



# Palace Wood Primary School

Issue 18—2016-17  
Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

[www.palacewoodschoools.org.uk](http://www.palacewoodschoools.org.uk)

Email: [office@palacewood.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@palacewood.kent.sch.uk)

Tel: 01622 750084

This week has given me some time to think about the challenge that I set myself at the start of the term – learning to juggle. You might remember that I said it was something that I have never been able to do. However, I believe in the power of YET, where I said that I couldn't juggle ... yet.

The children have been very persistent, asking me how my juggling was coming along. Some have had a sneak preview, although I'd like to think that there has been even more improvement since then.

What has been particularly refreshing is hearing how the other children, and staff, have been using the word yet. When I wander round, I often hear it, and have even had some parents who have said that their children have started saying it at home too.

Next Monday will be an interesting one, as I am interested to see what the children say about what has been done. Will they think that I have achieved my challenge? What if I haven't – does that mean that I am a failure? So many things to think about. Make sure you read next week's newsletter so that I can reveal not only how I did, but also, the answers to these questions and more!

## Attendance

I know we talk a lot about attendance here at Palace Wood, but I wanted to try and put a different slant on it. I know that there has been much in the news about it, especially with regards to holidays following the High Court Judgement. It is important to remember that holidays in term times are not a right, and the guidance to schools is that they will not be authorised. Although the High Court may have said that 'good' attendance is 90%, that is not ours, or the Local Authority's opinion. If your child has 90% attendance, then that means that they will miss 19 days of school in one year, or the

equivalent of four whole weeks. That is nearly half a term! If you think about this over the course of a child's time at school, it means that over the 7 years that they are at Palace Wood, they will miss 133 days, which is two thirds of a school year. All of this is time that can not be given back, and so, inevitably, gaps in learning will appear. We all understand the issues surrounding the costs of holidays in school holiday times, but this is out of our control. Please continue to support us with your children's learning journey by sending them to school as often as possible. At Palace Wood, we aim for a minimum of 96% attendance, as we know that, when a child is in school that often, that they are more likely to make better progress. If you have any questions or concerns about attendance, please do not hesitate to contact the school to speak to Mrs Smith, Mrs Ball, Mrs Vincett or me.

## E-safety

Coming out with the newsletter this week is some information for parents on e-safety. Please take the time to read this. E-safety, because of the developments in technology and social media, has become a much bigger concern over the last few years. We will be happy to support you with any of your e-safety concerns – please just let us know how we can help.



## Superstar Corner

Keira in Lions was awarded star of the month for gymnastics. Henry in Pandas was invested as a Beaver at St. Nicholas' Church Beaver colony. William (Panthers) achieved his 200m and Edward (Penguins) achieved his 5m swimming badges this week

## Alfie the Attendance Alligator



Rhinos	98.4%	Panthers	96.8%	Bears	94%
Hippos	93.3%	Crocodiles	97%	<b>Giraffes</b>	<b>97%</b>
Lions	94.0%	Monkeys	95.7%	Elephants	93.3%
Tigers	95.5%	Pandas	92.3%	Penguins	97%
Leopards	97.9%	Zebras	96.1%		



### D.I.S.C.O.

Don't forget that tonight is Disco night for Key Stage 2. The fun begins at 6:30pm and you can dance (or eat!) the night away until 8:00pm. All tickets are available on the door for £2. There will also be a tuck shop and a raffle, so a bit of extra spending money will be useful.

### And finally

We talked about Chinese New Year on Monday. Ask your children why the rooster cries 'Cock-a-doodle-do', according to Chinese New Year tradition. Hopefully they will remember!

Have a lovely weekend

Mr Chatley

---

### Letters/Parentmails home this week:

Young Voices	Final arrangements
EYFS	Outside Environment list
Tag Rugby	Club List
All	Sign2Sing
	Parent Governor Election Result

---

### Dates: (New dates in red)

7 February	Young Voices
9 February	EYFS to Library
10 February	Sign2Sing
13-17 February	School Holidays
20-23 February	Book Fair in Oaks Hall
21 February	KS1 SATs meeting for Yr2 parents
	5.00 in Acorns Hall
26 April	Yr2 Spring Singalong, All Saints

### INSET Days 2017

5 June 2017  
6 June 2017