



Quote of the Week

Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world. – Nelson Mandela

A Message from our Head of School

Dear Parents and Carers,

The festive spirit is in the air and children and staff have been rehearsing and preparing to entertain with performances that are sure to delight! You are warmly invited to celebrate the season by joining us on the following dates:

Year 1 and Year 2: Monday 11th December at 9:30

Year 3 and Year 4: Tuesday 12th December at 14:20

Year 5 and Year 6: Wednesday 13th December at 9:15

EYFS: Monday 18th December at 9:20

All performances will take place in the dining hall and while admission is free, we gratefully welcome any donations, which will be used to provide even more enriching experiences for your children. We look forward to seeing you there!

Mr Dixon and our Choir have also been busy rehearsing for their forthcoming performance on Wednesday 13th December. We recorded one of the many beautiful songs they will be performing to give you a taster of what they have planned. Please [click here](#) to listen.

Don't forget that on **Thursday 14th December** children and staff are encouraged to wear their **festive jumpers**. We will also be serving a delicious **festive lunch** complete with Christmas crackers! You can see the full menu on page 5 of this newsletter.

Rowan Class had their last Drama session with Alleyn's this week. The sessions supported their learning on Antarctic Expeditions. Pupils later created paintings of what they thought Shackleton and his team would have seen during their difficult journey. They also created portraits of husky dogs, which played an enormous role in getting the team and their provisions across the ice. You can see the gallery: [HERE](#)

Working with the TATE: Recently, some of our pupils were able to work with the TATE on an exciting project. I am so excited to share the outcome with you. Please use this [link](#) to see what they have been up to!

We need your support: As part of the computing and PSHE curriculum at school, children are taught about using the internet and social media safely and responsibly. Building on this, it is crucial to ensure our children understand the importance of responsible communication in group chats. Parents and carers are kindly asked to please allow for regular and open conversations with their child to discuss proper online etiquette, respectful dialogue, and the impact of their words. Please see page 5 of this newsletter for more support. Let's work together to foster a positive and inclusive digital environment for our school community.

Finally, I am delighted to inform you that **Ms Victoria O'Reilly** will be taking on the role of Interim Deputy Head for the next two terms. Ms O'Reilly will be at DKH full time from January and I know that her experience and support will be valued by pupils, staff and parents.

Wishing our school community a peaceful weekend.

Barbara Ghezzi

School Council News

This week our School Council held their second meeting of the academic year. They tackled one of the issues on their list of priorities which was to ensure the toilets at school are kept clean, tidy and ready for the next person to use. They made posters to display in the school toilets and will spread the message to their peers. They also began to research new sports equipment for their playground. **George** and **Lansana** did an amazing job of costing up the new equipment. Watch this space ...

5 Top Tips on How to BE BRIGHT & BE SEEN

1. Brightly coloured or fluorescent clothing shows up well in daylight and at dusk when you're heading to and from school.
2. If you are out and about when it's dark, wear reflective gear to make sure you can be seen in car headlights. Remember, fluorescent clothing doesn't work after dark!
3. Don't forget to accessorise! Even small items such as clip-on reflectors and stickers are a great way to improve your visibility.
4. If you like to cycle, remember that it's the law to have clean and working lights at night. (White at the front and red at the back) as well as a rear reflector. It's good to fit spoke reflectors too.
5. Of course, 'Being Bright' isn't the only way to stay safer. If you are out at night, choose routes and crossing places that are well lit and remember to always use the Green Cross Code.

For more road safety tips, games and videos, visit **Tales of the Road** website at www.direct.gov.uk/talesoftheroad



Dates for the Diary



11.12.23	Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Performance
12.12.23	Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Performance
13.12.23	Year 5 and Year 6 Christmas Performance
14.12.23	Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day
15.12.23	Last day of afterschool clubs
18.12.23	EYFS Christmas Performance
19.12.23	Class Parties
20.12.23	School Panto
20.12.23	Last day of Winter Term
08.01.24	Start of Spring Term – Children return to school
11.01.24	Elm Class swimming sessions begin
22.01.24	Alleyn's Art workshop with Maple Class start
15.01.24	Year 4 visit to Horniman Museum
22.01.24	Alleyn's Art workshop with Maple Class Start
06.02.24	School Photos and Class Photos
12.02.24	Half Term
04.03.24	Alleyn's Science workshop with Elm Class starts
29.03.24 – 12.04.24	Easter Break
15.04.23	INSET Day – No Children
16.04.23	Children return to school
18.04.23	Hazel Class swimming sessions begin
22.04.23	Year 3 and Year 4 bikability week begins

Attendance

Caterpillar	80.69%	Rowan	87.8%
Willow	92.69%	Hazel	98.77%
Elder	75.1%	Elm	91.14%
Beech	95.63%	Maple	98.61%

Star of the Week!



We would like to recognise the children who have been great examples of our school values and have shown true commitment to their learning. Well done!

Nursery	Nurah , for always being a kind and respectful member of our nursery.
Reception	Daud , for his fantastic blending this week – you are working really hard! Keziah , for her amazing contributions to our whole class discussions.
Willow	Callum , for always showing our school value of respect, always being a good friend and a model student in class. Well done Callum! Aminah , for having a lovely positive attitude and being an excellent friend.
Elder	Lili , for always being polite and helpful, and showing good manners. Richlove , for helping others and being a great maths partner, writing partner and SPaG partner. You are such a kind friend Richlove!
Beech	Kamron , for his respectful behaviour in class. Chelsea , for her kindness and positive attitude.
Rowan	Ebony , for making fantastic progress in her writing this term. Seyram , for brilliant focus during our Antarctica and Titanic writing tasks. Well done!
Hazel	Our stars are Anas A and Rio for always showing respect towards their peers and adults around the school.
Maple	Azriel , for always valuing and appreciating others in a respectful manner. Maleek , for a fantastic piece of suspense writing with figurative language.
Elm	Wajid , for always working hard and being respectful to adults and peers. Mikayla , for taking advice on board and being respectful to everyone.

Charles's Friday Facts *By Charles, Year 5*

Did you know that *sailor's eyeball* is the name of a type of algae that lives in tropical seas?

Did you know that it is one of the largest single cell organisms on the planet?

You can learn more about algae [here](#).

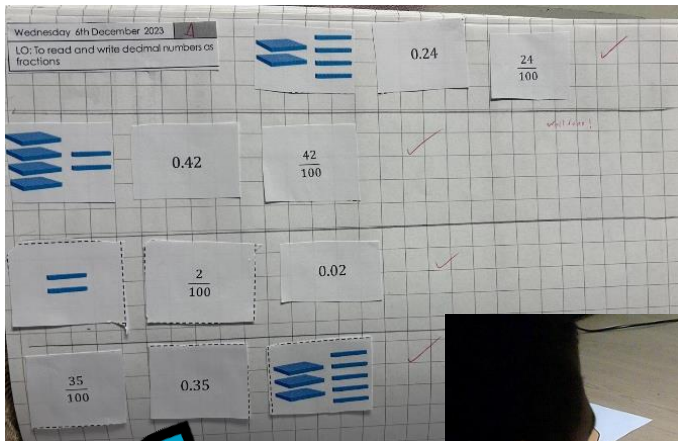
If your child is good with deadlines and would like to contribute to the newsletter, please speak with Barbara Ghezzi, Head of School.



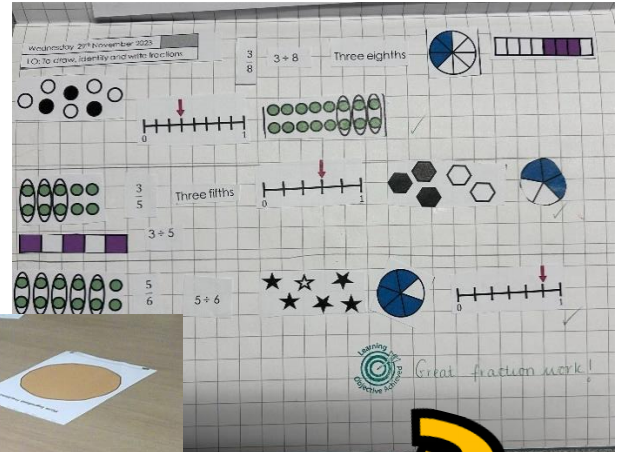
We love LEARNING

Fraction Fanatics

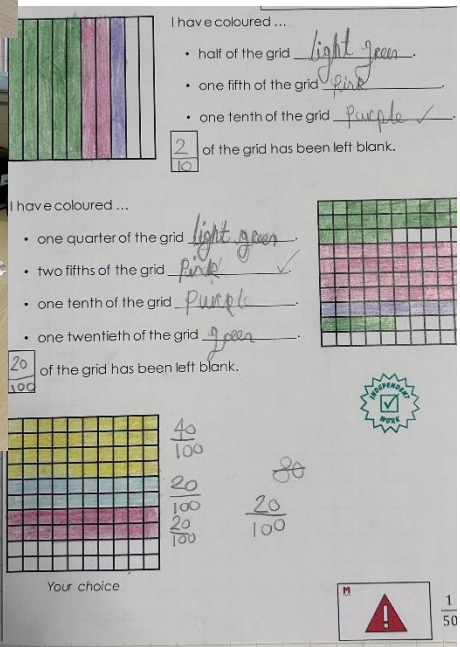
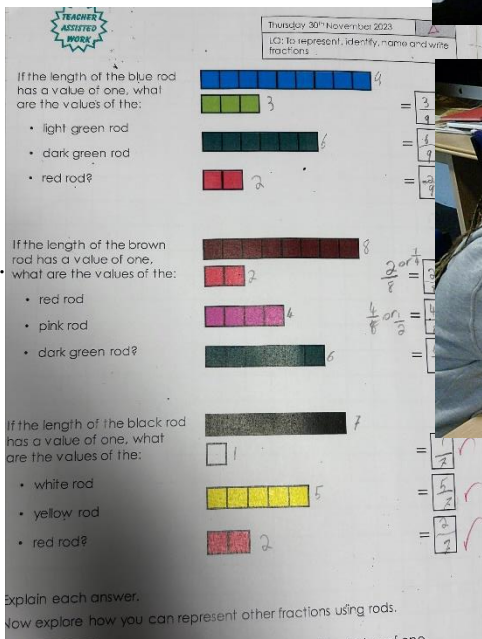
This week in **Hazel Class** we have had to put our fraction helmets on! Throughout the week we have had the opportunity to dive into several lessons that have allowed us to develop and boost our confidence with fractions. We have been able to identify and represent a number of fractions in various ways using pictorial representations and number lines. We then deepened our understanding further by looking at fractions that are equivalent to tenths and hundredths. To top off our fraction work further we then converted fractions into decimal numbers! We're proud to say that we **LOVE** fraction work in Hazel Class.



$\frac{1}{2}$



$\frac{3}{4}$





Festive Menu

Thursday 14 December 2023

Roast Turkey
Or
Roast Vegetable & Cranberry Slice

Roast Potatoes & Gravy
Stuffing
Carrots & Peas

Festive Biscuit & Ice Cream
Fruit Yoghurt & Fresh Fruit Slices
Seasonal Fruit Bowl

5 Choice Salad Bar, Cool Water, Milk & Freshly Baked Bread also available
We offer medical diet & allergen support, please speak to your school office in the first instance



FREE Saturday 9 DECEMBER

Camberwell Community Xmas

11am - 2pm - Camberwell Green

Santa and Rapunzel are coming to the Saturday market at Camberwell Green bringing free Caribbean lunch, free treats, decoration fun, festive music and fun-packed active games to get the kids moving!

FREE WARMING CARIBBEAN LUNCH FOR ALL Low cook, no cook recipes Community Stalls with info on local food charities, warm spaces, welfare and cost of living advice Hygiene products, warm clothes and food to give away.	FREE ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS • Energy Games • Making Christmas Treats • Badges and Decorations • Face Painting Mr & Mrs Santa in the Grotto with a Free Stocking Filler Older People arts & crafts Partnership Southwark's Wellbeing Van offering NHS physical and mental health advice, information and services
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FREE FESTIVE CHOIR & MUSIC



The Holly and the Ivy

Sunday 10th December 10am till 3pm
at the Centre for Wildlife Gardening,
28 Marsden Road, SE15 4EE

Have fun exploring our wildlife garden on this one day family course. Discover the evergreen trees and plants and how they benefit wildlife. Make a wreath for your door and other decorations. Stories, crafts, a fire (weather permitting).

Southwark residents only. Suitable for primary aged children and their parents but feel free to bring along your little ones. Free but £3 deposit required but please let us know if this is too much for you.



Protecting
London's
wildlife for
the future

To find out more and to book
please visit
www.wildlondon.org.uk/events
Or email
dwallace@wildlondon.org.uk




FESTIVE FOREST FUN

FREE
(LIMITED PLACES. PRIOR BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL)

HALF-DAY HOLIDAY CLUB FOR 5-11 YEAR OLDS

10AM-12.30PM
FRIDAY 22ND DECEMBER
LETTSON GARDENS, GROVE HILL ROAD, SE5

MAKE TOYS AND DECORATIONS FROM NATURAL MATERIALS

PLAY OUTDOORS, CLIMB TREES, BUILD DENS

SING SONGS AROUND A NO-BURN FIRE

WARM UP WITH HOT CHOCOLATE AND MINCE PIES

KINDLY FUNDED BY LETTSON GARDENS ASSOCIATION

VISIT WILDROOTSFORESTSCHOOL.CO.UK TO BOOK

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

Occurring through messaging apps, on social media and in online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving, by definition, three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they are useful for helping friends, people with shared interests or members of a club to communicate and coordinate activities, they can also leave young people feeling excluded and bullied – as well as providing opportunities for inappropriate content to be shared and viewed.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

BULLYING

Unkind comments or images which are purposely aimed at an individual can be shared freely in a group chat – allowing and often encouraging others to join in the bullying behaviour. If this content is shared in a group of their peers (especially a larger group), it serves to amplify the hurt, embarrassment, anxiety and isolation that the victim feels.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways: starting a new group, for instance, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one child doesn't have access to, meaning they can't be involved. A child can also feel isolated when a group chat is used to discuss or share images from an event that everyone else but them attended.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by your child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some chat apps have a disappearing message function, so your child may be unable to report something they've seen because it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

SHARING GROUP CONTENT

It's important to remember that – while the content of the chat is private between those in the group – individual users can easily share a message, photo or video with others outside of the group or screenshot what's been posted. The risk of something your child intended as private becoming public (and potentially going viral) is higher if there are people they don't know well in the group.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely your child will be communicating with people they don't really know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly toward your child. It's wise for young people not to share personal details and stay aware that they have no control over the messages and images they share after they've put them online.

NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications. Every time someone in the group messages, your child's device will be 'pinged' with an alert: potentially, this could mean hundreds of notifications a day. Not only is this highly distracting, but young people's fear of missing out on the latest conversation results in increased screen time as they try to keep up with the chat.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats are often an arena for young people to gain social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse, which could upset others in the group. Encourage your child to consider how other people might feel if they engaged in this behaviour. If your child does upset a member of their group chat, support them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

In any online communication, it's vital for young people to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Discuss the importance of not revealing identifiable details like their address, their school or photos that they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they lose control of where it may end up and how it might be used.

GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Remind your child that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded in a group chat, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their hurt feelings and help to put them back in control by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. On a related note, you could also empower your child to speak up if they're in a chat where others are being picked on.

AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

Sadly, many individuals online hide their true identity to gain a child's trust – for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they aren't comfortable with. Ensure your child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and, especially, to never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If your child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block the users sending the material, report them to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could be putting a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise to your child that it's OK for them to simply leave any group chat that they don't feel comfortable being a part of.

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Having a phone or tablet bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be a massive irritation and distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to your child that they can still be part of the group chat, but that it would be healthier for them to turn off or mute the notifications and catch up with the conversation at a time which better suits them.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



NOS
National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday