



Merry Christmas!

December
2009

TIDEMILL NEWSLETTER

www.tidemill.net

National Teaching Schools

National Teaching Schools are designed to make a major contribution to improving the performance of all pupils in English schools through enabling school-to-school improvement designed to close the attainment gap and raise standards to match those of the best in the world. National Teaching Schools are primary, secondary and special school that are recognized nationally as being outstanding in their context. They are designated by the National College for School Leaders.

National Teaching Schools will:

- Demonstrate leading edge pedagogy
- Have leaders of teaching and learning with expert practitioners who are able to deliver high quality coaching and teaching programmes to improve performance and inspire teachers
- Provide exceptional professional development
- Exemplify high quality assessment for learning
- Offer excellent personalized learning provision
- Make use of the best technologies to maximize learning opportunities
- Provide teams of experts (e.g. Advanced Skills Teachers) and inquiry/research teams
- Write up case studies of highly effective practice
- Ensure best practice is shared with City Challenge, nationally and internationally.

The goal is to establish a small number of schools around the country and in City Challenge areas e.g. London, with the move towards the new approach of school-to-school improvement signalled in the White Paper in the summer 2009, school-to-school support is going to be a key element of the new educational landscape. National Teaching Schools will play a pivotal role in helping create a world class education system and will become an integral part of the new landscape.

I am delighted to bring you the news that Tidemill School has been identified as a Teaching School Designate. It is expected that we will become a full National Teaching School within the year. This is subject to my becoming a National Leader of Education and Tidemill gaining National Support School status.

Becoming a National Teaching School bring massive benefits to Tidemill in that our pupils are taught by highly qualified and outstanding professionals. This status will also attract teachers who want the high quality training and coaching opportunities on offer and have the desire to work in such an exciting educational environment. Being a National Teaching School also means we receive significant additional income that benefits our staff and pupils.

This is exceedingly good news and I am sure you will be as thrilled as I am.
Mark Elms, Headteacher

Have a great holiday. Remember: School re-opens and 9am on Tuesday 5th January 2010. The nursery will re-open on Friday 8th January 2010 for all the existing pupils. New children will have staggered start dates over the following weeks.

Congratulations!



Miss Flynn started at Tidemill Primary School in September, 2008. She came to us as a highly qualified and experienced Senior teacher from the United States. After making such a positive impact on learning and behaviour last year she became year 5/6 Phase leader. All of this wasn't enough for Miss Flynn though. She also decided that she wanted to get her Qualified Teacher Status in England....so she has. This involved tests, collecting & collating portfolios of evidence of her work and a lot of late nights reading education policies. On checking Miss Flynn's portfolios her Mentor from the Institute of Education said that they were the best she had seen...ever!

So, congratulations Miss Flynn - another feather to your bow.

Lorraine Stewart
(Deputy Head)

Coffee Mornings

We have scheduled a number of coffee mornings for next term and hope lots of parents/carers will take advantage of these sessions. Put the dates in your diaries....

Monday January 19th - 9am:

Health coffee morning: Meet the school nurse to discuss health issues

Monday February 1st - 9am:

Anti-bullying coffee morning: Find out about Anti-bullying measures used in local secondary schools, find-out about Tidemill's playground, give us your feedback on bullying.

Monday March 1st - 9am:

Basic First Aid: Coffee Morning



Spring Term 2010

Inset Day: 4th January

Tuesday 5th January - Friday 12th February

Half Term: Monday 15th - Friday 19th February

Monday 22nd February - Thursday 1st April (1.15pm)

Summer Term 2010

Inset Day: 19th April

Tuesday 20th April - Friday 28th May

(Spring bank holiday will be taken on 3rd May)

Half Term: Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June

Monday 7th June - Friday 23rd July (1.15pm)

Autumn Term 2010

Inset Days: 1st & 2nd September

Friday 3rd September - Friday 22nd October

Half Term: Monday 25th October - Friday 29th October

Monday 1st Nov - Friday 17th Dec (closing at 1.15pm)



Goodbye and Good luck to Ms Robertson

At the end of this term we say a temporary goodbye to Vanessa Robertson as she begins her maternity leave. Ms Robertson is due to have her baby in February and she plans to return to teaching in June. We all wish her the very best of luck and hope to see her with her new baby next term.

The class will be covered by qualified teacher Gosia Luc-Burdzy who already knows the children very well as she is currently the class Teaching Assistant.

Alwyn Rees

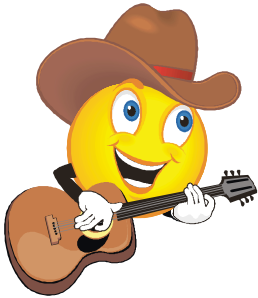
WELCOME BACK NADINE!



We are delighted to welcome back Nadine, our school cook, from maternity leave. I know the children have loved seeing her and it's been a delight to see her back in the kitchen carving chickens and baking bread.

Lisa Turner

Lewisham Music Service



Next term, Lewisham Music Service is combining its two former Saturday Music Centres into a new Saturday Centre based at Prendergast Ladywell Fields College, Manwood Rd, SE4. The enrolment day is Saturday 16 January 2010 from 10.00am to 12.30pm. The new Centre will focus on groups, bands and musicianship. (Please note instrumental tuition will not be available on Saturday but it is provided by the Music Service in most of the borough's schools as well as in evening classes at The Albany, Deptford, SE8). All children aged 7 and above who already play an instrument and go to Lewisham schools or who live in the borough are welcome to apply. Our Saturday Music Centre will provide an ideal progression route for young musicians in Lewisham with classes suitable for beginners through to advanced, catering for some of the most talented children in the borough. Two **new** groups of interest to primary school musicians will be our **Starter Strings** and **Starter Winds** groups for beginner string, woodwind and brass players, and our **Intermediate Groups** for children who have reached Grade 2. We hope you will want to be part of this exciting new initiative.

Contact Lewisham Music Service for more details on 020 8692 4446 ext 240. There will be more information including a downloadable application form on the Music Service's website in the New Year:
www.lewishammusicservice.org.

All good wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Peter, Lewisham Music Service

Tidemill has an extremely culturally diverse community and works hard to promote community cohesion. It is very important that our children and families understand and appreciate each others cultures and beliefs. In line with this, in the Autumn term we have celebrated a variety of festivals including Eid and Christmas. Both celebrations were organised by Miss Diana Grant, a huge thank-you! Thanks also need to go to the parents who gave up their time (and cooking skills!) to celebrate Eid and to the many families, of all religions, who came to the carols at St Paul's.

Lorraine Stewart
(Deputy Head)



Hands on Science

On 4 November, Miss Diana and myself attended a day course on Hands-on Science: Practical Science Investigations at the Science Learning Centre (Institute of Education).

The course was jam-packed with practical activities to help support the teaching of science investigation skills across KS1 and KS2. We both enjoyed the course thoroughly and came away feeling inspired! Attending the course has enabled us to share ideas about methods and resources with the rest of the teaching staff and many of these ideas will be included in next term's Creative Curriculum planning.

Josi Horne



Clubs for next term

We will be offering some fantastic clubs for the Spring term. We will be continuing most of the clubs that we offered in the autumn term and some new ones. Two of the new clubs will be football for years 3&4 and speed stacking for years 1 - 6. I will be doing the football club.

Miss Carly and Miss Caroline went to a speed stacking training session and came back with some fabulous ideas. They will be doing the speed stacking clubs. Children from the speed stacking clubs will be developing skills that will help them to compete against other schools, later in the year. They may also get a chance to attend a competition at the O2 Arena.

The full programme will be sent out at the beginning of term and clubs will start on Monday 11th January.

Courtney Lawrence



Mother Goose Pantomime

On Tuesday the 8th December, year 5/6 had the opportunity to watch Mother Goose in the Greenwich Theatre. We had great fun watching the cast act out hilarious scenes and we also had the chance to join in with the singing and dancing. "I liked the dancing and the actors were really good." Rhiannon -Year 6. "I liked all the actors but the evil witch put a twist in the story and it made me really curious." Joe - Year 6. Next year Cinderella is playing so make sure you go and watch it!

By Sumaya and Sarah, year 6



On Tuesday 16th December, year 3/4 also went to see Mother Goose at Greenwich Theatre. The show was packed full with laughter, songs and bad jokes! Everyone had fun; the children booed, sang and danced. You could even spot some of the teachers shaking their stuff! Everyone is looking forward to next year's performance!

Miss Grant and Miss Caroline

Sports Competitions

Tidemill took part in two competitions during the Autumn term. Children from years 5&6 played in a one day basketball tournament against four other schools. The children played very well but came away with one win from three matches.

The football team is currently involved in the Lewisham Saturday League for primary schools. So far, we have won three games and lost one. We are fourth in our group, out of 16 teams. We have scored 12 goals and conceded 5. Well done to all the boys.

Thanks to all the members of staff and parents who supported us on our two match days.



Courtney Lawrence

Black History Month

This Autumn, Tidemill celebrated Black artists and musicians during Black History Month. Each class selected an artist or musician to study over the course of the month and put together a corresponding display board. The result was that our corridors were virtually transformed into an art gallery all about Black artists. Towards the end of the month, children were given the opportunity to participate in a 'gallery walk' to admire the work of their peers and learn more about other Black artists. Another highlight of Black History Month was our assembly, during which classes who had learnt about musicians gave lively performances of Lord Kitchener, Desmond Dekker, and Blues music, among others.

Erika Flynn

Stephen Wiltshire



A New Curriculum for 2011

In 2011 all schools will have to follow a new National Curriculum. It has been 20 years since the last National Curriculum was published and 10 years since any of the content has changed. The world is a very different place to what it was twenty years ago and the programme of study we present to pupils must reflect that. Think of the vast changes that have occurred in the last 20 years in regard to technology, work, health and environment.



The new curriculum follows an extensive review of the primary curriculum where everyone from parents, teachers and children were asked their opinion on what skills and essential knowledge our young people need to be armed with to negotiate their way in a rapidly changing world. The new curriculum will have Literacy, Numeracy and ICT running across all learning and aims to give schools more flexibility so they can develop themes and topics relevant to the children they teach.

Our staff conference in November was an excellent opportunity for Tidemill Staff to get together to discuss how the new curriculum will affect what we teach and how we teach it. We already strive to provide creative 'hands-on' learning experiences but still felt we could look at new approaches and develop ingredients to add flavour and value to our teaching. Therefore we looked at strategies for engaging and empowering the children by involving them in the planning and direction of their learning. Staff also presented wonderfully creative 'wow experiences' to inspire and motivate; drama ideas to deepen understanding while developing speaking and listening skills; mini-challenges to allow children to problem-solve; and ways to extend our learning beyond the classroom and into the school grounds, local area and into the global community. If you would like more info on the primary curriculum review visit: <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/primarycurriculumreview/>

Richard Graham
(Deputy Head)

Staff Conference 2009

Our recent staff conference was a great success. It was my first time at the conference and it is certainly unusual being asked to pay for our own travel & give up our weekend to go to a staff conference. However, once we got there I realized just how valuable it is to have time away from the coal face to think about how we can improve our practice.

Staff reflected on the creative curriculum and considered the recent shift towards child-initiated learning where children are empowered to make informed choices about what they want to learn. The advantages of taking learning beyond the classroom was discussed and using drama to teach difficult concepts in science was also highlighted. Ways of stimulating pupils and capturing their interests through a range of mini challenges, like film making, were also explored. Teams were challenged to make a film following an unseen brief and staff's hidden talents were revealed at a film screening held later that day! We enjoyed a vigorous session of Tae Kwon Do as well as a moonlit French Treasure Hunt. Staff also had the opportunity to express their passions for, and commitment to, the teaching profession during an emotional chat around the table.

The jam-packed, two day schedule equipped all of us with an abundance of creative ideas and experiences to be implemented and adapted at school for Tidemill pupils to enjoy.

Amelia Petersen

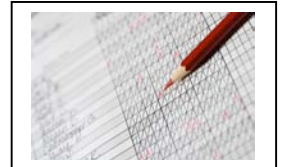


ATTENDANCE STATISTICS REPORT (01/09/2009-10/12/2009)

Class	Attendance	On Time	Late	Authorised Absence	Unauthorised Absence
Cherry	95.4%	94.1%	1.3%	3.8%	0.8%
Plum	94.9%	93.2%	1.7%	4.7%	0.4%
Maple	95.5%	94.8%	0.8%	3.2%	1.3%
Chestnut	95.7%	93.9%	1.9%	3.4%	0.9%
Magnolia*	96.3%	95.8%	0.5%	2.9%	0.8%
Apple Tree*	97.3%	96.2%	1.1%	1.9%	0.8%
Spruce*	97.5%	97.0%	0.6%	1.9%	0.5%
Ebony*	96.4%	96.0%	0.4%	3.1%	0.5%
Oak	94.9%	94.4%	0.5%	4.1%	1.0%
Tamarind	95.8%	94.6%	1.2%	3.3%	0.9%
Mimosa	95.9%	95.4%	0.5%	3.5%	0.5%
Bonsai*	98.6%	98.0%	0.6%	1.3%	0.1%
Palm	96.2%	95.3%	0.9%	2.4%	1.4%
Boabab*	97.0%	96.2%	0.8%	2.8%	0.2%
TOTALS					

6 classes beat our attendance target of 96% this term. A particular well done to Bonsai class who had fantastic attendance of 98.6% and the lowest unauthorised absence in the school of 0.1%. Congratulations also to Ebony class for the best punctuality.

Lisa Turner



Passport Trips



As you know we reward good behaviour at Tidemill by organising termly passport trips.

Years 1 and 2 had an 'out of this world' time with a trip to see the film Planet 51. Years 3 and 4 had a fantastic morning bowling. Years 5 and 6 went to the cinema to see 'Where the Wild Things Are' this followed a wonderful presentation and art class from Andy Thompson an animator on the movie.

The pupils who received 4 or more rule reminders and therefore didn't attend the passport trip had an opportunity to reflect on their behaviour. These pupils participated in team-building activities and also set behaviour targets that we hope will support them in managing their behaviour so they can attend the passport trips in the spring term.

Richard Graham
(Deputy Head)

Welcome to all our new pupils

This term Tidemill has had nearly a 20% rise in roll. The majority of children are from Charlotte Turner however we have had students join us from a range of schools. The children have settled in well and made lots of new friends. They are represented in the Rangers, school council and on the football team. They have made lots of positive comments about their first term at Tidemill and are fast becoming Tidemill stars. Well done to them and also to their parents who have enthusiastically become involved in our school community.

Lorraine Stewart
(Deputy Head)



After School club assembly

On Monday 7th of December, we had our After-school club assembly for the autumn term. Children showed and spoke about the fantastic things that they have done this term. There were some brilliant displays from Art, Sport, Drama, Dance and Academic clubs. Some children were presented with certificates in recognition of their participation in the clubs.

Based on the presentations, it was evident that the children have been participating in high quality, enjoyable clubs in the afternoons.

Thanks to all the adults who delivered such meaningful enrichment activities for our children's enjoyment and learning.

Courtney Lawrence

COMMUNITY PAYBACK TEAM

We were contacted recently by the Community Payback Team to see if we would like a team of volunteers to come and work in the school. Needless to say, we have bitten their hand off and they started work on Saturday last week painting our dining hall! As they can only work in the school on Saturdays, it is going to take some time but they have made a good start and we hope the new colour scheme will make the room look brighter and warmer.

Rachel Delacy-Taylor

Anti-Bullying Week - Help needed

Following on from our Anti-Bullying week (16th-20th November) we are now updating our Anti-Bullying Policy. This is a very important document for Tidemill School and we want all the people that it affects to be involved in the writing of the policy.

Each class has written their own definition of what they believe bullying to be and through circle-times and class discussion we have been investigating key areas such as why people bully, why people are bullied, what we should do when we feel bullied.

We have also written a whole KS2 anti-bullying rap and performed this in a special assembly. It certainly felt very powerful to hear over 200 children singing such important words. Year 6 also performed a drama investigating this year's national focus which is cyber-bullying.

We are also looking for some comments from parents and carers to feed into the policy. Please come along to our anti-bullying coffee morning on Monday 1st February, it will be an opportunity for you to tell us what we are doing well and offer your ideas and opinions as to how we could do it even better!

Richard Graham
(Deputy Head)



'Teaching Boys' Course

On Friday 13th November, I had the pleasure of attending a course in South Kensington. The focus of the course was how to get boys more interested in academic achievement, and discussing ways of motivating them and helping them become better writers. I came back with many wonderful ideas to try in school. One very important thing that we discussed was, allowing the boys to write about things that appeal to them. We agreed that this will not always be possible, but if they develop interest in writing by writing about things they are interested in, they will hopefully apply the skills they have developed to many different writing topics.

After attending the course, we have decided in the year 5/6 team that I will work with some boys, putting into practice some of the strategies that I learned.

I am very optimistic about the impact that the training is going to have on our learners.

Courtney Lawrence

Firefighters Visit - Foundation Stage

Nicole from Plum class organised for the Fire Fighters from Deptford Fire Station to visit Tidemill. Fireman Irwin taught the children about fire safety awareness and the emergency procedures to follow. Both reception classes enjoyed dressing up as fire fighters in their role play areas and were very excited to meet real fire fighters! The children were given a tour of the fire engine and participated in activating the sirens and using the hoses.

(23rd October 2009)



London Fire Brigade - Year 2 & Year 5



On November 17th Tidemill were visited by two London fire officers. The officers gave a safety talk and showed videos to children in year 2 and year 5. Year 2 were very excited at being given the opportunity to wear a firefighters uniform! All the children received a certificate to show that they are now aware of fire safety issues; they also received a booklet of fire safety related activities.



On November 17 a fire brigade lady called Rachel came and visited us to tell us about safety. We played a game called fire cludo which everyone enjoyed. She told us how to avoid fires and fires can be started. When she came Rachel wanted three volunteers to act out how to escape a fire. Rachel gave us some worksheets to work out and a lot of advice.

By: Solaiman and Levi - year 5

It was really exciting. Students from Chiselhurst and Sidcup Grammar School came to Tidemill Primary School to teach us all lots of French. We played lots of games and made post cards. Some children even dressed up and put moustaches on themselves. We would like to say a big thank you to the students from Chiselhurst and Sidcup Grammar School. Overall we had an excellent day.

By Scarlett and Kelisha (Oak class)



Have a great holiday!

SCHOOL DINNERS



As the winter draws in, having a filling, hot meal at lunchtime really helps to keep the children warm at playtime and also seems to help them concentrate during the afternoon. Our new catering team have been working hard to make sure the children have filling, freshly prepared food each day - including the freshly baked bread which the children all love!

I am delighted to confirm, following the feedback from the parent survey in July, that all of the meat (with the exception of the turkey) is now Halal. This means a large number of children who used to have the vegetarian option are now able to eat the same meals as their friends and classmates. Having tasted the food, I have to say I think it tastes better than ever! This week, 279 of the 373 children who are in school at lunchtime had school dinner - 74.8% of our school roll.

Rachel Delacy-Taylor

INSPIRE WORKSHOP DATES FOR NEXT TERM



The Inspire workshops for next term will have a literacy focus. Parents/carers will once again be asked to come in to work with their children on some family learning activities which will help parents to support their children with their homework and learn more about what the children do at school. The feedback from these sessions has been overwhelmingly positive in the past and the children love seeing their family come into school so please remember to put the following dates into your diaries and book the time off work.

Start time is 9.15am and they run until 10.15am

Year 1	Tuesday, January 26
Year 2	Tuesday, January 19
Year 3	Thursday, January 21
Year 4	Thursday, January 28
Year 5	Thursday, January 14
Year 6	Wednesday, January 13

Parents raising concerns and giving School Feedback

Tidemill is an outstanding school and we have a fantastic team of teachers but we know we do not **always** gets things right.

We are constantly striving to improve our teaching and learning provision so please do not hesitate to give us feedback and/or share your concerns.

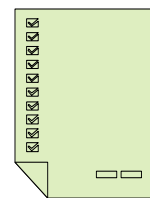
In the first instance you should speak to the class teacher, if not the team leader. If the class teacher or team leader are unable to resolve your concerns please talk to Ms Stewart or Mr Graham, our Deputy Heads.

Ultimately you should please speak with me, you know I am frequently at the front of the school at the beginning and end of the day.

Alternatively contact the school office to arrange an appointment.

Thank you

Mark Elms
Headteacher



PE Review

In the first half term of this term I carried out a PE Review. The aim of the review was to find out how well we were delivering high quality PE to our learners. It was a very rewarding experience for me, being the PE coordinator for over a year now, and because of my great interest in the physical fitness, development of sporting skills and healthy lifestyle of our pupils.

It was a real joy to see that the PE we continue to do in Tidemill is of a very high standard. Through the review, we have decided on actions to make PE and Sport even more enjoyable and fulfilling for our learners.

My only disappointment was seeing a few children without PE kits. Therefore, I will take this opportunity to ask parents/carers to ensure that children always have their kits, so that they can participate fully in all activities.



Courtney Lawrence

Speech, Language and Communication Division

Children with Speech, language and communication needs may:

- Respond inconsistently to spoken questions or instructions.
- Regularly need instructions simplified and/or repeated.
- Have problems remembering auditory information.
- Have difficulty sequencing events and ideas.
- Have difficulty finding the correct word for something.
- Rarely use sentences of more than a few words.
- Not be able to describe how he/she is feeling or attribute feelings to others.
- Use the wrong speech sounds when talking

We launched the addition of a specialist provision for children with Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) in September with a whole day INSET for teaching staff on this particular type of Special Educational Need (SEN). As a consequence there are many children already on roll at our school benefiting from increased knowledge on how to identify and support children with SLCN. Teachers have also had the opportunity to incorporate Makaton signing into lessons and increase the use of visual support which is proven to support children with a range of learning styles.

The children in the specialist class have benefited from the regular input from our Speech and Language Therapist, Sarah McMenamin, specialist teaching and high quality support when accessing the curriculum in their mainstream classes. We are pleased to inform you that we are in the process of increasing the time a therapist is in school from 1 day to 2.5 days. This will have an immediate impact in the main body of our school as children who have identified speech and language difficulties will be able to access specialist support more regularly.

Teachers too will be in receipt of invaluable continued professional development which will certainly have an impact on the learning of all children in their care.

If you are concerned about any area of your child's speech, language and communication development please come in and speak with their teacher or myself about how we can support their needs.

Michelle Rosemond
Lead Teacher
Speech, Language and Communication Needs

Imperial War Museum Trip



On 7th October Year 3/4 went on a trip to the Imperial War Museum to learn about World War Two. When they arrived, Year 3/4 went into the Blitz Experience. It was dark because they wanted it to be like the black-out!

Eventually they got to eat lunch at 12:00. After lunch they played a bit before going back inside. When they went back into the museum they visited the Children's War exhibition and got to hear some fascinating facts! After that they went into a house and an air-raid shelter from the 1940s. When they went into the house they even got to go into the bathroom. Did you know that in the bath there was a burnt line which showed how much water (13cm) you could fill your bath with!

The children thought the trip was great because they had fun and learnt a lot!

By Laurie Zoro Mpondo, Ebony Class

New School for Tidemill

As you can see the contractor is on site as has made an impressive start. The old access building and public toilets have been demolished; the site has been cleared and work has begun on preparing the foundations.

The contractor has visited school and discussed how we can involve the children in the building programme. We are planning to take photographs at regular intervals that we will keep as an important archive of the construction.

Galliford Try, the company building the new school, will visit Tidemill early in the Spring to lead assemblies for all the children about the programme and will include discussions about Health and Safety and the dangers of trespassing onto building sites. Please will you also talk to your children about these dangers.

Considerable work is going on behind the scenes discussing the "fit out" of the new school including the furniture, fixtures and fittings and high level of ICT we will require. There are still some difficult negotiations to make and we will require your support all along the way!

*Mark Elms
Headteacher*

Tidemill parent and carers steel pans band.

Every Tuesday from 3.45 to 4.45 you may hear the sound of steel pans coming from the music room. Tidemill parents and carers band has been running for two terms now led by tutor Desrine Nelson. During the year the band played at the International Evening, the Lewisham Steel pans festival at Deptford Green and also at the turning on of the Deptford Christmas lights last Saturday (12th). The band will begin practices again next term.

Christian Ellis



Virtual Learning Environment

Earlier this term I went on a training course to learn about Fronter; an exciting tool for education. Fronter is a safe, online learning environment. It has been described as 'a filing cabinet in cyberspace' and will provide a direct link to what your child is learning in class. Each child will be given their own username and password. Students will be able to logon to their class page both at school and at home, or anywhere with an Internet connection. Once online they can find out about the current topics in class; contribute to discussions; play educational games; find out dates for school trips and much more. All the support staff at Tidemill have been trained and our aim is to introduce this exciting new project next term. At Tidemill, learning does not stop at the school gate. Fronter will strengthen our home-school link even further and we hope that you will support us in encouraging your child to access this innovative learning environment.

Caroline Hughes



£520 HOME ACCESS GRANT

In January a new Government "Home Access" grant will be launched across the UK. Families who are entitled to free school meals and who have a child aged between 7 and 16 will be able to apply for a £520 grant for the purchase of a home computer with a year's broadband access.

In the pilot schemes in Suffolk and Oldham, 97% of the parents have said the computers have helped with their child's learning and motivation. Other parents have also reported the positive knock on effects of their increased ICT skills through having access to a computer at home!

We are keen for as many of our families as possible to be able to access the grant so, if you think you might be entitled to free school meals but have not yet applied, do come in to see the office for advice.

Rachel Delacy-Taylor

Carol Concert at St. Paul's - Deptford

Thank you to all the parents, carers and governors who attended the carol concert at St. Paul's - Deptford. It was great to see so much support. This year we wanted to develop a stronger sense of belonging by looking at celebrations which help to bring the community together. Judging by the comments made by some of the community the morning was a success.

A special thank you to our music teachers - Catherine Hughes and Judith Burden, who gave up their time to support the children of Tidemill School.

Diana Grant



Transition from Reception to Year 1

This term year 1 and foundation stage teachers have been looking at ways to smooth the transition between their year groups. Both teams have met and compared notes, looking at how to best meet the needs of the children and adjust year one to make the transition in autumn term much easier. As a result of this, we have bought new resources to use in our small world and outside area (weather permitting!) which the children are really enjoying.

Jennifer Gibbons

Cinderella

On Monday 14th December Years 1 and 2 all went to see Cinderella at Catford Broadway Theatre. We all had a wonderful time with lots of shouting "he's behind you" and "Oh yes he did" Rachel in Magnolia class showed off her brilliant break dancing skills and Lolita from Apple class won herself a goody bag for her dancing. Children and adults alike thought the ugly sisters very funny and loved their colourful costumes.

Thank you to Miss Robertson for organising such a lovely outing.

Clare Brown



HMS Belfast

On Monday 16th of November all year 3 and 4 visited HMS Belfast. Before we got there we were very excited but didn't know what to expect. When we arrived we walked up a steep ladder on board the boat...it was very dark and cramped inside. We went to the doctor's room (sick bay) where there was a doctor operating on a sick sailor. It was disgusting as there was fake blood everywhere! I found the dentist to be the scariest part though. We ate lunch in a small park looking over London Bridge while some cheeky birds pecked at our feet! All the children learned lots about what life was like for sailors during World War 2. We liked it so much that we recommend this trip to all ages.

By Omololu Sunmonu and Ella Glyn (Oak class)



Year 3 Pizza Express Trip

Earlier this term all of Year 3 visited Pizza Express in Greenwich as part of our Instructions writing unit in Literacy. When we arrived we were shown around the kitchen and some children bravely ventured into the large walk-in freezer! Each child made their own pizza, added toppings of their choice and then cooked them in the oven. We ate our delicious pizzas before returning to Tidemill. Each child then used their expert knowledge of pizza making to write detailed instructions for how to make a pizza. We would like to thank all the staff at Pizza Express for providing us with such an excellent morning.

Laptops & Vado Video Cameras

This term we have purchased 14 new laptops and 6 "pink" video cameras for the classrooms. Staff have all been trained on how to use the "pink" video cameras and children have begun using them in the classroom. The cameras are an excellent way for children to film drama work, record themselves telling stories and making short films. I look forward to seeing children using them creatively in the classroom.

*Christian Ellis
ICT Leader*



NOISES IN THE BASEMENT - Year 5 & 6

On Friday the 4th we were completing our power writing so we took a stroll around the school to see how it would feel to be locked in. We were minding our own business when we encountered a strange noise in the basement. This inspired us to write a story about how we would feel if we were locked in, and it worked!

The lesson was fun and creative to see what every pupil had in mind.



Year 3/4 Science Museum Trip

On December 3rd, years 3 and 4 went to the Science Museum as part of our topic on electricity. We got there by train from Deptford to Cannon Street then tube from Cannon Street to High Street Kensington. Our first activity was the launchpad. The launchpad is a place where there are loads of fun science experiments or games that you can play and make.

When we finished playing in the launchpad we had to go to the energy exhibition. In the energy exhibition there was a pole which had metal bars. If you touched the metal bars you got electrocuted. After that one of the staff in the Science museum presented a show about sustainable energy for the future. Then when the show ended we went to lunch.

After lunch we walked across a glass suspension bridge on the 1st floor and had a look around the museum. At about 2.30 pm we left to go home. We enjoyed the trip so much. Maybe if we go again more parents can come with us.

*By Natalie,
Palm class*



DT Subject Review

Design and Technology is an essential part of children's education as it has such a large impact on today's society and subsequently everyday living.

As the Design and Technology leader for Tidemill I was fortunate enough to undertake a whole school audit of this subject. This is when a subject leader explores their subject throughout the school looking at the standard and progress of pupils as well as the level of provision that the children are receiving.

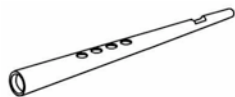
Over the last two years design and technology provision has increased and as a result the standard of pupils work and progress has greatly improved. Notably, the foundation stage provision and level of pupil work is outstanding. During the audit it gave me the opportunity to look at next steps for design and technology within school; once these steps were identified, we held a staff meeting and the findings from the audit and recommendations for the future were discussed and decided. In the future I will be following up with the different phase teams to ensure that these recommendations are being acted upon and that children at Tidemill are continuing to receive excellent provision in design and technology.

Laura Siu



Music Ensemble Assembly

In early November KS2 enjoyed a music assembly with a difference. Music students from Trinity College, Greenwich visited and performed a variety of pieces, with themes of tragedy, humour and romance. The ensemble consisted of a cello, flute and piano. The musicians taught us about the family their instruments belonged to and demonstrated the varying sounds they can make. All children were mesmerised by the sound of live music and asked many excellent questions.



Christian Ellis Music Leader

World War 2 Day

Last Thursday, Year 3&4 children celebrated the end of our topic, *World War II: The Homefront*. Children came to school with their evacuation tags and gas masks. Some brave children even donned shorts! The day began as usual, but was soon interrupted by the wailing sound of air raid sirens. Children were herded into the hall and the boys and girls separated. Girls activities involved sewing, cooking and flag making. The boys made bagatelle, fires, searched for clues and played WWII games. All children and staff got fully involved in all activities and had a wonderful day. The day ended with all children celebrating VE day in the top hall. Thank you to all the children and staff for making this such a fun and successful day.

Christian Ellis; Year 3/4 Phase Leader



Jugal, Yllka & Steven about to be evacuated

Goodbye



We are saying goodbye and thank you to a couple of very important people this term. Miss Meyers is leaving to relocate to Scotland, Miss Aisha Grant who is taking a break for a short while for personal reasons and Miss Robertson (Mrs Hiller) who is starting her maternity leave. Good bye, good luck and thank you - we are all going to miss you!

Lorraine Stewart, Deputy Head

Year 5/6 Natural History Museum Visit

On Wednesday 9th of December Tidemill School visited the natural history museum to learn about animal adaptation. It was really inspiring especially when we had a chance to explore different animals and objects in the museum. We went to do a workshop, which was based around scientists and how they tell what the objects are. We had to write about the description of the object and what we thought it was. During the walk around the museum, we had a booklet about different animals and we had to track down special features about the animal. Going to the museum really helped us with our topic of interdependence and adaptation in science. It taught us about how animals adapt to a specific habitat.



Dinner Money for 09/10



Spring Term Dinner Money

Tues 5th Jan to Fri 12th Feb (29 days) - £40.60
Mon 22nd Feb to Thurs 1st Apr (29 days) - £40.60

Summer Term Dinner Money

Tues 20th Apr to Fri 28th May (28 days) - £39.20
Mon 7th Jun to Fri 23rd Jul (35 days) - £49.00

Have a great Christmas and enjoy the snow!

Make sure you come and check Lost Property for any missing coats, hats, gloves.....

Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 Nativity Play

On Thursday 10th December Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 performed our annual nativity play this year titled 'Shine Star Shine'. All teaching staff were proud of the children as they had very little time to practise during their busy Christmas schedule. Thank you to all parents, carers and relatives who came to see the production. I think you'll agree we have West End stars in the making! A special mention to Laurelle in Magnolia class who was our lead in the play and did an absolutely fantastic job. Well done Laurelle. Well done also to the narrators who learnt all their lines and spoke with such confidence. Thank you to the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 staff for all their hard work with costumes, supporting the singing and decorating the stage.

Michelle Dawe

