Friday 13th November 2026 — Issue 90

The Shoreditch Park Scoop





THANK YOU TO PARENTS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY!

Although we shared our thanks last week following our Sponsored Bounce, the donations have continued to roll in, and we have been absolutely blown away by the generosity of our families!

From sponsorship money to wonderful items donated through our OPAL wishlist, the kindness and support of our school community have been truly incredible. Every donation will help us make playtimes even more exciting, creative and enjoyable for our pupils.

Our children have been equally overwhelmed by your generosity. This week, some of our Year 6 pupils decided to show their appreciation by writing a giant thank you message to all our families in the main playground!

We are incredibly lucky to have such a supportive school community, and we cannot wait to put all these wonderful donations to good use.

A huge thank you once again to everyone who has contributed. You really are helping us transform play at Shoreditch Park!





TEDDY BEAR HOSPITAL COMES TO SHOREDITCH PARK!

On Wednesday, the Reception children were delighted to welcome medical students from St Bartholomew's (St Barts) to Shoreditch Park for their wonderful Teddy Bears' Hospital sessions!
Our pupils brought along their favourite cuddly toys and took part in fun, interactive activities designed to help them understand how doctors and dentists care for their patients. Through imaginative play and hands-on experiences, the children learned about staying healthy and discovered that visiting a doctor or dentist is nothing to worry about!
The pupils had a fantastic time caring for their fluffy friends, and everyone went home with a lovely goody bag!
A huge thank you to the medical students from St Barts for making the sessions so engaging, informative and memorable!









ASPIRE TEA PARTY

We had a fantastic afternoon celebrating our wonderful pupils at the ASPIRE Tea Party!

The children enjoyed a delicious selection of food and treats before heading outside for some fun games and activities together. There was plenty of laughter, excitement and happy faces as everyone made the most of this special afternoon.

Our ASPIRE Tea Parties are a lovely opportunity to recognise and celebrate children who consistently demonstrate our school values. We are incredibly proud of them all!

Well done to everyone who was invited – you thoroughly deserved this special afternoon.







OPAL WORKING GROUP- WORKING TOGETHER FOR BETTER PLAY

Our OPAL Working Group met this week, bringing together Sophie Demellweek, our Link Governor for Play and Outdoor Learning, our Play Champions and our Curriculum Lead for Outdoor Play and Learning.

It was a really productive session, reviewing our action plan, celebrating progress and prioritising the next steps in developing OPAL at Shoreditch Park. Our shared aim is to make playtimes increasingly creative, active and inclusive, with exciting opportunities for every child.

Thank you to everyone involved for their enthusiasm, ideas and commitment to the power of play!





BUBBLE-TASTIC FUN WITH OPAL!

There has been bubble magic in our playground this week!

Our children have been having a wonderful time experimenting with bubble mixture, whisks and bubble rings to create bubbles of all shapes and sizes. There has been lots of excitement as children discover different ways to make bubbles, from tiny bubbles to enormous ones!

Our new bubble machine has also been a huge hit! The playground has been filled with bubbles, laughter and dancing as children enjoy moving to their favourite music.

As well as being great fun, bubble play encourages creativity, curiosity, coordination and cooperation. It is another fantastic example of how OPAL is transforming our playtimes, bringing children together through the joy of play!







YEAR 4 TRIP-TOWER OF LONDON

Year 4 Morpurgo Class Trip to the Tower of London



Year 4 had a fantastic trip to the **Tower of London**! We met 'Elizabeth', who brought history to life by sharing fascinating stories about the Tower and its prisoners. The children explored the Salt Tower and Bloody Tower, deepening their understanding of our History topic, **Crime and Punishment**. A brilliant day of exploring the past!

Inside the SALT TOWER





Exploring the grounds



The BLOODY TOWER



TTRS/ NUMBOTS DAY

Next Thursday 19th November we will be having our TTRS Numbots dress up day. This is where children (and staff) are invited to dress up as either a Rock Star (TTRS) or a Robot (Numbot).

Across the day there will be activities for the children and two parent workshops to demonstrate the programmes and go through ways you can support your child with number fluency. These will take place in the lower hall at 9.05am and again at 3.35pm.

If you cannot attend the workshops, all the information will be uploaded onto the school website after. If you have any questions, please speak to your child's class teacher or a member of SLT.



CHILDREN IN NEED – DANCING FOR A GOOD CAUSE!

There was a wonderful atmosphere across the school as pupils came together to support BBC Children in Need! Children swapped their uniforms for their own clothes and took part in a fantastic dance challenge, showing off their best moves and having lots of fun along the way.

As well as being a brilliant opportunity to enjoy ourselves, the day reminded us of the importance of kindness, compassion and thinking about others. It was lovely to see our school community coming together to support such a worthwhile cause and demonstrate our ASPIRE values.

A huge thank you to all our families for their support!





DIWALI

We enjoyed celebrating Diwali, the Festival of Lights! Pupils tucked into a delicious Diwali lunch and took part in a range of activities to learn about the festival and how it is celebrated. It was a lovely opportunity to explore traditions and celebrate the diversity of our school community.

A big thank you to our kitchen team for preparing such a tasty celebratory lunch!





THE GREAT GORILLA MYSTERY – A NEW OPAL MASCOT!

There has been drama, suspense and a full-scale search operation on the Shoreditch Park playground this week! One of our most popular OPAL donations has been a rather magnificent toy gorilla, who quickly became something of a playground celebrity. However, disaster struck when our beloved gorilla mysteriously disappeared!

News of the missing gorilla spread quickly, and pupils from both KS1 and KS2 sprang into action. An enthusiastic search party was launched, with children working together, sharing possible sightings and investigating where our furry friend might have gone.Had he escaped into the wild? Was he hiding in the digging area? Had he decided to start a new life somewhere on the playground?

Then came the breakthrough! After much searching and speculation, two eagle-eyed pupils finally discovered our missing gorilla in the MUGA! The mystery was solved, and our mischievous friend was safely reunited with the playground.

What started as a missing toy became a wonderful example of the imagination, teamwork and sense of community that OPAL encourages. In recognition of his unexpected celebrity status, we have decided to make our gorilla the official Shoreditch Park OPAL mascot!

HELP US NAME OUR GORILLA!

Every good mascot needs a name, and we need your help! We are inviting all pupils to suggest a name for our gorilla. Whether it's something funny, adventurous or completely bananas, we would love to hear your ideas!

Please share your suggested name with your class teacher. The OPAL Team will consider all the suggestions and choose a winning name, which will be revealed at the OPAL Play Assembly in two weeks!

Who knew that one donated gorilla could bring so much excitement to our playground? We can't wait to find out what he'll be called!



A GLIMPSE INTO OUR SCHOOL'S PAST: COOKERY CLASS, 1908

Did you know that Shoreditch Park Primary School was once called Gopsall Street School, before becoming Whitmore Primary School and later taking its current name?

This fascinating photograph shows a cookery lesson at Gopsall Street School in 1908-a glimpse into our school's history more than a century ago!

Wearing aprons and seated at wooden desks, the pupils are learning about "Household Management". Look closely at the blackboard and you can spot porridge, cabbage and bread pudding on the menu, alongside advice about cleanliness and using fresh ingredients.

The clothes, furniture and teaching methods may look different today, but learning practical skills remains an important part of school life.

What similarities and differences can you spot between this classroom and yours?





REMEMBRANCE DAY

On Wednesday 11th November, our whole school came together to mark Remembrance Day and reflect on the courage and sacrifice of those who have lost their lives in conflicts around the world.

At 11am, a respectful silence fell across Shoreditch Park as pupils and staff paused to remember those who gave their lives for others and to reflect on the importance of peace.

Throughout the day, pupils also took part in a range of activities to deepen their understanding of Remembrance Day, exploring themes of remembrance, gratitude, courage and hope.

We were incredibly proud of the respect, thoughtfulness and maturity shown by our pupils as we honoured this important occasion together.



ATTENDANCE AND



Attendance by class 2nd November-6th November	
Class	**Attendance**
Rosen	71.4%
Browne	98.5%
Donaldson	90.6%
Deacon	92.7%
Grey	95.5%
Hoffman	96.9%
Jeffers	93.8%
Briggs	95.0%
King-Smith	97.3%
Almond	95.5%
Morpurgo	95.0%
Dahl	94.7%
Tan	95.4%
Milligan	95.0%
Zephaniah	93.1%

Lates by class 2nd November-6th November	
Class	**Number of lates**
Rosen	3
Browne	2
Donaldson	1
Deacon	9
Grey	4
Hoffman	8
Jeffers	6
Briggs	6
King-Smith	5
Almond	3
Morpurgo	8
Dahl	1
Tan	8
Milligan	5
Zephaniah	5

Congratulations to the classes with the best attendance.

BROWNE class in EYFS

HOFFMAN class in KS1

KING-SMITH class in KS2
well done



Gold standard punctuality goes to…
DONALDSON & DAHL
Well done

OPAL– YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

We know that the introduction of OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) has sparked lots of questions from our families, and we are delighted that so many of you are taking an interest in how playtimes are changing at Shoreditch Park!

To help answer your questions, we have created a new OPAL Questions and Answers section on our school website. Here, you can find out more about why we have introduced OPAL, the benefits for children and how families can support us.

Have another question? We would love to hear it! Please let the school office know, and they will pass your question on to our OPAL team. We will continue to update our Q&A section as new questions come in.

Visit our to find out more– https://shoreditchpark.hackney.sch.uk/curriculum/opal



OPAL – Outdoor Play and Learning

At Shoreditch Park Primary School, we believe that play is an essential part of every child's development, wellbeing and happiness. We are delighted to be working with the OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) Primary Programme to transform our playtimes and make them even more creative, active, inclusive and exciting.

Through OPAL, we are developing our outdoor spaces and introducing a much wider range of play opportunities. Children will have greater freedom to explore, create, imagine, build, move and play together. From loose-parts play, construction and imaginative play to creative activities, active games and opportunities to engage with nature, our aim is to ensure that every child can find something they love to do at playtime.

Our OPAL journey will develop gradually as we work with pupils, staff and families to improve our play provision. Children will play an important role in shaping what play looks like at Shoreditch Park, helping us to create spaces that reflect their interests, ideas and imaginations.

We will also be inviting our families and wider community to get involved, including through donations of safe, reusable materials and equipment that can be given a new life through play.

We are incredibly excited about our OPAL journey and the difference it will make to children's experiences at school. Our ambition is simple: **to make every playtime a rich, joyful and memorable part of the school day.**

HELPING OUR FEATHERED FRIENDS THIS WINTER

As the weather gets colder, birds need plenty of energy to keep warm, and finding food can become harder. Providing food and fresh water is a lovely way for children to care for wildlife and learn about the birds visiting our local area.

Make a simple apple bird feeder

You will need an apple, sunflower seeds, string and an adult to help.

1. Ask an adult to make a hole through the centre of the apple.

2. Thread string through the hole and tie it securely to make a hanging loop.

3. Gently push sunflower seeds into the apple's skin—you could even create a pattern!

4. Hang it securely outside, somewhere cats cannot easily reach, and watch from a distance.

Check your feeder daily and remove any old or mouldy food. You can also provide a shallow dish of fresh water, changing it every day and checking that it has not frozen. Always wash your hands after handling bird food or feeders.





Which birds will you spot? We would love to hear about your feathered visitors!

SAFEGUARDING TIP OF THE WEEK: WHO IS YOUR CHILD CHATTING TO ONLINE?

Recent UK news about strengthening children's online protections is a useful reminder to check who can contact your child through apps and games. Even games popular with primary-aged children can include messaging and voice chat.

Take five minutes together this week to:

- Check settings: switch off chat or restrict it to people you know and approve.
- Start a conversation: ask, "Who do you enjoy playing with?" and "Has anything online made you feel uncomfortable?"
- Practise getting help: show your child how to block and report someone, and remind them to tell a trusted adult about anything worrying.



Remind your child: "You can always tell me if something happens online—even if you think you've broken a rule. I'm here to help."

If you have concerns about your child's online safety, please speak to the school's safeguarding team.

More advice: NSPCC online safety guidance.

AUTISM PARENT GROUP

A huge thank you to all the parents who attended our recent Autism Parent Support Group, led by our wonderful SENCo Assistants, Miss Glassborow and Miss Osman.

It was a really engaging and positive session, with lots of valuable discussion, shared experiences and practical strategies to support children both at home and at school. It was lovely to see parents coming together to share ideas, ask questions and support one another.

We would love to welcome even more families to our next session! If your child has a diagnosis of autism (ASD), is currently undergoing assessment or you are exploring the possibility of autism, we warmly encourage you to come along. These sessions provide a friendly, welcoming and supportive space to connect with other parents and our Inclusion Team.

Our next session will take place on [date and time].

We look forward to seeing you there!





PLAY DETECTIVES- AUTUMN 1, WEEK 2

"There are lots of things to do on the playground. You can go on the climbing frame and bounce on the space hoppers."



This week's Play Detective was Osman.







"People dress up in lots of different clothes and have fun."



"People play lots of sports games like badminton and football."

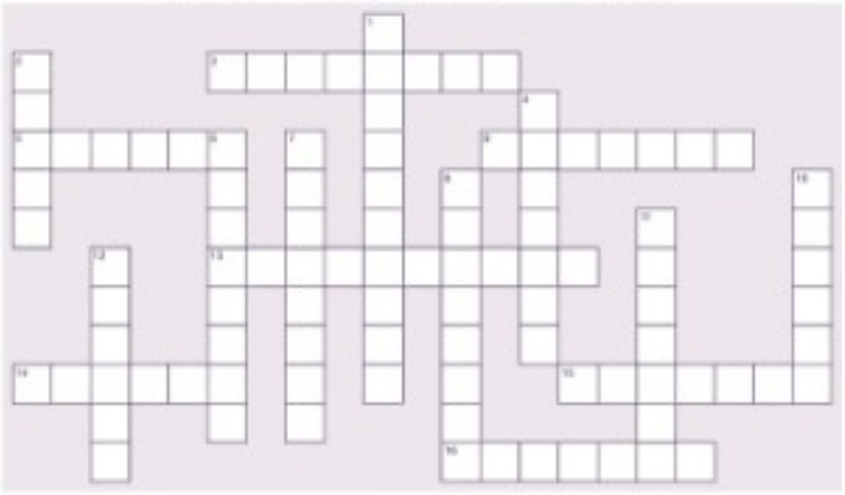
SPPS - CROSSWORD

SHOREDITCH PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL | THE SCOOP

The Family Crossword

Team up at home: a little school knowledge, a world of discovery!

Write one letter in each square. All answers are single words.



ACROSS

3. What is the name of Harry Potter's school? (8)
5. Which six-letter word names our school values? (6)
8. What colourful arc might appear when sunshine meets rain? (7)
13. Where do we build dens and enjoy OPAL play? (10)
14. In which season do many trees lose their leaves? (6)
15. Which sea creature has eight arms? (7)
16. Where can you borrow books to take on an adventure? (7)

DOWN

1. Which bear from Peru loves marmalade sandwiches? (10)
2. What can you wrap around your neck to keep warm? (5)
4. Which London borough is home to our school? (7)
6. Which enormous land animal has a trunk? (8)
7. Which shape has three sides? (8)
9. In which sport do players try to score in a goal using their feet? (8)
10. Which famous river flows through London? (6)
11. Which is the largest planet in our solar system? (7)
12. What sweet liquid do bees collect from flowers? (6)



Scoop Family Challenge | How many can your family solve together?



YEAR 4 TRIP-TOWER OF LONDON

Year 4 Almond Class Trip to the Tower of London







Helping protect the crown Jewels!

Almond class had a great trip to the Tower of London! We started our trip by having our lunch inside one of the towers itself. We then met Elizabeth who took us on a tour and taught us more about our history topic, Crime and Punishment! After, we went to the see the crown jewels, the ravens and the White Tower, which contained loads of armour and weapons. An amazing day bringing learning to life!

Some noble knights!





Inside the White Tower!



The ravens were huge!





Inside the Salt Tower.



SPPS - WORDSEARCH

SHOREDITCH PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our teacher wordsearch

18 teachers. 18 surnames. Can you find them all?

Look across, down and diagonally - forwards and backwards.

Surnames only: titles such as Mr and Miss have been left out.

L	R	E	T	N	E	P	R	A	C	N	U	D	C	Q	N	W
L	C	G	J	G	G	A	A	J	Y	I	A	Y	Y	Y	O	C
W	B	L	F	T	T	P	R	O	Z	A	K	I	F	D	U	L
X	G	A	S	Y	C	G	I	L	A	T	R	C	J	F	R	P
U	P	Y	M	I	L	L	A	R	D	T	A	U	X	I	M	L
O	C	S	B	K	W	O	N	G	W	I	L	N	C	D	F	L
Q	W	H	F	X	V	G	A	G	Y	R	C	H	Y	N	U	T
H	Z	E	F	W	T	A	L	Q	U	B	A	R	N	M	D	H
O	D	R	O	F	A	N	N	A	H	R	K	K	A	J	H	S
W	R	E	V	L	I	S	N	Y	D	Q	Z	D	C	U	E	U
A	I	B	R	P	A	D	J	S	C	N	A	L	I	M	O	B
R	D	P	Z	J	B	V	V	M	H	N	B	L	A	F	G	P
D	F	E	K	T	T	O	N	A	T	I	R	R	E	P	A	U
H	U	L	U	O	G	O	N	T	Z	I	A	F	Q	R	I	P
K	S	T	N	E	D	W	K	C	D	C	N	P	K	H	A	S
Z	S	A	I	S	I	C	N	A	R	F	I	E	G	Z	Q	B
B	K	A	G	Y	L	K	K	Q	D	C	R	Q	Y	J	F	L

FIND OUR TEACHERS

- ☐ Parker
- ☐ Francis
- ☐ Clark
- ☐ Hannaford
- ☐ Glaysher
- ☐ Luogon
- ☐ Carpenter
- ☐ Silver
- ☐ Kwong
- ☐ Millar
- ☐ Has
- ☐ Perritano
- ☐ Carames
- ☐ Madan
- ☐ Richards
- ☐ Brittain
- ☐ Dent
- ☐ Howard



Aspire, Higher, Together



THE SCOOP