



Kind Respectful Safe

## A Message from Karen Symons

Dear Parents and Carers,

The first half term just sped by and the children progressed just as fast. They all worked so hard. Starting that little bit earlier gave them more time, at the best time of the day for learning.

Please can you make sure they are at the gate ready to enter by 8.35 am (8.30 for nursery) each day. The lessons start at 8.45 sharp so they need time to get upstairs, take off their coats and get to their tables. Missing the start of a lesson puts them at a disadvantage.. Also fines have to be issued to families who are persistently late or absent as it has such an impact on a child's wellbeing and progression.. Try your best please.

No INSET days this year so you enjoyed 2 weeks off. In the future this should help with the cost of travelling and give you some quality time together. The children need the break. and they do not miss out on any teaching days.

Kind regards,

Your Head Teacher Karen

## Our Playground Development

Over the Summer holidays, people were hard at work developing our playground and creating a new sensory garden next to the Muga pitch.



This provides an important quiet area for our children to enjoy at lunchtime if they wish to play quieter games or chat with their friends.

Inside the school building, we have new murals up in the Bottom Hall showing the history of Clara Grant School - it is a lovely feature with lots of photos of our school history. We hope you get a chance to come and take a look soon!

## Shakespeare Performance at The Broadway Theatre

*"By the pricking of my thumbs, something wicked this way comes"*

Year 5 Children have been working hard on a performance of Macbeth which they will be entering into the Shakespeare Schools Festival in November. It is a really exciting event where the children are able to perform alongside other schools in a real theatre.

If you would like to buy tickets you can do so directly through the Box Office: [boxoffice@thebroadwaybarking.com](mailto:boxoffice@thebroadwaybarking.com) or by phone: 0208 507 5607

The Performance is on Monday the 14th of November at 7pm and adult tickets cost £9.95. It would be a lovely way to support our young actors!

## Dates for your diary

### November

- 7th Term begins
- 14th Y5 Shakespeare Production
- 21st Maths Week
- 30th Nov - 2nd Dec Sayers Croft

### December

- 9th Poetry Slam
- 15th UKS2 Pantomime
- EYs and KS 1 Performance
- 21st Last day of term
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### January

- 5th Spring Term Begins

## Reminders

School uniform must be worn every day. No hoodies or jewellery.

Every day counts, do not miss a day - 100% attendance needed

Lost Property - we have large quantities of unnamed lost property. Please make sure all clothing is labelled.

Download the Class Dojo app to receive alerts from school

# Celebrating our School Community

## Black History Month – Exploring Morocco

Each year, the school chooses a different country to celebrate Black History Month which reflects members of our school community. This has become an important and much enjoyed part of our school year.

This year, children across the school have been learning about Morocco and Moroccan culture. In the early years, children made Moroccan artwork, cooked Baghrir (a type of pancake) and explored different spices. In KS1 the children read stories and made Moroccan tiles. In KS2 the children carried out a range of research projects - comparing and contrasting life in Morocco and the UK; learning about Mary Filis a Moroccan Tudor and Fatima Al-Fihri the founder of the world's oldest university; and creating their own presentations about the country.

We will end the half term with a series of Moroccan Dance Workshops which we know the children will love. Thank you to Nadira, our History Coordinator, for arranging this.



## Home Learning

We have seen some fantastic examples of home learning this half term - including some great dioramas from Year 4. The children had to combine their scientific knowledge about animal habitats with their DT skills to make these models. Back at school, the children wrote instructions on how to make them and information leaflets about their habitats.

Keep up the learning at home children - Mathematics, reading, spelling practise and class projects - there's lots you can do!



## Our First Reception Trips

Our Reception team are so impressed by how the children have settled in to the school day and life at Clara Grant. We have taken the children on two local trips this half term. The first was a walk in the local area - looking for familiar buildings, street names and road signs. The children practised their road safety skills; 'stop, look and listen' and practised crossing the road following the adults instructions.

We also took the DLR to Chrisp Street Market after reading the story 'My Granny Went to Market' and talked about what we could see at each of the stalls. Unfortunately we didn't find a magic carpet (like Granny in the story), but we did enjoy buying some treats and talking to the shopkeepers. The children were excellently behaved and received lots of compliments from the public!



# Celebrating our School Community

## The Learning Zone



Over the holidays, work was carried out to improve our Learning Zone. It is a calm and focussed space where children are able to learn in small groups - practising their Speech and Language, following routines of the day, singing and developing their gross motor skills with our sports coach - Charles.



## Harvest Festival



Thank you to our whole school community for your donations to the Harvest Festival. This year we collected food for the local community foodbank which was gratefully received.

We ended the term with a Bake Sale where we raised money for the Macmillan Cancer Charity. Thank you for all of you who volunteered and made donations or baked cakes. We feel very lucky to be part of such a generous school community. We made over £450!

## Junior Citizenship

Year 6 children have been participating in the Junior Citizenship Scheme and recently visited Shadwell Fire Station. The scheme lets children experience a range of real life scenarios and helps them to develop the knowledge and life skills for how to deal with them, if needed, in the future.



## Settling into The Nursery



Well done to our new nursery children who have settled into their new school and classroom. It is not always easy spending time away from their parents and carers at this age, but they are growing in confidence and it is nice to see big smiles as they walk through the gate each morning.

If you have a child in the nursery, ask them to show you the 'coat flip trick' - they are now skilled in putting on their coats independently and you can see how proud they are!