

OLD PALACE PRIMARY SCHOOL



St Leonard's Street, Bow, London, E3 3BT ☐ Tel: 020 8980 3020
Fax: 020 8980 2221 ☐ Website: www.oldpalaceprimary.co.uk



2nd June 2021

Dear Pamela,

In the past the school has greatly benefitted from the financial assistance provided by the Worshipful Company of Needle makers. Historically, we used the money to subsidise school trips. Half the funds were used to reduce the cost of educational visits and the other half to subsidise a residence trip for our Year 4 pupils.

We believe that the first hand experiences provided by educational visits are an essential part of the children's education. We plan our visits carefully to try to ensure that our pupils get access to the same breadth of experiences as children living in more affluent areas. These include a trip to Kidzania for Year 5 to support learning about careers, a visit to Bore Farm for Year 3 to learn where food originates and a trip to Colchester Zoo for our youngest pupils in Reception. Despite the school's location close to central London, many families do not travel beyond Bow and Stratford. Therefore we also provide many of the children with their first visit into central London, where they get to visit a range of galleries and museums and to visit sites such as the Royal Mews and the Tower of London. We also take our Year 2 children to Chalkwell, which for some is their first trip to the seaside.

The residential trip to Gilwell Park for our Year 4 pupils is equally valuable. Not only does this allow the children to try a range of outdoor activities, such as the high ropes, archery and raft building; it also develops their character, confidence and resilience. When I meet ex-pupils their often mention Gilwell Park as one of their lasting memories of the school. Many of the pupil's families would not be able to meet the full cost of the trip, so it is your support which makes this possible.

Sadly, due to the pandemic, all our trips came to end in March 2020. Despite this you continued to support the school, and last year helped us to buy additional Chromebooks to support remote learning. At the time, we could not have known that schools would once again close in January 2021, but your support meant that we were prepared. In the first week of January we were able to loan 152 Chromebooks to the families of pupils at the school. As a result, we had high attendance at our live Zoom lessons, which took place three times a day, meaning that when the children did return in March, they were less behind in their learning than we had feared. Many families expressed how grateful they were to be loaned a device. The majority of our families have two or more children and so previously, some of the children had to try and access the learning using one of their parents' mobile phones, which was far from ideal.

Looking to the future, we very much hope to be able to start to run our educational visits again. In July, we plan to provide an end of year trip for each class, and if this goes well and the government guidance allows, we will then resume half termly trips for each year group from September. Your support with subsidising these would again be very much appreciated, especially as many of our families are now in an even weaker financial situation and so we do not wish to add to this by requesting increased parental contributions.



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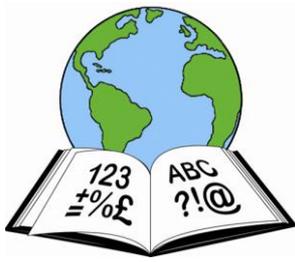


Healthy Schools



QUALITY MARK

Headteacher: Mr G. Palmer BA (Hons)
School Business Manager: Michele Walsham



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Regretfully, we will not be able to run any residential trips until summer 2022. Therefore if you were able to match your usual generosity, we would spend the remaining funds on purchasing additional i-pads for our younger pupils. At present we have 30 i-pads which are shared by 120 pupils in KS1. Ideally we would like to purchase an addition 30, so that these could be shared across classes. I-pads are a valuable tool in supporting the children's early reading, as alongside physical books, the children use these to access additional reading material on the digitally platform 'Bug Club'. More widely, they also give the children access to a range of educational apps, and the younger children find them an easier tool to access the resources we place on Google Classroom, than using Chromebooks. We have allocated school funds to purchase 20 i-pads, but your contribution, would allow us to purchase a full class set of 30.

May I end by again thanking you for your generous support over the past years. This is never taken for granted and I am aware you may have other priorities during these challenging time. That said, if you are able to continue to support us in 2021, this will allow us to continue to enrich the learning experience we are able to provide for the children.

Yours sincerely,

Gary Palmer
Headteacher



Headteacher: Mr G. Palmer BA (Hons)
School Business Manager: Michele Walsham