



Dear Parents

27 January 2017

Over the past few weeks the children have continued to learn about making our world a better place. Please take a few minutes to read the children's news.

Thought for the week

The 27th January is Holocaust Memorial Day, as we remember those who died, let us pray, also, for peace and tolerance in our world today.



Dates for your diaries !

January

- 30 Educational visit - Year 5 - Hindu temple
- 31 Educational visit - Year 4 - Sikh temple
Educational visit - Year 5 - Stratford Circus

February

- 1 **Nursery 2017 application forms available**
Assembly - 9.00am - 5B
- 2 Mass - 9.15am - 4B
Educational visit - Year 3 - mosque
- 3 Assembly - 9.00am - 2Y
- 6 **PARENT WEEK - NO CLUBS**
- 8 Assembly - 9.00am - 4B
Educational visit - Year 5 - Tate & Lyle
- 9 Mass - 9.15am - 5B
- 10 French Day
Assembly - 9.00am - 4B
Break up for half term - 3.20pm
Next newsletter
- 20 School resumes

Highlights

Year 6 have visited the Houses of Parliament to learn how MP's help make our country a better place to live.



The Reception classes have been to visit the recycling bins. We hope they will encourage all their family to recycle more.



All the children had the opportunity to visit our charity/jobs fair. Representatives from charities and a variety of jobs visited St Helen's and the children were able to ask questions to understand how everyone can help make our world better.



Every class has been raising funds for our nominated charity Toilet Twinning; a charity working with CAFOD.



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St. Helen's Catholic Primary School, Chargeable Lane, London, E13 8DW

Tel: 020 7476 1785
Fax: 020 7476 7907
info@st-helens.newham.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Gaël Hicks
www.st-helens.newham.sch.uk

In Year 1 the children held a cake sale.



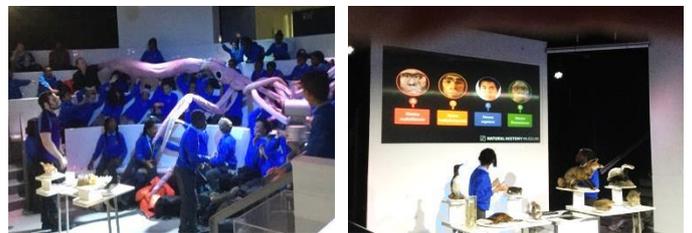
Year 3 visited the William Morris Museum to find out more about his patterns and designs.



In Reception the children washed staff cars.



At the Natural History Museum Year 6 were able to find out more about evolution.



Some children in the choir attended the O2 with Young Voices where they sang with over a thousand school children.



Children and staff enjoyed the PWC performance of Hansel and Gretel at the Peacock Theatre.



We are grateful to PWC for their generosity in providing coaches and their time in performing; all for free!

School Improvements

We are working hard to help the children improve their reading comprehension skills.



Staff received training to help them ask the children in depth questions about text.



Some children have been given additional interventions with adults to develop their skills.



We will soon be launching a link to a new website to further challenge the children to read more.



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Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy Trust

It has now been nearly two years since St Helen's joined with St Joachim's to form Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy Trust.



www.ourladyofgraceacademy.org.uk

During that time we have worked together in many ways, including:

- Employing a Principal Finance Officer to help the schools comply with financial regulations and save money with contracts.



- Employing a Network Manager to ensure technology works across the two schools and help us update our equipment.



The subject leaders are working together to raise standards and improve opportunities.

Last week some Year 5 children visited St Joachim's to experience the Science Dome.

They learnt about planets and the solar system and helped to plan a joint science home learning project.



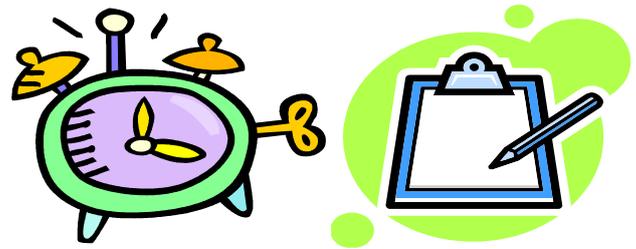
Reminders

Events List

Our updated events list is attached to the newsletter for reference.

Punctuality

Please remember school starts at 8.55am and finishes at 3.20pm every day, with clubs ending at 4.30pm.



Going home arrangements

Please remember school finishes at 3.20pm. Parents should ensure all going home arrangements are made at the beginning of the day before school. In an **emergency** you may telephone the school **before 3pm** to pass on a message, but please do not ring every day.

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