



# STAR PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS LETTER

October 2018

## Head Teacher's Message

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you very much for your support over the recent weeks. It was lovely to see and speak to some of you at Canning Town Library. I understand that this was a very challenging time for you, particularly working parents who had to make difficult alternative arrangements. Thank you to everybody who stepped in to help their friends and neighbours. The false widow spiders continue to cause difficulties for Newham schools. As a school that really works hard to support our children to understanding how important the balance of protecting the environment is, I found it very hard to make the decision to have the spiders fumigated. What we will be doing in the next week is talking to the children about the difference between an Infestation and Spiders who generally live in and around our building. It is important that the children know that we still have spiders and in fact we still have false widow spiders, but what we have done is massively reduce the numbers and therefore minimise the risk to pupils and staff.

I cannot thank the team at Canning Town Library enough for their support last week. They were very kind to our pupils and staff. This is a wonderful community space and they constantly host great community events. If parents haven't already done so, please take your child along over half term and get them signed up to use the library. I have included some half term events in this newsletter.

Please make sure that you use parentmail to book your slot for Open Evening this Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October from 3:30 - 7:00pm. This is a great opportunity to find out how your child is settling into their new classes and to speak to the class teacher about their progress. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Regards,  
Ms Von  
Head Teacher

## Staffing Update

I know that some parents were really upset at the end of last year when we had to say goodbye to Ms Johnson in Year 1. We tried really hard to get her visa extended and some parents even wrote supporting letters. I'm delighted to tell you that we have kept on applying for a visa extension over the past few months and finally the Home Office has granted our request. Ms Johnson will be back with us shortly after half term and will be taking over Class 3Y. Some of the year 3 parents will know her as she would have taught some of the pupils in that class when they were in Year 1.

## Home Learning Projects

Don't forget to start bringing in this term's Home Learning Projects. We are particularly looking forward to getting any Spider projects that children have done in the last ten days.

## Important Dates

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October

Parents Open Evening

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October

Spanish Languages Day

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> - Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October

School closed for half term

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October

School Reopens

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November

Reception – Year 6 Flu jobs

### Spanish Day

Friday 19th October marks the first of our very special language days this year at Star. Children will be taking part in many Spanish speaking themed lessons and activities, and even get to sample local cuisines from some Spanish speaking countries!

Children are invited to come to school in the colours of Spanish speaking countries.

### Year 3 Camping

Camping in Epping Forest this year was definitely an adventure, as the windy night breezes really rocked the children's tents! Our brave year 3 children weren't fazed in the slightest as they thoroughly enjoyed the experience of the great outdoors! During the day they discovered how to build shelters in the woods and collected firewood for campfires, which they used to cook toast with the help of the staff!



### Half Term Community Activities

## **HALLOWEEN AT BODY DOCK**

SAT 27<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 5 – 9 p.m. FREE ENTRY

Join us if you dare for some spook-tacular fun at our popular Halloween night. Fun for all the family with a bonfire, warming food and drink, live music, face painting, fortune telling and much more!

All welcome – don't forget your fancy dress!

### Weekly Events at Canning Town Library

Event	Time/date	Info
Arts and crafts workshop	Saturday, 2 - 3pm	Get creative and let your imagination run wild at these free, fun, interactive sessions for children aged 5 to 12.
Chatterbooks	Saturday 3 - 4pm	Talk about the book you have read and take part in games, quizzes and other fun activities 7 to 11 years old.
Chat, stay and play	Monday, 10.45 - 11.30am	Parents, carers and toddlers are invited to join in singing, dancing, movement games and to chat about day to day life with a toddler.
Games Club	Thursdays, 5 - 6pm	For children aged 5 to 12 years old.
Homework club	Friday, 3.30 - 5.30pm	Free study support at our libraries during school term time for children aged 5 to 12 years old.
Healthier and happier babies and toddlers	First Wednesday of the month, 1 - 2.15pm	Parents and carers and young children session. Hosted by health visitor offering advice about looking after babies and toddlers.
Lego club	Monday, 5 - 6pm	For children aged 5 - 12 years old
Storytelling	Tuesday, 9.45 - 10.30am and 10.45 - 11.30am	Story and rhyme time session for children up to five years old.
Table Tennis	Tuesday, 5 - 6pm	For children aged 5 - 12 years old

### 6 O' Clock Club Update

Over the next two weeks there will be a consultation with parents over the future of the current 6 O' Clock Club. Currently the school heavily subsidises this provision and finds it increasingly hard to staff and manage the club. We understand that this childcare provision is invaluable to our working parents but it is unlikely that we are able to maintain the current rates. One alternative that we are looking into is to outsource the provision. This would mean that a separate independent company will take over the running of the club, although it will still continue to operate on the school premises.

We will be sending out a simple consultation to parents in the next few days, gathering parent's views before we make any further decisions. We are hoping to have a permanent solution in place by January 2019.

Please do complete the short survey and return to school as soon as possible so that we can consider all options to continue delivering this service to parents.