



February 2011

TIDEMILL NEWSLETTER

www.tidemill.net

CULTURAL CELEBRATION EVENING

You may or may not remember but back in December Tidemill was awarded the *GOLD* Cultural Diversity Quality Status. Tidemill was identified as a school that embeds and celebrates cultural diversity to the highest of standards!

To celebrate this award, our school and our community Tidemill hosted a cultural celebration evening on Thursday 17th February 2011. The evening was a huge success. It was full of exciting entertainment, with our Year 3 & 4 pupils taking guests on a tour of London, there was plenty of live music from our Djembe drummers, beautiful singing from our new choir group and to top it all, a selection of cultural cuisines from different ethnicities was provided by our fantastic kitchen staff and Shelly Ann, Shakkere's mum.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for attending and celebrating with us. I'd like to extend a special thank you to Pabulum (kitchen staff) for their generosity and hard work. Thank you to Shelly Ann for her time and help with the cooking.

Miss Begum, Assistant Head



CULTURAL CELEBRATION EVENING



Contact Details and email addresses

Please remember to always update the school office with any new phone numbers, addresses, emergency contact details and any other information. If you have an email address which the school could use for information please let us know that as well.

Thank you
Leanne Stewart

Trip to the Museum of London

This term Year 3 & 4 have been learning all about London. Earlier this term year 3 & 4 went to the Museum of London. First, we went through the Victorian Walk. It is a replica of an old Victorian street. We had a work sheet and had to spot different things in the shops! You can actually go inside the Public House (Pub!) Unluckily there was no beer in the pub which is upsetting for the adults! Next we had a short walk to a special Victorian dolls house; there were lots of different rooms and lots of different Victorian ornaments. After that we arrived for our yummy, scrummy lunch. Mmmm! Finally we went to a gallery about London in the Roman times. There were lots of mini figures and buildings from the Roman period. We all really enjoyed our fantastic trip to the museum of London! ☺

By Ella & Greta (Yr 4, Ebony)

2011 Census: help tomorrow take shape

Your 2011 census questionnaire will arrive in March. It's vital that you complete your confidential census questionnaire as the statistics are used to make decisions about our community. Our area receives funding from government, based on the number of people living here, funding that can be used for schools, hospitals, transport and refuse collection. Everyday facilities like play parks, water pipes and even where your local supermarket branch is located, are based on census statistics. It's all confidential, so no one will see your personal information. Find out more at www.census.gov.uk.

Leanne Stewart



TERM DATES

Make sure you check these dates thoroughly before booking any holidays!

Spring Term 2011

Wednesday 5th January - Friday 18th February
Half Term: Monday 21st - Friday 25th February
Monday 28th February - Friday 8th April (1.30pm)
Inset Day: Monday 28th March

Summer Term 2011

Tuesday 26th April - Friday 27th May
(Royal Wedding Fri 29th April)
(May Bank Holiday will be taken on 2nd May)
(Polling Day closure: Thursday 5th May - Yr 6 will still be in on this day)
Half Term Monday 30th May - Friday 3rd June
Monday 6th June - Friday 15th July (1:30pm)
**Inset and moving days*

Autumn Term 2011

Inset Day: Monday 5th September (Moving day)
Inset Day: Tuesday 6th September
Inset Day: Monday 5th September
Thursday 8th September - Friday 21st October
Half Term: Monday 24th - Friday 28th October
Monday 31st October - Friday 16th December (1.30pm)

Spring Term 2012

Inset Day: Tuesday 4th January
Wednesday 5th January - Friday 10th February
Half Term: Monday 13th - Friday 17th February
Monday 20th February - Friday 30th March (1.30pm)

Docklands Museum



This half term, year three and four have been learning about London. As part of our topic, we visited the Docklands museum.

At the museum, we visited the Mudlarks gallery which was very fun and we got very messy in the sand! We learnt how the Docklands was used in the past. In the gallery, we experienced the weight of the cargo and built some famous London buildings. We saw what was brought to London on the ships. Did you know that they brought timber, coffee, tea, feathers, rubber, spices and china plates in on the ships from all around the world?

Dilani, Victoria and Lauren.

Helicopter project



Over the past 3 Wednesdays practitioners from 'Make Believe Arts' have been working with Willow and Cherry class introducing a story telling and acting technique called the 'Helicopter Project'. This is a technique that allows children to tell and act out stories they have created. The children came up with some wonderful stories that are available to read in Willow and Cherry class.

The Make Believe Arts team also ran a parents workshop on the Helicopter project on Friday 11th February introducing parents to what the children had been learning and sharing stories that the children had created. We would like to thank all the parents that attended and I have had some lovely feedback from the session.

Carl Vernalls

Nursery teacher



DEBATING TEAM WINS FIRST COMPETITION!

Children in year 5 & 6 have had the opportunity to take part in an after school debating club this term. Debating is a wonderful skill to learn and it has so many benefits such as increased self-confidence, improved speaking and listening skills and it also helps develop reasoning skills.

On Friday 11th February 2011, Tidemill hosted an interschool competition against Holy Family Primary School from Tower Hamlets. The topic of debate was based on whether zoos should be banned from imprisoning animals! Both teams put forward very strong arguments for and against zoos. Luckily for Tidemill, our children spoke very articulately and put forward their arguments for zoos with passion and conviction. For this reason, the Tidemill debating team won the trophy for their first debating competition and I'm sure there will be more trophies coming their way...

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Debating team for superb teamwork, for being excellent hosts and for representing Tidemill brilliantly. Everyone at Tidemill is very proud of your accomplishment. Well Done!

By Miss Begum



Teach First Visitors

This term we have had several trainee teachers visiting Tidemill from Aerodrome Primary School, our partner school in Croydon. These trainees are part of Teach First, an employment-based route to teaching, and have spent time observing and teaching in classes across the school. All feedback from these visits has been overwhelmingly positive, with special mention being made about the professionalism and positive culture of Tidemill staff members. We may continue to have trainee teachers visiting next term and will again welcome them with open arms.

Erika Flynn

Social Stories Course

In January we went on a social stories training course. It was run over two afternoons and we both found it extremely beneficial.

Social Stories are a tool for teaching social skills to children about situations they may find difficult or confusing. The aim of the stories is to increase the children's understanding of a particular social situation, to make them more comfortable and to suggest some appropriate responses for the situation in question.

We both feel that this training will enable us to support some children in Tidemill. Should your child benefit from a social story, the adults in your child's class will discuss it with you further. These stories have been proven to be very popular and successful with many children and their parents.

Carly and Máire

New School

The new school is starting to really take shape at break neck speed. The main construction of the "lounge" building (the community library and access point as well as the meeting rooms, halls and ball court that are shared school and community spaces) is almost complete. The electric cables are being installed and the plasterers are on site. The gold cladding is also starting to be put up on the outside of the building so it will start to look a little more exciting from the outside over the next few weeks. The Foundation Stage and KS1 classrooms have also started to be built and we will soon be able to walk down the internal corridor and actually look into the classrooms. We can't wait! The old warehouse building is also almost complete and Mr Elms has been able to go over and walk around in his new office as well as peeking into the new staff room. The KS2 classrooms are only just being started so we will have to wait a little while longer before we can start to get a feel for these spaces.

We have chosen the colour schemes for the classrooms and offices. After a lot of worrying and weeks of looking at colour charts, we have gone with the architects' suggestion about having bright vinyl floors with contrasting carpets:-

Foundation Stage	Purple and Green
KS1	Yellow and Blue
Lower KS2	Red and Aquamarine
Upper KS2	Blue and Green



We are now busy choosing furniture and trying to work out what we can afford from the fit out budget. Some of the children may have noticed red, yellow and green dots appearing on our old furniture as we start to work out which things will now have to go with us to the new school, which things might go with us if we can't afford to replace them and which things are going in the skip!!! Over the coming months we will be starting to clear out all of our old equipment and cupboards and start organising charities to collect some of the old things that we don't want to take. If anyone knows people who would like old classroom chairs and tables, please do let us know!!!!

At the moment, we are planning to start fitting out the new school from 20th June and have been told this will take about 4 weeks. We will then be starting to move all our equipment and resources over w/c 18th July. We will be looking for volunteers to help us with:-

1. Building the new nursery furniture (it comes flat-packed)
2. Packing up books and resources
3. Moving boxes and equipment
4. Packing up a container with old furniture to go off to schools in other countries and to local charities
5. Putting up notice-boards and pictures in the new school

If any of you would like to offer your services, please do come and talk to the office team. We would be delighted to have your help!

Rachel Delacy-Taylor

Inspire workshops

Thank you to all those parents who took time out of their busy schedules to attend our recent Maths Inspire Workshops. Feedback was very positive and many of you commented on how useful it was to be shown the calculation methods taught in school. Many of you felt that the workshops equipped you in being able to support your child more effectively at home. The next workshops will take place during the summer term (end of April/beginning of May). As yet the focus has not been decided, however, your suggestions will be taken in to consideration when this decision is made.

Jane Atkins

I CAN Training

On Friday 28th January 2011 I was fortunate to attend an 'I CAN' training course on Supporting Children with Additional Languages with Speech, Language and Communication Needs in the Early Years.

This course focused on how children with another language acquire English and how to monitor their development to see if there may be any speech, language or communication needs. I was shown how to support children learning English in an Early Years setting, (a lot of which we were already doing due to our involvement in the Every Child A Talker Programme last year) and how best to assess them if we are concerned about a child's development of English. I am already in the process of sharing this information with the EYFS team.

Carl Vernalls
Nursery teacher



School Uniforms

We sell uniforms every Tuesday afternoon from 3.15pm. You can pre-order and pay for your items and we will have them ready when you come and collect them.

Leanne Stewart

PE Kit Reminder

We will not be calling home with reminders so please ensure your child brings their kit in at the beginning of the week so it is here for their PE days.

Courtney Lawrence

Choir



As many of you will know, Aaron joined us at the end of last term to run a lunchtime choir. This term he has also been running an After School Club choir to get the children ready for their debut performance at this week's Cultural Diversity Performance.

The choir has been extremely popular and the children sounded amazing! I have had great feedback from staff and parents who have overheard the rehearsals, remarking how good they sound. Well done to Aaron for leading the choir so successfully in their first performance, I'm sure we are all looking forward to hearing the children again next term.

Also, a huge thank you to Isabelle (Ines' mum) for making the purple gowns for the choir to perform in this week, 31 gowns all handmade! They look wonderful, thank you!

Miss Gibbons
Art and Music Subject Leader

ATTENDANCE STATISTICS REPORT (5th January- 17th February 2011)

Class	Attendance %	On Time %	Late %
Plum	96.4	94.4	2.0
Cherry	93.9	93.5	0.4
Chestnut	92.8	90.5	2.3
Maple	95.4	94.2	1.2
Magnolia	96.1	93.8	2.2
Apple	97.3	94.9	2.4
Oak	98.1	95.9	2.2
Spruce	97.7	96.1	1.6
Ebony	94.7	92.2	2.6
Palm	95.3	93.5	1.8
Baobab	98.0	96.7	1.3
Mimosa	96.6	94.7	1.9
Tamarind	97.3	95.2	2.1
Bonsai	97.7	96.9	0.8
Totals	96.2	94.5	1.76

Lisa Turner

Fronter



Have you got the reading bug?

Bug Club is our new addition to the Fronter toolbar. Not only can you access Education City and Espresso but you can now access Bug Club. KS1 will already be very familiar with the website but for those of you new to Bug Club, it's a fantastic online reading world. Children have their own personalised homepage where they can see the eBooks they've been allocated. As they read they complete fun quizzes that test their comprehension and help them practise their reading skills.

Coming soon...

Pupils will soon be able to also access Purple Mash via Fronter. Purple Mash is an exciting suite of creative tools and applications which will support and inspire children throughout the curriculum. Some of the creative tools include: 2Publish - where you can mix pictures and words to create meaningful publications such as simple books, greeting cards and more; 2Paint - a classic painting program using 2Simple painting tools and 2Type - a program which develops keyboard skills through fun typing games.

Caroline Hughes
Fronter Co-ordinator

Work experience

For the last 2 weeks, I've been very lucky to have an ex-Tidemill pupil based in my class on work experience. Not only has it been a great help having an extra pair of hands in the class but it's lovely to see old faces all grown up! Work experience is an important part of a young person's education and we hope all our work experience pupils go away with a positive insight into the world of work.

Caroline Hughes
Fronter Co-ordinator

Family Learning

Staff from the Speech and Language Resource Base will be delivering a 6 session family learning course starting on Monday 7th March at 12:30. The course is aimed at parents whose children have speech and language difficulties which may be impacting on their literacy development. The course will focus on guiding parents through the steps children take to develop phonological awareness.

There are still a small number of places available if you wish to take part in the course. Please speak to either Miss Atkins or Lisa in the office for further details. Spaces are limited as the course is open to parents from other local schools as well. Places will be filled on a first come first serve basis.

Jane Atkins

Pie Corbett Talk For Writing Course

Last month, I was given the opportunity to attend a course run by leading Literacy expert, Pie Corbett.

During the course, I was introduced to new and innovative ideas and approaches to the teaching of Literacy.

Next half term, I will be providing the teaching staff with training on the Talk for writing teaching strategies, which will hopefully help with raising the standards of our pupil's writing.

Rachel Smith
Literacy Subject Leader



Mission Maker project at the Stephen Lawrence Centre

At the beginning of this term, 30 children from Year 6 completed a brilliant 5 session workshop on computer game design at the Stephen Lawrence Centre. To create their game, the children used a programme called *Mission Maker* which required them to use a wide range of skills including; developing a non-violent objective for their game, creating their own world and characters, and deciding how their characters would interact and move around their world. By the end of these highly engaging and enjoyable sessions all the children had created and saved a copy of the final version of their own computer game! Having saved their game, the children should now be able to access their game online and edit it as they wish using the codes provided by the *Mission Maker* tutor. Their game will also be made available to anyone who uses the *Immersive Education* (the makers of the *Mission Maker* software) website.

Harry King

South African Visitors

On Friday 4th February we welcomed into our school 3 visitors from South Africa. 10 locals schools have been working together to link with 10 schools in South Africa and hosted a week long tour of teachers and education professionals from the Mpumalanga province of South Africa. Alice and Amos were Headteachers from South African schools while Mfana was a Regional Director responsible for improving over 400 schools! Our visitors had an action-packed morning at Tidemill. Bailey, Jordan and Dennis were wonderful ambassadors for the school and led our visitors on a tour where all the classes had the opportunity to say hello and good morning in Siswati (Sawubona - Ninjani). Our visitors then went on to enjoy a site visit to see our new school building before returning to school to see Miss Siu lead a lesson on persuasive writing. As our year 5 and 6 pupils are studying 'South Africa' for their creative curriculum topic there was an opportunity to meet the visitors and ask questions about life and culture. A particular poignant question came from Alicia in year 5 who asked how Nelson Mandela has affected life in South Africa. Amos responded by saying that after Apartheid ended many Black Africans felt very angry towards the way that they had been made to live; Nelson Mandela reminded us to channel our energies not into violence but into peacefully redressing the balance and undoing the wrongs. It was fascinating for us to find-out about the differences and similarities between school in Deptford and a school in a rural area of South Africa. A big thank you to Ms Swan for making our visitors feel at home with wonderful homemade South African doughnuts and to all the staff who contributed to making our visitors have a wonderful morning. This project was funded by the British Council and later in the year Miss Siu will have the opportunity to visit South Africa and experience school-life for herself.

Richard Graham



Office Update

Thank you Montana

We would like to say a huge thank you to Montana who has been working with us in the office whilst Elaine has been off sick. It has been invaluable having her here and she seems to have picked everything up really quickly. We hope she will be able to stay with us until Elaine comes back and that she has enjoyed her time here.

Term Dates

I would like to say a huge sorry for the confusion around the term dates. This was a complete misunderstanding on my part and I hope everyone has managed to re-organise their inset day childcare for Monday 28th March instead. Many, many apologies.....

Online Payment

We are starting to move forward with some kind of online payment facility as we know a number of parents had expressed an interest in this and it will be important when we move to the new school that we are not handling cash in the school office in full view of everyone on the main square. More information to follow.

Correct Money

In the meantime, whilst we are working with our pupil management provider to find ways to record online payments, can I remind parents that the office team should not be issuing change. For example, if a trip costs £9, parents should hand in the correct money in an envelope with the name of their child and their class written on the envelope. The quick drop box should be used whenever possible and there should always be envelopes and pens available in the front of the drop box.

Rachel

Bike It



On January 24th, Felix our Bike It officer delivered an assembly encouraging children to cycle to school in the Spring Term. The weather is beginning to warm up (slightly!) so we would love to see as many children as possible making an effort to cycle in during the second half of the Spring Term. On the February 28th, the first day back after half term, Felix will be back to do workshops with Year 4 and 5 classes and to launch our participation in the Virtual Bike Race. The Virtual Bike Race is a nationwide competition with schools gaining virtual miles based on how many children and staff cycle into school each day. The competition runs from the 7th March until 24th March so we will be needing as many pupils and staff to be cycling into school during that period if we want to have a chance at winning prizes!!!

Russell Morgan



Dinners

Dinner money for this coming term is £40.60. Please pay this at the school office as soon as you can if you wish your child to have school dinners.

Leanne Stewart

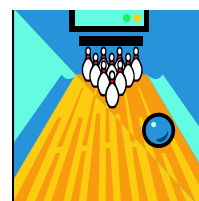
School Friend

I would like to say a big thank you to Thomas Kaddish's dad, for donating 'School Friend' holiday club with complimentary 'Imax Tickets' for Tuesday 22nd February.

Limited places available, Please book ASAP for holiday club. Monday -Friday £19 a day. Imax- Tuesday 22nd February. Thursday 24th February - Bowling

Becki

After School Club Manager



Reception Inspire Workshop- Tuesday, 8th March at 09.15

In the spring and summer terms, parents are invited into school to participate in workshops involving work that your child is doing at school. The purpose of these workshops is to equip you with the knowledge and skills needed to support your child's learning at home. On Tuesday, March 8th at 09.15, we will be running an hour long, early reading workshop with a specific emphasis on PHONICS, an integral part of a reception pupil's learning at school. We see our parents as our partners in education and it is therefore vital that you attend.

We look forward to seeing you!

Amelia Swan

Venetian Mask Workshop

On Monday, 7th and Tuesday, 8th of February, Reception Plum Class had a most enjoyable, creative experience designing and making Venetian masks with two of our very talented parents leading the sessions. The children also learned about the Italian festival 'Carnevale'- an extravagant winter festival celebrated with parades, masquerade balls and entertainment. A huge thank you to Leonardo and Acacia's parents Marlon and Nicoletta for giving the children a learning experience to be treasured!

I would also like to extend my thanks to all the other parents who regularly help out in Plum Class, namely, Crystelle (Maximilien's mother), Martha (Zosia's mother) and Hande (Nevzat's mother). It is always lovely to have parents helping out in class and the children benefit greatly!

Amelia Swan



Speech & Language Therapist

We advertised over Christmas for an additional Speech and Language Therapist and received a large number of enquiries and applications. Working with our colleagues from the Lewisham NHS Trust who will line manage this position for us, we managed to narrow the short-list down to 5 exceptional candidates. After a gruelling interview with our SENCo, a representative from the NHS Trust and one of our Governors, we are pleased to announce that our very own Maire Sheehan has been offered the position. Maire was already a qualified Speech and Language when she joined us as a Teaching Assistant in 2009 and the experience she has gained working with our pupils in the speech and language class meant she was the ideal candidate for the post. Well done Maire - we are all delighted that you will still be working here with us in this exciting new role.

Welcome to our new pupils



A big welcome to the following pupils who have joined us since the beginning of the term

Willow; Gabriel, David A, Rukela, Kimaya, Emiely, Kelvin, Nugzari, MAcie, Muthla, Jake, David O, Kayden, Dyllon, Myleigh-Ray, Ryan, Rhydian, Seye, Sola, Efe, Fadheelah and Fatihat.

Cherry; Courtney, Kieran, Amandia, Dylan, Feria, Logan, Romany, Khadeeja, Marc, Donald and Jackson.

Plum; Khadija, Elisha, Tatyana, Maximiliem, Arber, Amira, Jade, Olaoluwa, Breanna, Zosia and Jaemin.

Magnolia; Glory and Ilyas.

Apple Tree; Chris.

Oak; Safiyyah.

Spruce; Maya

Ebony; Arlind

Baobab; Jesse

Tamarind; Keanu

KS1 Corridor

I would like to thank all parents for their consideration and acceptance of the closure of the KS1 corridor pre school. Please be assured that if you need to speak with your child's teacher you can request an appointment at the office or see them in the playground. As explained in the letter it had become a Health and Safety concern and now seems to be a safer place for your children to move along.

Lisa Turner

Hall Athletics

On Tuesday 8th February, nine boys and eight girls from years 5/6 represented the school in an athletics competition at the Hatcham sports centre in Nunhead. They took part in many running, throwing and jumping events. The competition was for the Hatcham family of schools, but only three schools turned up. The children performed very well and came second. This earned us a place in the Lewisham finals which will be held at Knights Academy in March.

Football

Our football team has had some inconsistent results so far. However, the latest trend is three wins and a draw. After starting the season with two wins, we then slumped to four losses. This didn't cause the team to lose hope. The players kept working hard and making improvements. Their hard work resulted in 7 points from the last four matches - two points for a win and one point for a draw. Our leading goal scorer is Lily with four goals. Daniel is next on three. Well done to the whole team for the positive attitude they have displayed.

Thanks to all the parents who supported their children and the team. A big thank you to Isaac and Murdo's mum for being at two of our matches, even though none of her children is on the football team. Thanks to Mr O'Shea and Mr Morgan for helping with the team. Thanks to Mr Ellis for his usual support on match days. Thanks also to Miss Flynn for being there to see us doing so well in our last two matches of this half term.

The competition resumes after half term.

Courtney Lawrence



Road Safety Assembly

On the 8th of February a road safety officer from Lewisham came and spoke to Tidemill pupils during KS1 and KS2 assemblies. The officer discussed road safety with the children and reminded them about how to safely cross roads and use caution as a pedestrian. We were happy to have someone come in and discuss this important issue with our pupils and hope the children will remember these helpful tips when walking around the local area.

Christian Ellis



Drumming

On Wednesday 9th February, years 5 and 6 had a Djembe drumming workshop. Throughout the day, classes took turns to play the drums with their teacher and the drumming teacher, named Mohammed. All classes really enjoyed it. "I really enjoyed it, it was a lot of fun" commented Miss Flynn. Another commented by Miss Flynn, "It was really nice to see how talented my children were". All the classes really wanted him to stay because of all the fun that they were having. We all want Mohammed to come back. Also when he comes back we want all of the parents to be part of our Djembe celebration.

Laurie & Natalie

Pupils - Mimosa Class



Black Role Model Project



This scheme provides Tidemill students with the opportunity to meet black role models from the local area. 7 boys have been selected to take part and have been meeting on Wednesday afternoons after school.

The boys have been looking at issues surrounding underachievement in Secondary school and have spoken about what makes a good role model. As well as working together to share their thoughts on their life goals and how they plan to achieve them,