



PHOENIX ARCH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

March 2025

Welcome to our Spring Term newsletter!

It's been a jam-packed term full of learning, enrichment, and growth. We've seen our children thrive across all areas of school life, and it has been truly wonderful to see their hard work, and that of our dedicated staff, shine through.

This term, children have taken part in an exciting range of trips and workshops, including visits to the Opera House, the Houses of Parliament, Wembley Stadium, Neasden Temple, local supermarkets, garden centres, and even pizza-making at Pizza Express! Each of these experiences not only enriches our curriculum but also helps to develop essential life skills, and they certainly create lots of memories too.

Of course, these opportunities take a great deal of planning, risk-assessing and coordination. I'm incredibly proud of our staff, who work together with such commitment and determination to make these experiences possible.

Our governors were delighted to host two successful coffee mornings this term. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with families, hear your thoughts and share your experiences. You can read about it in the message below from Anna Gray, our vice-chair. We would like to extend a big thank you and welcome to Stephen Hull who is our new parent/governor.

We've also held a number of successful Annual Review meetings this term. These involve a great deal of preparation to ensure cover is in place for teachers and that therapy staff are able to attend alongside the SENCO. Where appointments are cancelled with very short notice, especially more than once, this does unfortunately impact our ability to use that time to support pupils. We kindly ask that, where possible, you let us know at the earliest opportunity if you cannot attend, so that we can rearrange efficiently.

Looking ahead to the summer term, I look forward to welcome you all on Wednesday 23rd April for Target Setting Day, a valuable opportunity to celebrate progress and set meaningful targets for children together.

As always, your feedback and support mean so much to us. On behalf of the whole team, thank you for being part of our journey this term, we couldn't do what we do without you.

For those of you celebrating, I wish you a very happy Easter, and to all our families, I hope you enjoy a well-deserved, peaceful, and relaxing break.

Warmest regards,
Falu Mehta

Coffee Mornings..

Since January 2025 Phoenix Arch School has hosted coffee mornings, providing a welcoming space for parents and carers to meet with school governors and discuss key topics. The agendas so far this year have been on children's sleep, nutrition & hygiene and just recently Brenda our Speech & Language therapist hosted a fantastic morning on using Makaton in the home and in school. We would like to thank the parents who were able to attend who have commented that you appreciate the effort from staff and recognise the progress their children are making. Lisa was also able to offer support and parents were pleased to learn more about the valuable role our Therapy assistants, Alex and Lisa make. We will be continuing themed mornings throughout the year so please look out for the invites in your emails.

Anna Gray (vice-Chair)



Library...

Cedar Class had the exciting opportunity to visit the newly re-opened Brent Civic Centre Library. This free facility offers books, e-books, computer access and now includes sensory pods and spacious reading areas, perfect for families to explore during weekends or holidays. The children were especially impressed by the self-service borrowing system and enjoyed spending time in this welcoming and inclusive space.



Kurling

At the start of the year, pupils participated in their first sports event of the term – a New Age Kurling competition hosted at Kingsbury High School. We entered two teams: one from Years 3 & 4, and another from Years 5 & 6. Our Year 3 & 4 team narrowly missed a podium finish, while our Year 5 & 6 team proudly brought home a bronze medal! Huge congratulations to all involved, we are so proud of your efforts and team spirit.

Science Week...

Science Week kicked off with a bang – quite literally – thanks to the “Silly Science Man” and his fun experiments, including the unforgettable Coke and Mentos eruption!

Each class explored fascinating scientific concepts:

- Blossom experimented with volcanoes, dancing raisins, and more
- Cherry explored static electricity, bubbles and colourful milk patterns
- Juniper created marbled paper with ink
- Willow investigated changes by making jelly and popping corn
- Cedar made fluffy slime and did underwater experiments
- Rowan explored forces and textures with vibrant powder activities
- Ash built circuits while learning about electricity

The week was filled with laughter, awe and lots of hands-on learning.

Garden Centre...

As part of Science Week, Willow Class explored the life cycle of plants. They planted seeds in our raised beds and studied the insects living in the soil. To deepen their understanding, they visited Birchen Grove Garden Centre, where they explored a variety of plants and even visited the Aquarium shop.

Staff at the garden centre warmly welcomed our pupils, treating them to drinks at the café and gifting seeds to bring back to school. The class also enjoyed some time in the new playground - a fantastic way to end the trip. We're also proud to be working with The Tree Council, planting hedgerows and trees around the school to promote sustainability and outdoor learning.



Swaminarayan Temple...

Willow Class visited Neasden Temple to enrich their Religious Education learning on Hinduism. They began with a short film about the temple's construction, followed by a guided tour. The children were captivated by the stunning carvings, statues, and spiritual atmosphere, making it a powerful and enriching experience for all.

Yinka Llori Workshops ...

This term, Cedar, Rowan, and Ash classes have taken part in a series of creative workshops led by Open City based on works of designer Yinka Llori. The children's enthusiasm has been inspiring from painting tote bags to building furniture using varied materials.

As a special treat, the charity also arranged a trip to Bubble Planet in Wembley - an immersive sensory experience the children absolutely loved. It's been wonderful to see their creativity flourish.



Houses of Parliament...

Key Stage 2 pupils enjoyed an unforgettable visit to the UK Parliament, learning first-hand about democracy and law-making. They toured the House of Commons, House of Lords, and even saw Queen Victoria's chair. A highlight for many was an animated film explaining the history of Parliament. The tour guide was full of praise for the pupils' curiosity. The trip ended with a surprise visit from MP Dawn Butler, who presented every child with a certificate - a fantastic end to an inspiring visit.

Wembley Stadium....

One of our pupils, Hajar had the incredible honour of being a match mascot for the England vs Albania game at Wembley, an unforgettable experience! Following this, a group of our Key Stage 2 pupils also visited the stadium to share in the excitement and soak up the atmosphere. What a brilliant opportunity to inspire dreams and create memories.

The children explored this iconic venue, walking through the players' tunnel and learning about its rich sporting history. Their enthusiasm and thoughtful questions made for an enriching visit and they really soaked up the experience like pros!



World Book Day...

On 6th March, we celebrated World Book Day with style! Our pupils looked fantastic in costume and took to the runway in a joyful and confident assembly. Thank you parents for supporting your child with the creative costumes.

With support from Ash Class and our staff team, everyone was encouraged to take part, and the atmosphere was electric with excitement, especially during the character guessing games. Events like these truly showcase the strength of our school community.



Lunch Time clubs....

This term saw the introduction of lunchtime clubs for the first time, offering something for everyone - from Board Games and Art to Dance and Chess. The children have really embraced these opportunities, and we're looking forward to expanding our club offer next term.

English Folk dance and music workshops ...

Pupils also took part in an English Folk Music dance workshop this term. They embraced the experience with great enthusiasm, and it was wonderful to see them engaging with drumming and movement in such a positive way.



Summer Term begins on Wednesday 23rd April with Target Setting appointments, this is given to your child on the last day of term. Transport will begin on Thursday 24th April 2025.



Carnival Workshop...

All of our pupils took part in an English Folk Music dance workshop this term. They embraced the experience with great enthusiasm, and it was wonderful to see them engaging with drumming and movement in such a positive way.

Pizza Express.....

Once again, pupils from Phoenix Arch attended an exciting pizza-making workshop at Pizza Express. On arrival the children were introduced 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 made it a morning to remember. We hope your enjoyed the pizza they returned home with.