



# BWA Newsletter

Wix's Lane, Clapham Common North Side, London SW4 0AJ

**27<sup>th</sup> January 2023**



Another brilliant week at BWA draws to a close. It has certainly been busy and everyone has worked so hard. On Tuesday and Wednesday we had four headteachers from other schools come in to see BWA in action. This visit is called a GPE – Guided Peer Evaluation and forms part of our relentless drive for improvement, excellence and equality. The four headteachers are the peers and we are guided by a current Ofsted inspector. The purpose is for the heads to see what happens in other schools, on this occasion it was BWA, and to share what they see. They also leave us questions to consider on areas we may want to review. The heads thought we had a wonderful school because all of our pupils were engaged in their learning, there was consistency across the school and they commented on how strong our curriculum offer is. You will all know that I feel very proud of the provision we offer so it was lovely to hear this feedback from other peers and to share this with the staff and pupils.

We have had a number of staff test positive for COVID and been out of school so please do continue to follow the advice below so we do all we can to minimise the disruption to learning and keep well.



## **UKHSA - School advice**

Flu and COVID 19 are [currently circulating at high levels](#) and are likely to continue to increase in coming weeks. High numbers of scarlet fever, which is caused by group A streptococcus, also [continue to be reported](#).

UKHSA has issued a press notice [here](#). **The advice is aimed at parents to remind them that if their child is unwell and has a fever, they should stay home from school or nursery until they feel better and the fever has resolved.**



## **Parent Governor - Election**

We are delighted to have received two nominations for this important role. Details of the nominees and election process went out yesterday to every family alongside the voting cards. Every parent of a BWA pupil is entitled to one vote.



## **Parent Gym**

I am so happy that we have secured another opportunity for BWA parents to attend this programme. It is a well-established, six-week programme that shares and explores practical tips and strategies to make family life easier and help your children thrive. Letters have gone out about the six sessions – you sign up to attend all sessions. If you would like to sign up, please do so using this [link](#) before the end of day today - Friday 27th January.



## **English Stream Parent Teacher Meetings**

Please remember to book your appointment to meet the teacher if you haven't done so already.

## Role Models – Free Parent Workshop



If you haven't signed up for this webinar – I'd recommend you do. This company always runs excellent sessions.

Topic: **'How to develop confidence in children'**

When: **28th February, 2023 07:30 PM** [London]

A 45 minute online talk, followed by Q&A, exploring how to develop a child's confidence, nurture their curiosity and encourage a healthy responses to challenges. Throughout their childhood, children are building their internal picture of how they view themselves; their self-esteem, self-efficacy and mindset are being shaped. What can we do to positively impact these important life skills?

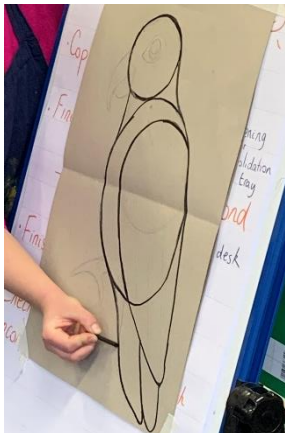
What you'll learn:

- why confidence is such an important skill to develop in childhood;
- what it means to be confident; and
- 10 practical strategies for developing confidence in children.

**Register using this**

**link:** [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/2116734542976/WN\\_sH5PwupeSeChzFQb01eF5g](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/2116734542976/WN_sH5PwupeSeChzFQb01eF5g)

Here are some of our highlights of our week together.



It was a busy week of learning for Year 2 so it has been tricky to choose a highlight. They all had a wonderful time learning with our resident artists. The artwork was also linked with their Science topic. Pupils created a beautiful piece of art representing a sun parakeet, a colourful endangered species which can be found in South America. Using pencil, oil pastels and collage, pupils produced truly fantastic works of art. We can wait to display these around the school.



This week, pupils in Nursery stole the show during the GPE for their excellent learning behaviours. They also went on a visit to the Fire Station today – which has to be the highlight of the week. Pupils loved the experience and we are very grateful for all the help we had to make the trip so successful.

In RB, pupils have been inspired by the story of the Three Little Pigs, which helped them create descriptive phrases to design a house that the wolf could not blow down. They came up with sticky slime walls, telescopes and all sorts of booby traps. Some pupils created a sand mountain home for the pigs in the sandpit during afternoon play. In the photograph you can see them working together to add underground tunnels for escape routes as well as smooth walls that the wolf would slide down.





Pupils in RW have been exploring dinosaur skeletons and fossils by digging them up in their outdoor sandpit and studying the shapes and texture. They made their own dinosaur skeletons using cotton buds as well as their own fossils using clay. These will be displayed in their Dinosaur Museum.

Year 1 had a wonderful visit to Holy Trinity, Clapham. They learnt more about how Christians worship, joined in with some singing and dancing. Everyone was able to identify the features of a church which they have been learning about in their RE lessons.



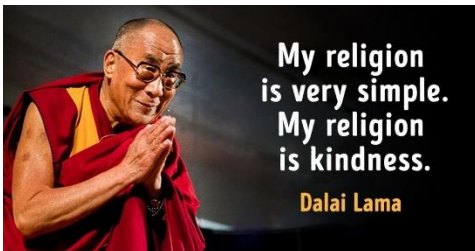
Pupils in Year 3B have been exploring Hindu creation stories as part of their RE unit this term. They explored the difference and similarities between the creation stories of Hinduism, Christianity and Judaism.



Year 3 enjoyed a virtual visit from the British Museum and took on the role of 'myth-busters'. In their new jobs, pupils were required to use their historic enquiry skills and creative flair. They investigated objects from the museum's collection and weighing up the evidence, developed their own perspective and judgements about ancient Egypt's common misconceptions.

A highlight for Year 4 this week was developing their own electrical circuits to test which materials were electrical conductors and insulators. Pupils used their investigative skills to discover that metal was an excellent conductor and that materials such as rubber and plastic are insulators. We were very impressed with the excellent communication and listening skills pupils used to work well in their teams.

Pupils in 4B, have been learning about the role of an MP and Mayor of London as part of their Geography Stakeholders unit. They learnt what the mayor of London is responsible for in our city. It was great to hear them recall what they know about things our MPs can help us with.

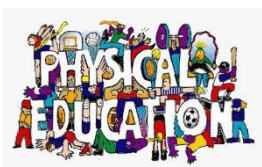


Year 5's highlight this week was learning about Buddhist values in RE. Pupils watched a selection of short clips of the Dalai Lama explaining the Buddhist approach to living a fulfilling and meaningful life. After watching these, pupils were able to reflect on their own values and the values of our school, before drawing comparisons between each of them. They could identify that lots of our fundamental values are shared. We were very impressed with the amazing word clouds they created to summarise what values are most important to them.

Pupils in our Year 6 have been enjoying immersing themselves in their new English unit, The Giant's Necklace. They were intrigued by the narrative and were truly invested in the character's experiences.



6B have been using our Chromebooks to research different sub-species of animals during their science lessons on Evolution. They have been learning how variations can happen between species over time according to their needs in their habitats.



During our last week of basketball, KS2 pupils have been using all the skills they have learnt to play small sided basketball games. This has been in the form of 'end zone' games where pupils have to complete a certain number of passes, avoiding a defender/s, before passing to a teammate in the end zone to score. These lessons have been an amazing showcase of their dribbling, passing, moving to space and communication and I am very proud of the improvement they have made from the first lesson of Spring 1. Next week KS2 pupils will start a short course on Hockey before starting Net and Wall games in Spring 2.

IN KS1, pupils have been continuing to work on their attacking and defending skills as we introduce balls into their games. They have begun to roll and pass soft balls while trying to get around a defender to score over

a designated 'try line'. The skills learned in these games are important building blocks for games such as rugby and football.

Last but not least our Early Years students have been continuing their learning in attacking and defending with the large focus being on dodging while attacking and mirroring while defending. They have also been working on their gross motor skills in the form of small obstacle courses.'

### Excellent Learners

It was a privilege to congratulate our Excellent Learners in celebration assemblies this week.

| <u>Excellent Learners</u><br><u>Ask questions</u> |    |           |    |
|---|----|-----------|----|
| Gabriel   | RW | Jaxson    | 3S |
| Armand  | RB | Alexander | 4A |
| Bentley   | Y1 | Isabella  | 4W |
| Rico  | Y2 | Ruben     | 4B |
| Chloe   | 3B | Vinnie    | Y5 |
| Yassine   | 3M | Sofia     | Y6 |
|   |    | Rayan     | 6B |



### Dates to Remember

**Last day of half term** – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February

**English Stream Parent Teacher Meetings** – week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> February

**Bilingual Stream Reports** - Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February



Wishing you all a very happy and peaceful weekend.

Miss Henry



## **Help for Households**

The Money and Pensions Service (MaPS) which is an arm's-length body sponsored by the Department for Work and Pensions offers free and impartial guidance to help people to make the best with their money and pensions. Please use this link to access the information. [Help with the cost of living | MoneyHelper](#)



### **LA Support Offer**

During the cost of living crisis Wandsworth Council are committed to supporting the children and families in the borough through one of the harshest winters we may ever experience, by offering a Warmer Welcome – an enhanced children's centre offer from six of our children's centres. The LA Warmer Welcome sites are local places around the borough, where families and their children can come for free. These children's centres offer a warm, safe, welcoming place where hot drinks and food are being served alongside a range of activities to support families.

Please see the three attached leaflets highlighting the locations of the 'Warmer Welcome' sites and their core opening hours and the wider cost of living support. You can access a broader range of information related to cost of living concerns via their website [www.wandsworth.gov.uk/cost-of-living-hub/](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/cost-of-living-hub/)



The Government has launched the '[Help for Households](#)' scheme. The homepage brings together over 40 support schemes that the public can access, depending on eligibility, including help with:

#### Household costs

- Energy Bills
- Childcare costs
- Income support
- Transport costs

Additionally, a range of online tools will help citizens quickly and efficiently check the support they might be eligible for and how to access it.