



# Rathfern News

Where everyone learns to learn

12<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2016

Dear Mums, Dads, Carers, staff, governors, friends & colleagues

## Dear Parents

We have had a fabulous half term and your talented children continue to make outstanding progress across the school.

**Mrs Maharasingam**  
**Head Teacher**

## Message from Sam Gyimah

Dear Mrs Maharasingam

It gives me great pleasure to write to you and congratulate your school on winning a local award in the Key Stage 2 category of the Pupil Premium Awards 2016.

The reason you have been selected is that you are one of the high achieving schools in the country in terms of the attainment and progress of your disadvantaged pupils since 2011. It is clear that you and your staff have provided your disadvantaged pupils with a good start in life and prepared them well for secondary school. I would like to congratulate your governors, parents and pupils for their hard work and success, and thank you for your leadership in making such a difference to the future success of your pupils.

Yours sincerely,  
Sam Gyimah MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary for Childcare & Education

## ANNUAL SCHOOL TRIPS

Please can you ensure you have paid the £30 contribution as a matter of urgency. We do have a number of parents who have some outstanding arrears. It is really important that we are able to send our children on these trips as they enrich their learning. If you are having difficulty please speak to Gail in the school office and we will arrange a payment plan for you.

Payment can be made via ParentPay, cheque or cash.

## SCHOOL LIBRARY

The Library will be available for children to use when they return from half - term.

Children will need Library cards to borrow books. These cards will be kept in the school.

If your child has not applied for a school library card, please contact the school office for an application form as soon as possible.

## TARGET SETTING MEETINGS

Please make sure you have booked an appointment to meet your child's class teacher. Please refer to 'Dates for your Diary'.

**Rathfern Primary School**  
Rathfern Road, Catford  
London SE6 4NL

**T:** 020 8690 3759  
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## OUTSTANDING LEARNERS

- **St Albans AM (Nursery) –Chika Michael & Zhong-Hao Kamau**
- **St Albans PM (Nursery) – Amelia Robinson & Juwairiyah Chowdhury**
- **Edinburgh (Reception) – Alumendena Martinez & Jack Waterhouse**
  - **Carlisle (Reception) – Filip Borkowski & Oilwia Douglas**
  - **Hereford (Year 1) – Abdul-Majid Issoufou & Rena Hugh**
- **Canterbury (Year 1) – Sarah Fortese Danfa & Ashton McLean Elliott**
  - **Manchester (Year 2) – Kacper Borkowski & Robert Ladd**
- **Bath (Year 2) – Roddy Douglas & Melissa Clayton - Bainbridge**
  - **Inverness (Year 3) – Anita Oruma & Jake Lin**
- **Chichester (Year 3) – Aedan Branker- Olojugba & Victoria Joe Marvin**
  - **Colchester (Year 3) – Shaun Soukou & Charlie Thompson**
  - **London (Year 4) – Joshua Danials & Alba Matos Santa**
  - **Brighton (Year 4) – Sipho Khumalo & Khamron Lue Young**
    - **Exeter (Year 4) – Ana Teixeira & Bisda Bashiru**
    - **York (Year 5) – Amari Campbell & Kehinde Bishi**
- **Liverpool (Year 5) – Rihanna Clarke – Harvey & Kevon Samuels**
  - **Cambridge (Year 6) – Mikkel Smith & Jordon Kitoko**
  - **Oxford (Year 6) – Diany Bouha & Zainab Olabiyi**

## LEADING CITIZENS

- **St Albans AM (Nursery) – Sharon Ibeh & Skylar –May Carney**
- **St Albans PM (Nursery) – Eunice Marshall & Tyrone Neves Green**
  - **Edinburgh (Reception) – Logan Fierro & Sebi Olaru**
- **Carlisle (Reception) – Riley Daley & Jahvari James- Richard**
  - **Hereford (Year 1) – Jugga Singh & Yanni Sabir**
  - **Canterbury (Year 1) – Julia Isub & Jack Wise**
  - **Manchester (Year 2) – Max Dodsworth & Yijia He**
- **Bath (Year 2) – Chika Oraka & Naveen Gnaneswaran**
  - **Inverness (Year 3) – Myasia Martin & Bilal Abraham**
- **Chichester (Year 3) – Maria Conceicao & Harisana Kantheepan**
- **Colchester (Year 3) – Jessie Gambling & Gabrielle Cousley - Ward**
  - **London (Year 4) – Yasmin Loudiyi & Michaela Donkor**
  - **Brighton (Year 4) – Rebecca Bushall & Musa Conteh**
    - **Exeter (Year 4) - Alex Crabtree & Illias Hansali**
    - **York (Year 5) – Patrick Ladd 7 Liepa Zukauskaite**
  - **Liverpool (Year 5) – Lillian Terletska & Isaiah Dapaah**
- **Cambridge (Year 6) – Zenobia Ashley & Rhea Goode- Dias**
- **Oxford (Year 6) – Harmony Chilter-Clarke & Will Tassie**

## PE KITS

Please ensure your child brings in their P.E kit on a Monday morning and takes it home on a Friday night for a weekend wash.

Children MUST wear their P.E kits for P.E lessons.

## NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM YEAR 3

Our whole class took part in a trip to The Natural History Museum on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February. It was great fun, firstly we all headed to Catford Bridge train station to get a train to Blackfriars. Once at Blackfriars we went down the escalator and got the District Line to South Kensington. As we walked down the long passage we suddenly heard a man playing Twinkle Twinkle little star, so we all joined in. Finally we reached the museum, everyone was hungry so we had an early lunch, which was scrumptious. Then we went to explore, we spotted different rocks such as sedimentary rocks. After we saw a massive globe, which we travelled into by an escalator. It was so exciting, as we went to study the volcanoes and earthquakes. Our class all went on a pretend earthquake and the ground was shaking. Everyone was petrified but it was great to have experienced what its like in an earthquake. We thoroughly enjoyed our day and wish to go back

## PREFECT NEWS

Since the Prefects, the Head girl Miriam, the Head boy Raisean and the deputies were elected we have: welcomed the Mayor of Lewisham and the director of education to our school to celebrate becoming an outstanding school. We had a two day visit from Ofsted who were very impressed with our progress, so thank you to all of the Mums, Dads, Carers and members of staff who supported us in getting here. We also held the Global Cafe to welcome all of Rathfern's cultures. So far we have had an amazing year and have adjusted well into our new year groups. Thank you to Mrs Maharasingam who has shown us that this is our school and that peace lives here. That the rooms are full of happiness and that the love is all around also for us to love one another, love all people and love life and learning. We will remember that as many hands build a house so many hearts make a school.

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT

On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February we were visited by Dan Jones from Amnesty International. He did a special assembly for us all about how Amnesty helps people all over the World. I discovered that Amnesty is an organisation which focuses on Human Rights. After the assembly Dan spent the morning holding workshops with the children. When he visited Cambridge Class we looked at the painting 'Right up your Street' which was painted by Dan himself. It is a fascinating picture and is all about human rights. In the picture some people are enjoying a human right that belongs to all of us, some are asking for their human rights to be respected and some are being denied a human right. We had to study the picture in small groups and spot 30 different human rights. It was very challenging but we got there in the end. Dan told us that he has worked for the organisation for over 30 years and it was started by his father's friend. We really enjoyed working with him. **Marcella Benson Cambridge Class**

## HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT

*On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February, Cambridge Class had to arrive at school exceptionally early for a special trip to the Houses of Parliament. We were all extremely excited including our teacher Miss Pendleton, Miss Natasa, Miss Sarah and Jermain. The first thing we had to do was to take part in a security check, which took us all by surprise. We got scanned and our belongings got scanned. It felt like we were going on holiday but it was actually quite scary. We were given special visitor passes to wear and were led to a special cinema room and watched a very interesting film all about Parliament. After the film we split into two groups and went on a tour. The House of Lords was absolutely beautiful and everything looked gold. There were microphones hanging from the ceilings for the Lords and Baronesses to speak into and there were speakers in the chairs! Sadly we were not allowed to sit on the very tempting red chairs but we could touch them!*

*The Queens throne looked so regal later we were given special permission to sit in the gallery of the House of Commons, a special form was signed promising that we would abide by the rules of the house and would not make any noise or disturb the proceedings. We had to sit behind a security screen which was installed in 2006 and observed a debate about riots. We will always remember our day at the Houses of Parliament.*

*Saskia Green – Cambridge Class*

## SCIENCE WEEK UPDATE

This week at Rathfern our scientific curiosity was ignited by a special visit from one of the organisers of SMASHfestUK, a festival held in Deptford based all around science! We had an exciting assembly all about the event, which will take place during the half term. It is a FREE event designed to engage young minds in science and technology in a fun and active way. More information can be found on their website <http://smashfestuk.com>.

After half term we look forward to celebrating even more science during science week! The children will continue to learn their current topic in science with support from a science specialist, even more hands on investigations and the chance to share their learning with their buddy class.

Ms Michael and Ms Reid

## DT WORKSHOPS

‘Reception had a fabulous time transforming into traditional toy makers. They listened closely to the instructions and all made mechanical bugs that they raced with each other.

It was amazing to see how excited and proud they all were.’

Miss Lue -Taim

## GOODBYE

Unfortunately this term we say goodbye and thank you to Ms Nimoh from London class and we welcome Ms O’Sullivan who will be taking over Brighton Class.

# CAUGHT IN THE NET

## YEAR 3 REFLECTION

We really enjoyed learning about the dangers of the internet and how quickly a message or picture can spread once you click and send. We feel we understand how to keep ourselves safe when using the internet a lot more after the performance.

*Colchester Class*

## YEAR 4 REFLECTION

On Friday the 5th February Year 4 watched a performance called 'caught in the net'. It was about a boy in school who was being cyber bullied on his iPad and his friend taught him ways of keeping safe. I learnt that you can't be a bystander and it is everyone's responsibility to stay safe online. The workshop was brilliant because we got to play lots of games about being safe online.

*Adriano Wynter-Thompson, Exeter Class*

## YEAR 5 REFLECTION

Last week, we had an assembly with Bigfoot Theatre that was all about Online Safety. Everyone enjoyed it and it was really fun. What an experience the class had. Soon in the afternoon York class had a workshop about internet safety. Firstly we discussed what we should do if someone was bullying us on our computer and how we can stop it. After we talked, York class played a game that included children acting as teachers, bullies and children playing. It gave us tips on how to deal with bullying in the playground.

*Vithun, York class*

## YEAR 6 REFLECTION

"On Tuesday we had a special anti-bullying assembly. There were two actors who performed a play about the effects of bullying. The assembly really made me think deeply about bullying. They also taught us how to stay safe when accessing social media. It was a very interesting and informative morning activity.

*Lanya Oxford class*

## SPORTS RELIEF

Please come to school dressed in your sports clothes ready for a day of fun, exercise and competitive sports activities.



Tickets to participate and attend will be 50p The tickets will be sold before and after school, the week commencing 14<sup>th</sup> March. All money raised goes to Sports Relief, helping some of the poorest communities here in the UK and all around the world.

Parents have an opportunity to get involved in the fun too by signing up for the after-school football match against the teachers and donating 50p

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - 2016**

- **THURSDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY:** School cinema event (POSTPONED until 22/3/16)
- **FRIDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY:** Last day of term
- **MONDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY – FRIDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY:**  
Half term – Spellathon challenge
- **MONDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY:** Children return to school
- **TUESDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY:** Target Setting Meetings for Nursery, Edinburgh & Years 1 -5
- **THURSDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY:** Target Setting Meetings for Nursery, Edinburgh & Years 1 -5
- **WEDNESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> & THURSDAY 25<sup>TH</sup>:** Target Setting Meeting for Carlisle class
- **MONDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> – FRIDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> :** Target setting for Year 6
- **THURSDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH:** World Book Day – Children to dress up as a book character for £1 which goes towards the spellathon charities
- **THURSDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH:** Choir performing at Lewisham Live Voices Concert at the Broadway Theatre, Catford from 7pm – 9pm.
- **WEDNESDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> MARCH:** The Railway Children (**Tickets Sold Out**)
- **FRIDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH:** Sports Relief
- **TUESDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH:** School cinema event after school 3.30pm – 5.30pm
- **THURSDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH:** Last day of term
- **FRIDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH:** Good Friday – no school for children
- **MONDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> MARCH – FRIDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> APRIL:** Easter holidays
- **MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL:** Children return to school

### **REMINDER : DATES FOR YEAR 6 SCHOOL JOURNEY PAYMENTS.**

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March    £51.00

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April        £50.00

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May     £50.00

## SCHOOL TRIPS – 2016

### FEBRUARY

- **TUESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup>:** Colchester class (Year 3) visit to the Natural History Museum
- **MONDAY 22<sup>ND</sup>:** Bath & Manchester (Year 2) visit to the Royal Festival Hall – Bright Sparks Concert with the London Philharmonic Orchestra 7pm
- **MONDAY 22<sup>ND</sup>:** Brighton & Exeter class (Year 4) to visit Wide Horizons Environment Centre
- **TUESDAY 23<sup>RD</sup>:** London class (Year 4) to visit Wide Horizons Environment Centre

### MARCH

- **FRIDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH:** Oxford class (Year 6) visit to the Houses of Parliament
- **FRIDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH:** Colchester & Class (Yr3) to visit Wide Horizons Environmental Centre
- **TUESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH:** Inverness Class (Yr3) to visit Wide Horizons Environmental Centre
- **WEDNESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH:** Lewisham Live - Liverpool Class
- **TUESDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH:** Djembe Drumming & Dance group to visit the Laban Theater

### JUNE

- **MONDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE – FRIDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> JUNE:** Year 6 school journey to Wales

## SUNDAY SPORTS SCHOOL

Sunday Sports starts again on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February, if any pupils are interested please speak to Errison for more information.

## PARENT WORKSHOPS

EVENT	DATE
Anti-Bullying	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> March KS1 & KS2 9-9.30 am
Maths workshop – Algebra across the school	Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March – KS1 & KS2 at 9 - 9.30am

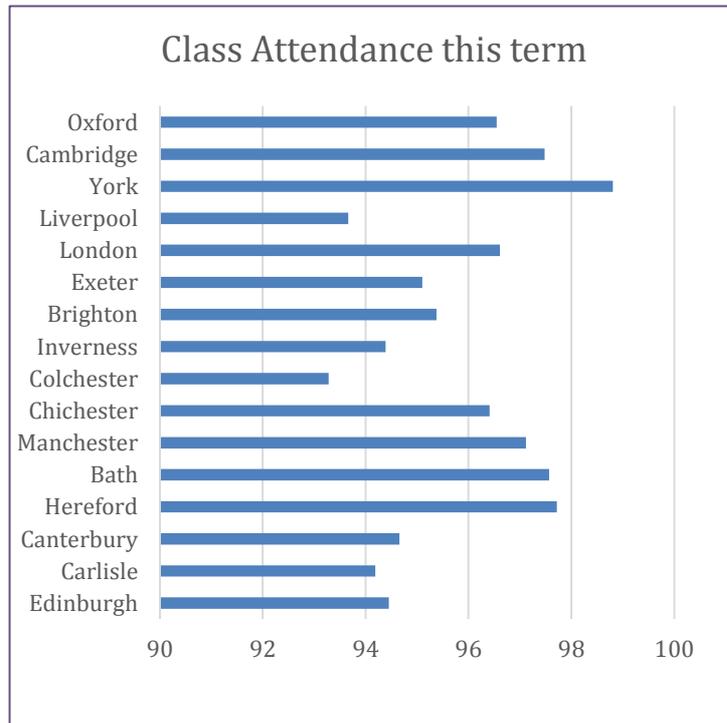
## CLASS ASSEMBLIES

- **THURSDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH:** Edinburgh class at 9.15am
- **FRIDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH:** Carlisle class at 9.15am
- **WEDNESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH:** Chichester Class 9.15am
- **THURSDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH:** Colchester Class 9.15 am
- **THURSDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH:** Canterbury class at 9.15am
- **FRIDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH:** Hereford class at

## Attendance Figures from 4/1/16 - 12/2/16

Our attendance figures have dropped a little this term due to families going on holidays and a lot of sickness and bugs in the community.

**Well done though to York Class (Yr 5) for their outstanding attendance.**



## FRIENDS OF RATHFERN

FoR is a great way to connect with fellow parents and carers and help raise extra funds for our school. If you'd like to be involved in any way - no matter how small - please do get in touch. We always welcome volunteers for our events. Here's what we've got coming up over the next few weeks.

**Mothers Day Breakfast: Friday 4th March, 7.45-8.30am.** We will be dishing up a tasty breakfast for the ladies (and your children). Plus raffle prizes to be won.

**Easyfundraising:** Raise money for the school just by shopping online - we've raised more than £350 this way. Shop online via [easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsofrathfern](https://easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsofrathfern)

We are looking for a SECRETARY to join our committee. If you have a little time to spare and like a bit of organising then this is the role for you! Let us know if you're interested.

Find out more: Online at [friendsofrathfern.com](https://friendsofrathfern.com)

On Facebook at: [facebook.com/FriendsOfRathfern](https://facebook.com/FriendsOfRathfern)

On Twitter @FriendsRathfern

Email us at: [forathfern@gmail.com](mailto:forathfern@gmail.com)

Check our notice boards at school