



Langley Hall Primary Academy  
Ad Vitam Paramus

## Lower School Curriculum Newsletter

The children have been working extremely hard this term in all areas of the curriculum.

### Reception...

In Reception we have had a very dramatic term, with a big emphasis on role play, puppetry and small worlds. The beginning part of the term saw us delve into traditional tales and introduce children to story maps and language; enabling them to retell stories and make them come alive! We explored many characters and tried porridge like Goldilocks, hunted for the runaway gingerbread man, grew beanstalks like Jack and worked as a team to pull out the enormous turnip! We were able to make lots of links to other areas of learning, in maths we have focused on adding and measures such as length, height and weight.

The second half of the term has saw us transform into pirates! We opened the topic with a successful pirate day where children were involved in a story hunt, looking for clues and finding the treasure! Children have been practicing their pirate voices and describing themselves and their adventures on the rough seas! They have flown to Neverland, walked the plank, thrown a pirate party and even found some pirate dinosaurs! We have built our own ships, added and subtracted treasure and followed maps to the spot marked X!



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### Year 1...

This term the children have focused on non-fiction writing and the different features involved in them. They started with writing recounts in the form of diary entries; the children wrote in character as a lady who went into a magical world in a washing machine! They focused on using the past tense, in particular adding the suffixes 'ed'. They then learnt about writing instructions, focusing on using time connectives. The children wrote their own instructions on how to capture Tick Tock Croc (from Peter Pan). Finally, they have learnt about the features of a newspaper and are practicing creating exciting headlines.

In Numeracy this term, we have had a strong focus on number and understanding the relationships between them. The children have learnt their two's, five's and ten times tables and are starting to apply this knowledge when problem solving.

This term our IPC topic has been Time Travellers. The children have been going back in time to explore different periods in our past. They started with the dinosaurs, where we had an exciting visit from a REAL dinosaur. They then went to ancient Egypt, where the children learnt about King Tutankhamun and helped decorate his tomb with hieroglyphics. They also got to try Egyptian food such as dates and olives. They then visited the Romans and learnt about what day to day lives were like. They were challenged to make their own Roman chariots and experimented to find the best surface for them to travel along. After that they visited the Victorians, where they spent a day in the life of a Victorian child and saw what it was like for them at school and at work! Finally, they found out about WW2 and thought about the evacuees and what it would have felt like. They packed their own suitcases, including their home made gas masks!



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## Year 2...

In Year 2 we have been exploring different parts of the world through our IPC topic From A-B. At the beginning of the topic we looked at the globe and located the seven continents and five oceans. We wrote about journeys we have been on from holidays to simply walking from lower school to upper school using all our geographical language and by identifying human and physical features. We also looked at the four countries which make up the United Kingdom.

In science, we have been exploring different habitats around the world including deserts, rainforest, grasslands, savannah, oceans and the Arctic. We looked at how animals have adapted to live in their habitats. We learnt that polar bears have thick white fur so they can blend in to their surroundings in the Arctic. We also learnt that camels have long eyelashes to keep the sand out of their eyes and humps which store water. We became bug detectives when learning micro-habits. We looked for mini-beasts under stones, under logs and under bushes.

In Literacy, the children have been working hard to sustain a narrative. We have explored story maps to retell stories which the children then covered in post-it notes to innovate their own stories. The children have written a variety of stories including their own version of 'Man on the Moon' and warning stories using 'Through the Tunnel.' Recently we have been writing our own non-chronological reports. In each piece of writing we have been trying hard to use organisational devices to show purpose of writing, including: subheadings, beginning of paragraphs and opening with subordinate clauses. We have been working hard to include a range of punctuation, including full stops and capital letters, exclamation marks and question marks in our writing.

In Numeracy, we have been using measuring vessels with different scales to measure the capacity of liquid. We also used thermometers to measure the temperature throughout the day. We have been learning to add and subtract using a range of different methods including the bar method, sequencing and the column method. We have also related repeated addition to multiplication and repeated subtraction to division.



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### P.E...

This term in Lower School we have been developing our ball skills, primarily focusing on basketball. Basketball encourages many of our basic techniques with a ball such as throwing, catching and bouncing. We have also been moving onto some more complex ways to move a ball in different shapes and forwards and backwards in a team. During PE we have developed a game called ICE CREAM, in this game children are wearing different coloured bibs with a number on the front, they run around the playground and when we shout ice cream they must run and get into their coloured bib groups and into number order! This game promotes decision making, numeracy skills and teamwork ... Popular with the children!

We have been very impressed this term with the whole schools effort in PE and look forward to another excellent term of PE after Easter!

### Dance

Year 1 have been working hard in Dance this term, and have thoroughly enjoyed learning some Bollywood dancing. We have focused on core movements, such as Lotus Hands, the Hip Shake and the Shoulder Shake, among others.

Year 2 have been looking at the Rock'n'Roll 60's. They are now pros at the hand jive, and even added movements of their own to the classic dance move.

## French

Children in **Year 1** have learned to say words for the four seasons in a Rap. They have also learned to give a simple description of the weather.

**Year 2** have been chanting, singing and playing games as they learn how to name different wild animals. They have worked hard to improve their pronunciation.

Both **Year 1** and **2** have also learned the key language of Little Red Riding Hood and Jack and the Beanstalk in preparation for the Storytelling Workshops on our fabulous French Day!

## Music

This year for the first time, Reception Year 1 and Year 2 each gave separate 'Music for All' concerts. This turned out to be a very good innovation, as there would have been far too much to fit all the items into a single concert. The concerts on 10 March showed the results of the children's work in singing, recorder and violin in Music Assemblies, Music Workshop and after school music clubs. The mini steel pans used by the Percussion Club directed by Mrs Vidal make a very strong impression on our ear drums! Additionally, we had the first performance of the new Year 2 Choir conducted by Mrs Rogers. A growing number of Lower School children are taking individual private lessons with members of our specialist team and some of these children have performed in informal early evening concerts at Upper School.



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## Photos...

