



The Camelot

Monthly Newsletter No. 26

November One

#exceptionaleveryday



Reading—in the words of our children, how are we doing?

When asked about their daily Teaching of Reading lessons, children were extremely positive about reading, and spoke articulately about the skills and enjoyment they had developed as a direct result of provision in school. They spoke about the positive attitudes teachers have that promotes their love of reading every day.

"I read every day even without being asked. When I was little I didn't like reading I used to watch TV but now I love reading. My teachers helped me to like reading. It's like being adventurous." "When I read I get amazing dreams. It's like I go into the book." "You get to read books and you get ideas from the books and Teaching of Reading books help you to think about what you might do when you are older or help you with English. I want more reading! It warms up my brain with ideas and vocabulary choices." "Reading is a life skill. It's one of the most important parts of education. You need reading and writing to be successful in life." "My teacher shows their enjoyment because they have expression when they are reading. They are inspiring."

We understand the importance of reading every day and have invested significantly in provision and resources for reading at Camelot. In addition to regular teacher training, we have created a second library in the school dedicated to exceptional quality Teaching of Reading texts for children to enjoy. Classrooms are receiving new books for their individual reading corners and children are hearing interesting stories every day to inspire and engage all learners.

As a parent or carer, how can you support your child's development?

Reading with your child is vital—it's the single most important thing you can do to help your child's education. It's best to read little and often, so try to put aside some time for it every day. Think of ways to make reading fun - you want your child to learn how pleasurable books can be. If you're both enjoying talking about the content of a particular page, linger over it for as long as you like. Here are some tips for helping your child to enjoy books:

- Schedule a regular time for reading - perhaps when you get home from school/just before bed?
- Buy dual-language books if English isn't your family's first language - you can talk about books and stories, and develop a love for them, in any language.
- Encourage your child to pretend to 'read' a book before he or she can read words.
- Visit the library as often as possible - take out CDs and DVDs as well as books.
- Look for books on topics that you know your child is interested in - maybe dragons, insects, cookery or a certain sport.
- Make sure that children's books are easily accessible in different rooms around your house.



Key Dates

Last day of Term 2
Friday 15th December

First day of Term 3
Wednesday 3rd January 2018

Please ensure all holidays are within the permitted dates and not within term time.

PUNCTUALITY—Being "School Ready"

Excellent attendance and punctuality is the key for learning and future success. The process of education is life long and we build on what we already know and therefore, if children skip school they are damaging their future. We must ensure that children are in school promptly every morning so as to maximise learning time and to prepare our pupils for the future.

Thank you for your support in this very important area.



Camelot Hill

**After years of neglect,
Camelot Hill has had a
facelift!**

Thanks to the relentless efforts of two volunteer teams from Deloitte UK, who repainted the fences and benches, re-lined

the flower boxes, and cleared the pond and area behind the shed. We now have an amazing resource ready for children at school to use. Camelot pupils also contributed by helping to plant seeds and strawberries in addition to fixing our bug hotel.



It is rare for a London school to have an outside space such as this and we will be utilising it to increase pupils' understanding of the world around us, our environment and animals that we have a responsibility to look after. We are incredibly excited to now be able to use this space—look out for updates and pictures!



Exceptional Music Provision at Camelot

Music has a power of forming the character and should therefore be introduced into the education of the young. Aristotle

The value of music as an academic subject lies in its contribution to enjoyment and enrichment, for its social benefits, for those who engage in music seriously as well as for fun. High quality music education enables lifelong participation in, and enjoyment of, music, as well as underpinning excellence and professionalism for all.

At Camelot, we value music education enormously and recognise the wider benefits of these lessons. We have recently doubled our children's access to high quality lessons every week provided by our wonderful music teacher, Ms Harrower. Children develop their understanding of pitch, rhythm and harmony in addition to whole class recorder, percussion and djembe lessons.

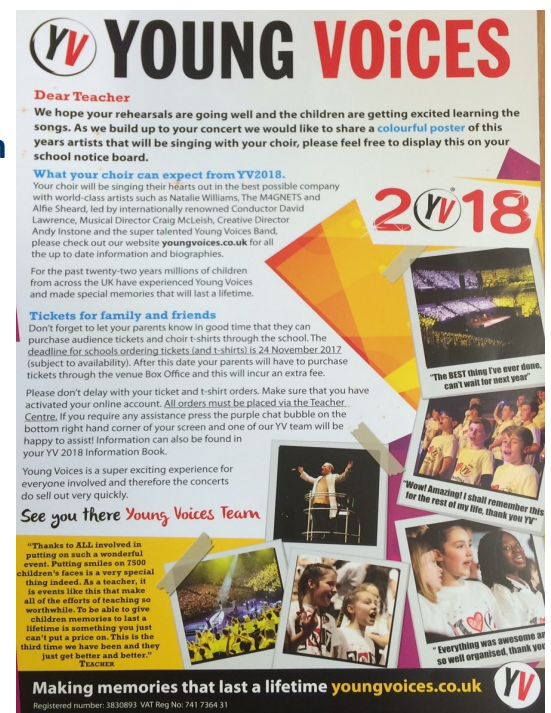
In addition to our weekly lessons:

- ◆ **Year 3 will be performing at the Royal Festival Hall on 12th December at 5:30pm as part of the Southwark Splash Festival along with other Southwark schools.**
- ◆ **The School Choir who will be performing at the O2 Arena on 5th February 2018 as part of Young Voices, a collaboration project including 5,000 children at this world renowned venue.**

Parents are warmly encouraged to attend both events and we will be publicising additional information closer to both events.

Music—what does the research say?

There is conclusive evidence that active engagement with music enhances other activities. For example, speech and music have a number of shared processing systems. Musical experiences can therefore impact on the perception of language which in turn impacts on learning to read. General attainment is influenced by the impact that music has on personal and social development. Playing an instrument can lead to a sense of achievement; an increase in self-esteem; increased confidence; persistence in overcoming frustrations when learning is difficult; self-discipline; and provide a means of self-expression.





Remembering the wonderful Daniel Ige

We are deeply saddened by the loss of Daniel Ige, a vibrant, happy and loving child who will be missed enormously. He was loved by so many of the school community, and always greeted you with the biggest smile and a high five. Daniel loved music, particularly dancing to it, and greatly enjoyed playing with bubbles around the playground. Reading was also one of his favourite things to do, with Lola and Charlie being particular favourites of his. Daniel attended Camelot School from Nursery and was an extremely well liked child through Year 1 in Matterhorn and most recently as a member of Simien as he started Year 2.

To celebrate the life and love of Daniel, we will be holding a special celebration on Friday 24th November at 10:55am.

All Camelot families are welcome to attend, and we will be releasing balloons in memory of Daniel in his favourite colours, yellow and purple. We will meet at Green Hundred Gate (entrance to Reception classes by the Ball Court) and very much hope that as many of you as possible will be able to attend this very special celebration.

