

The Shoreditch Park Scoop



CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH – OUR WONDERFUL CARNIVAL!

What a fantastic way to celebrate Black History Month! Our school came alive with colour, creativity and excitement as children proudly shared their wonderful costumes, masks and artwork during our Black History Month Carnival. Everyone had a brilliant time celebrating together!

Throughout October, we have enjoyed a wonderful month of learning, reflection and celebration, exploring the incredible contributions, achievements and influence of Black people in Hackney and beyond. Children have deepened their understanding of Black history, culture and heritage, recognising the importance of celebrating diversity and the people who have helped shape our communities.

Our carnival was a joyful celebration of everything we have learnt and a wonderful reflection of our ASPIRE values, particularly Inclusive Isaiah and Respectful Roderick. What a fantastic month of learning and celebration at Shoreditch Park!





HEADTEACHER'S END-OF-HALF-TERM MESSAGE

What a wonderful first half-term it has been at Shoreditch Park!

As we approach the break, I want to share how proud I am of our children. Their enthusiasm, curiosity and positive attitudes have shone through in their learning, their friendships and their contributions to school life. They are a real credit to their families, and it is a privilege to watch them grow in confidence, discover new interests and support one another.

There has been so much to enjoy this half-term. Visits to the Tower of London, London Zoo and the Horniman Museum have taken learning beyond the classroom, giving children opportunities to explore, ask questions and make discoveries. These shared experiences deepen their understanding of the world and create lasting memories.

Our Black History Month celebrations have been a particular highlight. The African drumming workshops led by Mbilla Arts filled the school with rhythm and energy as children danced, played instruments and performed together. Our carnival brought everyone together in a joyful celebration of creativity, culture and community. Alongside these celebrations, we continue to help children explore and appreciate the contributions of Black people throughout history and in our lives today.

Music is also flourishing across the school. With our expanded range of instrumental tuition, the sounds of violins, pianos and guitars are becoming a familiar accompaniment to a walk through the building. It is lovely to see children discovering their talents and experiencing the pride that comes with practice and progress.

Our growing range of extracurricular clubs has offered further opportunities to try something new. From the thoughtful strategy of chess to the creativity and confidence of LAMDA drama, the imaginative problem-solving of The Inventors and the enjoyment of learning Spanish, children have had plenty to spark their interests. These experiences are an important part of the rich and varied education we want every child to enjoy.

And, of course, there is OPAL! We have made such an exciting start to our Outdoor Play and Learning journey. One of my greatest pleasures this half-term has been watching children make the most of the possibilities: dressing up and inventing imaginary worlds, working together to build elaborate dens, and creating all kinds of designs in the sandpit. Their imagination, teamwork and sheer delight have been wonderful to witness. Play deserves time, space and possibility, and we look forward to building on this promising beginning.

We were also delighted to welcome our School Improvement Partner from Hackney Education for a highly successful visit. Their evaluation affirmed our own assessment that the school is working at the 'strong standard' or above across all areas, with particular recognition of our exceptional work in inclusion. It was especially pleasing to see the dedication and expertise of our staff recognised, alongside our commitment to ensuring that every child feels included, supported and able to succeed.

None of this happens without the people who make Shoreditch Park such a special place. Thank you to our staff for their hard work, creativity and care, and to our parents and carers for the encouragement and support you give both your children and our school. Whether you have donated resources for OPAL, joined us for an event, supported learning at home or shared a kind word, your contribution matters and is greatly appreciated.



Above all, thank you to our children, who bring our school to life each day. There is so much to be proud of, and so much to look forward to.

I wish all our children, families and staff a happy and restful half-term break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back, refreshed and ready for the adventures ahead.

Penny Smith
Headteacher

YEAR 6 BLACK HISTORY MONTH WORKSHOP

As part of our Black History Month celebrations, we were delighted to welcome our focus person, Nana Badu, to our school. Nana joined us for a special visit, which included a presentation of learning and an engaging question-and-answer session. Together, we explored our topic question: "How can young people in a community make a change?" Pupils had the opportunity to share their learning, ask thoughtful questions and gain valuable insights from Nana's experiences. The visit encouraged our young people to reflect on the positive impact they can have within their communities and inspired them to consider how they can become agents of change.



HACKNEY
BLACK
HISTORY 365

Hackney

BLACK
HISTORY
SEASON



END OF HALF-TERM ASPIRE ASSEMBLIES

What a wonderful way to end our first half-term! Our special ASPIRE assembly was a fantastic opportunity to come together and celebrate the achievements of our pupils.

We recognised children who have demonstrated our six ASPIRE values throughout the half-term, showing determination, kindness, respect, curiosity and a positive attitude towards learning.

A particular highlight was the presentation of our Exemplary Awards, recognising those children who have consistently gone above and beyond, setting a fantastic example to others and truly embodying our ASPIRE values.

We are incredibly proud of all our children and everything they have achieved this half-term. Well done to all our award winners!

Let's Aspire, Higher, Together!



OPAL BINGO – OUR FIRST GOLDEN TICKET WINNERS!

A huge congratulations to Almond Class, who have successfully completed their OPAL Bingo card and received their Golden Ticket for 20 minutes of extra OPAL playtime! What a fantastic achievement!

A reminder to all classes that if some of the bingo items are proving tricky, you can swap them for alternatives such as tarpaulins, chalk or dressing-up clothes. There are so many wonderful ways to enjoy OPAL play!

We can't wait to see which class will be next to earn their Golden Ticket!



WHOLE SCHOOL READING MORNING

It was lovely to see so many families joining us for our Whole School Reading Morning! There is something truly special about seeing our classrooms filled with parents, carers and children sharing the joy of reading together. These moments help nurture a lifelong love of books and show our children just how important reading is. Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make the morning such a wonderful celebration of reading and our school community. We look forward to welcoming you again soon!



FAMILY FRIDAYS ARE COMING TO YEAR 3!

We are delighted to extend Family Fridays to Year 3 after half-term! Parents and carers are invited into their child's classroom every Friday from 8.45–9.10am to share a story or enjoy some activities together.

These relaxed sessions are a lovely opportunity to spend time with your child, get to know the classroom and connect with other families and staff. We look forward to welcoming you!

STAFF BREAKFAST

As always, we rounded off the half term with a delicious breakfast for all staff. It was a lovely opportunity to come together, reflect on the successes of the past few weeks and look ahead to Autumn 2. A big thank you to everyone who helped prepare such a wonderful spread.



HALF-TERM ADVENTURES

Looking for ways to keep the children busy this half-term? There are plenty of opportunities to explore, get creative and enjoy time together.

Celebrate at Tate Modern

The Frida: Day of the Dead Festival on Sunday 1 November offers free daytime workshops and performances. Discover art, music and Mexican culture at this colourful celebration inspired by Frida Kahlo.

<https://www.tate.org.uk/whats-on/tate-modern/frida-kahlo-the-making-of-an-icon/frida-day-of-the-dead-festival>

Get creative at the Southbank Centre

Explore the autumn programme for free events and family activities. A highlight is Cardboard Citizens: The Meaning of Home on Friday 30 October at 10.30am, a free family workshop using art, play and imagination to explore what home means to you.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/events/autumn/>

Visit Hackney City Farm

Enjoy a little countryside in the city! Meet the farmyard animals and explore the garden at this lovely local spot on Goldsmiths Row. Entry is free, with donations welcomed. The farmyard is normally open Tuesday–Sunday, 10am–4.30pm.

<https://hacknecityfarm.co.uk/>

Get moving with Access to Sports

For children who love being active, take a look at Access to Sports' What's On page for the latest opportunities. Check directly for half-term dates, age groups, costs and booking requirements.

<https://accesstosports.org.uk/whats-on/>

Find even more adventures

Londonist's half-term guide brings together ideas across London, including a dedicated free activities section, museums and playgrounds.

<https://londonist.com/london/things-to-do/things-to-do-in-london-in-half-term>

Of course, a trip to the park, an autumn leaf hunt or an afternoon building a den can be an adventure too. As our OPAL journey reminds us, wonderful play can begin with simple things!

YEAR 2 STEP BACK IN TIME AT THE TOWER OF LONDON!

Year 2 had a fantastic trip to the Tower of London as part of their learning about the Great Fire of London! The children took part in an exciting workshop, bringing their history learning to life as they discovered more about this famous event. They even had the opportunity to meet the Tower's guards! It was a day full of excitement, discovery and lots of fun. What a wonderful way to bring history to life!



SHOREDITCH PARK – A BLAST FROM THE PAST!

We Have you ever wondered what Shoreditch Park looked like over 50 years ago? Take a look at this fascinating photograph from the 1970s! You might recognise some familiar landmarks, but there are also some big differences. Can you spot our school in the background? Look carefully at how much smaller Shoreditch Park was back then compared to the wonderful green space we enjoy today.

We would love families to explore this photograph together and talk about how our local area has changed over time. What has stayed the same? What looks completely different?

Do you have any old photographs or memories of Shoreditch Park? We would love you to share them with us as we celebrate the history of our local community!



COUNTDOWN CALENDAR

A half-term countdown calendar is available on the school website to help your child understand how long the holiday will last and when they will return to school. We encourage families to use this together at home, ticking off each day to help children feel prepared and excited about returning to school after the break.


SHOREDITCH PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL
October holiday countdown


 Friday 23 October School finishes today No school tomorrow		Saturday 24 October  No school	Sunday 25 October  No school		
Monday 26 October  No school	Tuesday 27 October  No school	Wednesday 28 October  No school	Thursday 29 October  No school	Friday 30 October  No school	Saturday 31 October  No school
Sunday 1 November  No school	 Monday 2 November Back to school				

Aspire, Higher, Together

INTRODUCTION TO READ WRITE INC. – RECEPTION PARENT WORKSHOP

A big thank you to all the Reception parents and carers who attended our Introduction to Read Write Inc. (RWI) workshop, led by our EYFS Lead, Miss Francis.

The workshop provided families with an introduction to how we teach phonics and early reading at Shoreditch Park. Parents learnt about the importance of recognising sounds, blending sounds to read words and supporting their children to develop confidence as early readers.

Miss Francis also shared practical tips and strategies that families can use at home to support their children's reading journey.

It was wonderful to see so many families engaging with their children's learning. Thank you to Miss Francis for leading such an informative and helpful session!



CLASS ASSEMBLIES



Shoreditch Park Primary School Class Assemblies & Performances Dates for your diary!

Class assemblies: 9:15–9:45am unless stated otherwise.

Year group	Event	Date
Nursery	Christmas performance (Rosen Class)	14 December
	End-of-year performance	7 July
Reception	Donaldson Class Christmas performance	7 December
	Browne Class Christmas performance	9 December
	Graduation	1 July • 9:15–10:00am
Year 1	Grey Class Christmas performance	11 December
	Deacon Class Christmas performance	8 December
	Grey Class Assembly	10 March
	Deacon Class Assembly	17 March
Year 2	Christmas production	16 December • 9:15–10:15am
	Hoffman Class Assembly	3 March
	Jeffers Class Assembly	5 March
Year 3	King-Smith Class Assemblies	20 November & 28 April
	Briggs Class Assemblies	27 November & 5 May
Year 4	Morpurgo Class Assemblies	18 November & 14 April
	Almond Class Assemblies	25 November & 21 April
Year 5	Tan Class Assemblies	20 January & 12 May
	Dahl Class Assemblies	27 January & 19 May
Year 6	Zephaniah Class Assembly	13 January
	Milligan Class Assembly	10 February
	Graduation	Details to follow



YEAR 3- HORNIMAN MUSEUM

This Year 3 had a brilliant trip to the Horniman Museum to search for Stone Age artefacts! We navigated the museum on a treasure hunt to find items linked to our history unit. These included instruments made from animal skins, weapons using flint and prehistoric shells! We identified which part of the Stone Age the artefacts were from, using our vocabulary of paleolithic, mesolithic and neolithic. It was a fantastic way to bring our learning to life!



What a fantastic way to end the half term! We celebrated our brilliant attendance raffle winners, recognising pupils who have made a great effort to come to school every day and arrive on time. There was lots of excitement as our lucky winners were announced!

Every school day matters, and regular attendance helps children learn, build friendships and make the most of all the wonderful opportunities at Shoreditch Park. A huge well done to our winners and thank you to all our families for supporting excellent attendance. Keep up the great work!

ATTENDANCE RAFFLES

EYFS raffle winner



KS2 raffle winner



OPAL PLAY ASSEMBLY

In this week's OPAL Play Assembly, we introduced our new sandpit and explored how to play safely with tyres. Some of our fantastic Playground Pals also highlighted examples of equipment that has been damaged and reminded everyone of the importance of looking after our shared resources. Together, we discussed how we can take responsibility for our playground equipment so that everyone can continue to enjoy exciting play opportunities.



SAFEGUARDING TIP OF THE WEEK:

STAYING SAFE OVER HALF-TERM

With half-term approaching, many children will be spending more time outdoors, visiting friends and family or enjoying online activities.

This is a great opportunity to remind children about staying safe, both online and in the community. Talk to your child about where they are going, who they are spending time with and what to do if they feel worried or unsafe.

If your child is spending more time online, check parental controls, encourage regular screen breaks and remind them never to share personal information or communicate with strangers.

Most importantly, remind your child that they can always speak to a trusted adult if something doesn't feel right.

Wishing all our families a happy, safe and restful half-term!



OPAL PLAY – OUR SANDPIT IS OPEN!

There has been even more excitement on the playground this week as we officially opened our OPAL sandpit! The children have had so much fun digging, building, creating and exploring together. It has been wonderful to see their imaginations come to life as they work collaboratively, share ideas and enjoy new play opportunities.

During our OPAL Play Assembly, we talked about the important rules for using the sandpit safely and responsibly, including keeping the sand in the sandpit, looking after our equipment and making sure everyone can join in the fun.

Our OPAL journey continues to grow, and it is fantastic to see the children developing their creativity, independence and teamwork through play. We can't wait to see what they create next!



BLOOMING IN OUR SCHOOL GARDENS!

The seasons are slowly changing in our school gardens. We are still waiting for the leaves to fall, but for now there are plenty of colourful blooms to enjoy, alongside tomatoes and chillies! Our outdoor spaces offer children lovely opportunities to spot small changes and see how plants grow as we move further into autumn.





Free Crafting Activities

Discover Victorian Canals

At The

RAGGED SCHOOL MUSEUM



October Half Term

Thursday 29th

2026



10.30am-3.30pm

Admission Free for Children

Suitable for ages 2-12



www.raggedschoolmuseum.org.uk

0208 980 640

46-50 Copperfield Road, London, E3 4RF

Tube - Mile End, DLR - Limehouse, Bus - 227, 25, 269, 277, 288

GO ON AN AUTUMN HUNT!

Looking for a free family activity this half-term? Head to Shoreditch Park or another local green space and see how many signs of autumn you can spot!

The Natural History Museum has some lovely free resources, including a leaf passport to collect autumn colours, leaf bingo and a minibeast safari. You could even use your discoveries to create a little autumn museum at home!

Wrap up warm, enjoy the crunchy leaves and encourage your child to look closely: How many different leaf shapes can they find? What has changed since summer?

Collect only fallen leaves, treat wildlife gently and leave fungi untouched.

Find the autumn hunt resources here:

<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/take-part/activities-for-all/go-on-an-autumn-hunt.html>

Go on an autumn hunt



Natural History Museum



FREE PARENTING SMART ONLINE COURSE

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S WELLBEING

As part of our commitment to supporting the mental health and wellbeing of our whole school community, Place2Be is inviting families to sign up for its FREE Parenting Smart online course.

This four-week, self-paced programme offers practical advice, helpful strategies and useful tools to support your child's emotional wellbeing, build their confidence and help them navigate everyday childhood challenges.

The course is designed to fit around busy family lives, so you can complete it at your own pace, at a time that suits you.

The deadline to register is Monday 2 November.

Sign up here: <https://www.thece2be.org.uk/family/book>

Please see the attached leaflet for further information. We encourage families to take advantage of this valuable free opportunity!