

North Ealing News



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‘At North Ealing Primary we inspire and nurture all our children to become aspirational, lifelong learners through an inclusive, ambitious and engaging curriculum.’

Thursday 15th December 2022

“To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas.” — Calvin Coolidge

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the Autumn Term draws to a close I would like to thank all the dedicated and committed NEPS staff. It is always a very demanding time of year in schools, nevertheless it has been wonderful for the children to join in the many festive activities and learning experiences on offer. During a recent school tour a prospective parent commented on the positive energy here at NEPS.

Can we thank the PTA for the very successful Christmas Fair on Saturday 3rd December 2022 where we raised a phenomenal £6,298.49. This money will go towards a number of school resources such as Interactive White Boards, outside equipment and much more. Please can we remind all parents and carers to get involved at the PTA at events as much as possible, help is always appreciated.

Mrs Bruley and Mrs Barnes have welcomed a high number of volunteers into school this term. As ever, this contribution has helped and supported the school with a number of tasks that would not be possible without this support.

I would also like to thank all parents and carers for supporting NEPS. We are proud of the strength of our special community and look forward to another successful year in 2023.

Finally, on behalf of the whole staff team, I would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and we look forward to the children's return on Wednesday 4th January 2023.

Staff Leavers

This term we say farewell to Mrs Allard who is off to spend more time with her young family. We also say goodbye to Mrs Varsani who has secured a new teaching post closer to home. We wish both of you the very best of luck for your future endeavours. We are thrilled to welcome two new teachers to NEPS in January 2023. In Year 5 Mrs Lashley will be joining class 5A and in Year 2 Ms Hudson will be joining class 2V.

Alex, our wonderful P2B councillor, will be reducing her role to one day a week from January. To ensure continuity, we welcome back Liz Waterhouse whilst we recruit.

Achievements

During the Interfaith week we explored a number of religions, cultures, dances and the use of meditation to improve well-being and overall health. A big thank you to all those who volunteered their time. Running in parallel was Anti Bullying week - of course, at NEPS, we work hard with the children all the time in order to recognise and combat any bullying - anti-bullying week allowed us to raise the profile of this very serious issue. Attached is a poignant poem created by Mikel in Year 5.

Alongside our continuous curriculum, children, staff and volunteers have all worked very hard to hold a number of entertaining festive concerts in each year group. Welcoming our parents back into these events has been wonderful, and we are incredibly grateful for the generous donations given to the school.

School Council

Well done to our School Council who have worked hard this term. A range of school issues have been discussed and also the children have raised a significant amount of money £1156.51 for their chosen charity-Mind.

Online Safety

Many pupils will be 'upgrading' their devices soon thanks to the generosity of, 'Santa's Little Helpers!' If you haven't already done so, please sign up to our National Online Safety hub which is FREE to you and which is so helpful in helping YOU to help your child enjoy the internet safely and responsibly. We need to work together.

The 4 minute explainer videos help YOU keep your child (and others) safe online!

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/north-ealing-primary-school>

Just click on the link and sign up as Parent/Carer. It takes 3 minutes. Keep in touch with what your child is accessing online!

We have now received national recognition as a 'Safe School' for the second year running. PLEASE help us to help YOU make yours a 'safe home'!

EYFS

Nursery have been continuing their learning about different celebrations throughout the Autumn term. The children have been looking at birthdays and have read the story 'Kipper's Birthday' by Mick Inkpen. The children have been busy baking shortbread biscuits and fairy cakes with red cherries on top to celebrate St Andrew's Day.

Christmas has been in full swing in the Nursery, with the children watching The Clumsiest Elf Panto and putting on a wonderful performance of Christmas songs. Well done Nursery children.

The children in Reception have been out and about this half term, with a rather rainy visit to St Barnabas Church. The children were able to ask the priest lots of questions and look at the symbols found in a Christian church.

The children have also immersed themselves in all things Christmas. The Clumsiest Elf Panto kept the children and the adults highly amused and the Reception garden even had its own Santa's grotto. The whole year group performed a fabulous Christmas concert bringing the Autumn term to festive close. Well done Reception.

KS1

Year 1 has been busy learning about materials and their properties. They have conducted lots of experiments, where they have been asking questions, making predictions and performing simple tests to see which materials were waterproof. They have been using their knowledge of materials to help them design and make their puppets.

The children took to the stage and performed a collection of Christmas songs to get the school into the festive spirit. The performance was spectacular and they did amazingly, making parents, staff and children very proud. Well done Year 1.

In Year 2 the children have also been learning about materials in the context of space and space suits. They have been looking at how materials can be manipulated by squashing, bending, twisting and stretching them. They have been predicting, experimenting and concluding some exciting tests such as finding out which material will protect an egg that is dropped from a height. Thankfully the eggs were in ziplock bags. The year group have also performed a magical Christmas concert and taken part in the school Christmas fair. A wonderful end to the Autumn term. Well done Year 2.

KS2

Year 3 have been rock detectives in science this half term. The children have been using magnifying glasses to look at the features of the different rocks and identify in which category they belong. The children have also been using new scientific language such as permeable, durable and density when investigating the different rocks. Earthquakes, fossils and the layers of the Earth have also been covered in the science topic so please ask your child what they know about rocks.

This half term Year 3 ventured to the Natural History Museum to enrich the children's learning about Stone Age Britain, Volcanoes and Earthquakes. This was the first trip on public transport for our Year 3 children and they did NEPS proud. They came back armed with lots of stories and new facts they'd learnt. Well done Year 3!

Year 4 children have been out and about this month which started with a trip to the Science Museum. They took part in an interactive workshop called 'It takes Guts'. They explored, consolidated and expanded on their knowledge of the digestive system.

The children have also taken part in a visit from the local Rabbi, who taught them all about Judaism and his own experience of being Jewish. During the visit they were taken on a virtual tour of a synagogue and given lots of opportunity to ask questions. In comparison, during interfaith week, Mr Powell visited Year 4 to share his experiences as a humanist and the philosophy of the humanist approach.

4T went back in time to visit the village of Wareham, Dorset in the Kingdom of Wessex to share their understanding of life during the Viking and Anglo Saxon periods and how and why they came to be in Britain. The acting, dancing, teamwork and humour had the audience engaged and wanting more - well done 4T.

Last week's 'Anglo-Saxon/Viking' day was a big hit as the children had the opportunity to dress up and have a fully immersive and exciting learning experience with an expert historian. They had an exciting visit from History into Schools. They learnt all about writing in runes, the traditional Saxon board game of fox and geese and Viking crime and punishment. Later in the afternoon, the children got to handle artefacts, recreate the battle of Hastings and build a shield wall.

Year 5's new science topic about space has been out of this world. The children have been finding out 'what is really out there', by learning about the significant figures involved in space exploration. In English the children have been reading 'Hidden Figures' the untold story of the black women mathematicians who helped win the space race. Both the topic and the book have captivated the children so please do ask your child all about the topic, space. See the attached persuasive writing linked to this English unit of work.

Arts Week has been a regal affair in Year 5 with the children using the Bayeux Tapestry for their inspiration and their knowledge of kings and queens in history.

Year 6 have been enjoying arts week where they are learning about Henry Moore's WWII inspired art. The children have been fine tuning their sketching and shading skills and have also been creating sculptures in the style of Henry Moore art.

6F and 6S have thoroughly enjoyed their school trips to the The Natural History Museum and 6S has their trip to look forward to in the Spring.

Some of the Year 6 children have taken part in Bikeability. The children have been learning the rules of the road when cycling and how to ride their bikes safely around the local area.

Music and More at NEPS!

Choir: After a stunning performance at Lighting Up the Lane our choir also took part in the Ealing Schools Music Association Concert at St Barnabas on December 7th. Alongside 5 other local schools, they sang a wonderful selection of songs from the jazzy, 'Midnight' to the more reflective, 'Love Shone Down'. As always, NEPS was well-represented both in choir numbers and support from parents/carers. Thanks so much to Mr Mehew and Miss Taylor for supporting the children in attending and performing at this special event. The choir was also part of the KS2 Concerts on December 13th.

KS1 Singers opened and entertained us wonderfully at the PTA Christmas Fair on December 3rd. They sang a selection of favourites with great enthusiasm before sending us off to enjoy the amazing food selection and gift stalls. We are so pleased to provide our younger pupils with an opportunity to lead in this way!

KS2 Classes provided much festive cheer in their concerts at St Barnabas on December 13th. These concerts gave our Orchestra and Choir a chance to shine but were, above all, a celebration of our school's Music Mission Statement: 'Everyone is a Musician'.

Once again, the variety of musical styles reflected our commitment to ENGAGING all our pupils in enjoyable musical experiences inspired by their work in class on WW2 (Y6 'Stop the Cavalry'), by world events, (Y5 'No Wars Will Stop Us Singing'), inspired by tradition, (Y4 'White Christmas') and inspired by peace (Y3 'Light a Candle').

The concerts also featured words and poetry performed/written by pupils.

Staff Panto

'Cinderella did go to the ball', the NEPS staff delighted the children today with our very own pantomime. We have tweeted an exclusive peek at all the fun and games!

Sports at NES

We have had a fantastic term of sports. We have had two exciting games of our Peal Shield tournament with one still to play in January, with the hope to move on to the knockout stages after that. Thank you to all the boys and girls that have shown commitment and motivation to play. We also competed in Sports Hall Athletics, which saw us come 4th overall. A huge well done to the Year 5 and Year 6 that took part.

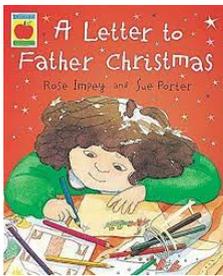
Rights Respecting

Article 31 (leisure, play and culture)

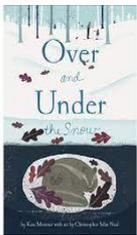
Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FjHjRNRpHEM>

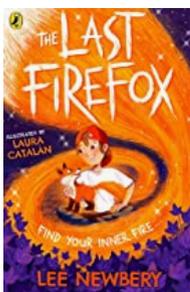
Book Recommendations



A Letter to Father Christmas by Rose Impey and Sue Porter: An absolute favourite of mine at this time of year. Mrs Flowers



Over and Under the Snow by Kate Messner: What lies under the snow?



The Last Firefox by Lee Newberry: The Last Firefox is about a boy called Charlie who meets another boy called Ted; Ted has a Firefox, which is a fox that lights on fire, and has to look after it. I really like this book because it's an adventure book which is really different to any other book I've read. I would recommend this book to anyone is KS2 - you won't be disappointed! Alaia, 5A

Signpost

Reception School places applications deadline

The deadline for Reception applications is January 15th 2023.

Scarlet Fever and Strep A Guidance

<https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2022/12/05/group-a-strep-what-you-need-to-know/> Health Information link

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2022/12/07/strep-a-and-scarlet-fever-what-are-they-and-what-are-the-symptoms-information-for-parents-schools-colleges-and-early-years-providers/>

Reporting Absences

Please can we remind you to report ALL absences to the school office by 8.30am. This can be done by calling the absence line 0208 997 2653 and leaving a message, texting using the Schoolcomms App or emailing admin@northealing.ealing.sch.uk . Please indicate your child/ren's name, class and full reason for absence. **Stating they are 'unwell' is not sufficient.** Many thanks for your cooperation in this.

End of Term Information

Nursery finish today Thursday 15th December.

Reception – Year 6 finish tomorrow, Friday 16th December, at 1.30pm. Please collect your children promptly.

Tuesday 3rd January 2023 is a Staff Training Day, so the school will be closed to pupils.

We look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on **Wednesday 4th January 2023** and wish you and your family an enjoyable Christmas break.

