



# Phoenix Arch School

## December 2024



### Pizza Express...

This term pupils from Ash and Cedar class attended an exciting pizza-making workshop at Pizza Express as part of their DT curriculum. The morning began with a warm welcome from the Restaurant Manager and their team, who introduced the group to the basics of Italian cooking and kitchen safety. Guided by a professional Pizzaiolo, the children learned to craft a class Margherita pizza. From kneading the dough into the perfect base to adding fresh, flavourful ingredients like Mozzarella, Passata and Basil. Everyone enjoyed making their own masterpiece. While the pizzas baked in the oven, the

pupils took part in an interactive ingredients quiz. They tasted different toppings, learned about their origins and answered fun questions. Finally, the delicious smell of freshly baked pizzas filled the air as each child proudly collected their creation and a Junior Pizzaiolo Certificate. This fun and educational experience combined different skills, creativity, teamwork and tasty food, making it a morning to remember. A big thank you for Pizza Express for inspiring our young chefs.



### Coffee Mornings...

Over the past two terms, Phoenix Arch School has hosted coffee mornings, providing a welcoming space for parents and carers to meet with school governors and discuss key topics. Parents highlighted the usefulness of the home-school communication book and suggested ideas to strengthen school-community links, such as social events, parent meet-ups and discussion groups with staff. Discussions included fostering a positive school

community, reducing isolation among parents and sharing successful teaching strategies to support children at home. Parents also requested access to children's work before meetings and a timetable in advance of school events. The school governors are committed to these ideas and ensuring coffee mornings continue regularly, offering a valuable platform for collaboration and support.



### School Gardening Project...

In recent weeks Phoenix Arch children have been lucky to have the raised beds in the growing garden rebuilt and the soil renewed. The children have been investigating the new beds, by digging in the soil to see what creatures are living there. They found worms and beetles living deep in the soil, which is a good indication that the soil is full of nutrients. They are engaging with The Royal Horticultural Society project. Encouraging the children to dig, plant, grow and nurture the plants. They have planted berry

bushes and beans for the new edible garden. This gives the children a sense of responsibility and an understanding of where food comes from. Some children enjoyed digging and getting their hands dirty, while others preferred to do the watering and monitoring of the beds. This lets them be who they are and to do what they enjoy in this natural space by guiding and introducing them to the growing process.



### Cineworld...

As part of their PSHE programme Willow class went to see Despicable Me 4 at Cineworld at the Wembley LDO. This is a valuable experience and enhances their outside experiences which helps them to gain confidence in new, exciting and sometimes loud environments. They all thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience.



### Junior Citizens Event...

The Year 6 children participated in the Brent Junior Citizenship scheme. They engaged in six role play based scenarios with the Metropolitan Police, London Fire Brigade, London Transport Museum, Westminster Drug Project, Public Health and Brent Safety and Travel Planning team. The role plays were designed to allow them to deal with the challenges they might face in the future, to encourage them to live a safe and healthy lifestyle, and

to make them aware of how to react in difficult situations which they may come across. The children enjoyed the trip and were awarded the most points for participation.



### RAF Museum...

Juniper class had the opportunity to visit the RAF museum in Hendon this term. They had an amazing day seeing the old war planes, cars and many other interesting exhibits. They also took part in a workshop where they were able to try on a World War II fighter pilot costume and had to guess which aeroplanes belonged to which sounds. At the end of the day they had the opportunity to have some fun in the museum's playground. They will definitely be returning next year.



### Verulamium Museum...

The children in Cedar class had a fantastic trip to the Verulamium Museum in St Albans as part of their history topic about the Romans. The children spent the day exploring various Roman artefacts and learnt about how the Romans lived and some of their foods. They also had the opportunity to dress up as rich and poor Romans by wearing togas and tunics. As Romans are well known for their battles, the children made their own shields to protect them from the enemy.



### Target Setting...

Your child would have brought home a target setting appointment letter with them on the last day of term. The Target Setting day is **Wednesday 8th January 2025**. It is important that you attend this meeting with your child at the specified time. If for any reason you are unable to make the appointment could we kindly ask that you call the school office so that they can let the class team know. Children then return on Thursday 9th January 2025.



### Attendance & Punctuality...

As you may be aware the Government have an initiative to improve the attendance of pupils across all schools. As a school we monitor attendance and we appreciate it if all children attend during term time as even a small absence brings our data down. We have never been driven by data but it has an affect on your child's wellbeing and learning. During absences friendships decline and learning is lost. We understand that illness does occur and

DFE guidance says that if they have a cold they can attend. If your child has vomited, or has diarrhoea then we follow the Public Health Agency guidelines and your child should not attend for **48 hours** after the last bout of sickness. **It is also extremely important that your child arrives to school for 9am.** Arriving late means that they miss their one to one teaching time and also impacts the whole class and child who has to join in their learning late. Thank you for your co-operation, we are working closely with the transport providers to ensure that the school buses are prompt.



### Christmas Concert...

We wanted to express our heartfelt thanks for attending our end of term Christmas concert. Your presence and support made the event truly special for our students. The children and staff worked incredibly hard to prepare for the performances, and seeing so many of you there to celebrate their achievements meant the world to them. Your encouragement helps build their confidence and creates lasting memories. Thank you once again for being such an important part of our school community. We look forward to seeing you at future events and wish you a restful and joyful holiday season.

### Sad Farewell...

Jude, our headteacher, is saying a very sad but fond farewell to her time at Phoenix Arch school. She started working at the school in 2007, 17 years ago as a teacher, when it was formally known as Vernon House. With hard work and dedication she became headteacher in 2012 and has helped to build it to as we know it today as an excellent SEN school. We wish her all the very best, we won't call it a retirement because we know she won't stop!!!!



**Spring Term begins on Thursday 9th January 2025.**

**From January 2025 the school gates will be opened at 2.45pm anybody arriving before that time will be unable to gain access.**