loved. The Year 6 children enjoyed leading the 'Gathering of Houses' event and have been good role models to the younger children around school. I have been hugely impressed by the effort of all the children in the class, and have enjoyed my term with them. They thoroughly deserve the end of term treat to the Polka theatre which promises to be an exciting trip. Keep up the hard work over the festive period – it will be worth it and I promise we will have lots of fun when you are finished! We have lots to look forward to next term.



Boys' Sport

In Sport this term, the boys have been refining their football skills and working on team work and match tactics such as attacking and defending as a team. There have been a host of fixtures, home and away, with a pleasing mostly positive outcome. Some specific performances worthy of mentioning are as follows; the Under 9 boys who participated away at Tournament hosted by Dolphin School. The boys performed admirably, finishing 3rd out of 9 teams, along the way they beat both Alleyn's Junior School and the hosts Dolphin School. Although a last gasp equaliser kept them from second, each one of the boys represented the attitude and endeavour I expect from our children representing the school and it was very pleasing to see. For the older boys and the Under 11 team, an especially pleasing afternoon was spent at Oliver House where the boys exemplified all of our practise and teamwork when they played 4 matches, winning 3 comfortably and scoring at times at will. Well done to all the boys involved in all of our fixtures this past term, as I have thoroughly enjoyed taking and hosting fixtures for them to showcase their talents. In other lessons, the boys have also been practising their rugby skills ready for the tag rugby fixtures in the Spring term. In swimming, the children have been refining their strokes and building their stamina ready for the annual swimming gala at the end of next term.



Girls' Sport

This term at The White House, Netball has gone from strength to strength due to the perseverance and teamwork demonstrated by all teams. The fitness drills and regular skills practices have ensured fantastic progress made by all players and as a result of this, superb fixture results. The U11's, U10's & U9's have all seen successes against Oliver House, Dolphin School and Eaton House. This term also saw the annual White House Netball Tournament, with our U10's team narrowly missing out on a place in the final as a result of being beaten by the overall winners of the tournament, Old Palace. I am immensely proud of the progress we have made as a squad throughout this term and also the development of the girls' sportsmanship and mature team spirit.

Music

It has been a very busy and exciting time in the music department this term. We began in October with a wonderful Harvest festival at St. Thomas' Church led by our Year 3 pupils. The children entertained us with a range of musical numbers including the orchestra's 'Harvest Song' and a whole school performance of 'Thank Your Lucky Stars' where they all sang beautifully. On 1st December, the Year 4 – 6 Musical Evening took place. It was a fantastic evening where the children showcased their many talents on a range of instruments. We were entertained by a number of individual performers along with pieces by Music Club and the school orchestra, finishing with a superb Choir performance. A week later, we had 'Carols on the Drive' where the children in Choir Club sang beautifully. It was a lovely evening and a fun way to usher in the festive season!

Everybody has been working hard to prepare for our Nativity on 16th December – a fantastic finale to the term filled with readings and poems from Year 4 acted beautifully by Reception; an orchestra performance, a haunting percussion rendition of 'Carol Of The Bells' and many songs with wonderful solos, duets and trios. A huge well done to the children and thank you to everyone for your support this term. Merry Christmas!





Drama

This term, drama at The White House Preparatory School has been full of creativity, and all the children have had a lot of fun rehearsing their pieces. Each year group has been working on a Roald Dahl performance, from Reception with “Revolting Rhymes” to Year 6 with “The Twits”. We are very much looking forward to performing these at various assemblies next term. Drama club have been getting into the Christmas spirit since September, and did a fantastic end of term show based on Dr Seuss’ “The Grinch”, with songs and dances from “Elf The Musical”. They have been a brilliant and talented class, and we are looking forward to our “School Of Rock”/“We Will Rock You” performance in the New Year. Our Musical Magic weeks continue to be a great success, and October’s “Singin’ in the Rain” was our best one yet! It amazes me how the children learn so much in such a short space of time. I cannot fault their passion, enthusiasm and talent. We’re not even at the end of term, and I am preparing for our February half term workshop, “Annie”. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas, and I hope to see many of you at our drama assemblies next term.

A final word...

Many thanks to the WAPS committee for their fundraising efforts this year. Medecins sans Frontieres UK Lambeth and Agnes Riley are worthy charities that really benefit from the monies that have we have raised in 2016.

We look forward to seeing you all on **Tuesday 10th January 2017**. I would like to invite parents to join us for refreshments in the hall once you have dropped off your children on the first day back.

Have a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from myself, Mary and all the Staff at The White House Preparatory School and Woodentops kindergarten and Woodentops Day Nursery.

We look forward to seeing you all on

Tuesday 10th January 2017.



Accredited Member