Samuel Pepys School

October 2022 Newsletter

Dear Families and Staff

Welcome to the first newsletter of the school year. For those families and staff new to our school we send out a newsletter towards the end of every half term, so six times a year and offer updates and reminders and share examples of pupils learning experiences and activities from across the school. It's been a busy start to the year with learning inside and outdoors. Using the outside areas and community facilities such as Ernulf Pool, shops and riding provide super opportunities to learn and transfer skills into other situations. We hope you enjoy seeing the photos overleaf. Thank you again for your participation in the recent family consultations appointments, your time and sharing is much appreciated.

We have some great news to share! Over the past couple of years, we've been working towards an Artsmark award. We have been awarded the GOLD Artsmark. This process not only celebrate and reflects on creative ways of planning and delivering teaching and learning but also on our connections as a school community. Thank you to all pupils, staff and families for the part you play.

The Assessors said:

"Samuel Pepys School has navigated the challenges of Covid lockdowns with great sensitivity and emotional literacy. Reflecting on its journey, the importance of the Arts and creativity has been reinforced rather than diminished by the challenges it faced, and the setting's understanding of pupils and their families has deepened considerably. It was a very creative setting pre-pandemic and lockdowns simply reframed. At home, families worked together on projects, made things, painted, drew, and wrote creatively, shared and celebrated together through photos, video, phone calls and doorstep drop offs. A School Governor continued pre-Covid 'Pets as Therapy' visits with her dog Joy, who listened to pupils read via Teams. Families shared that this had a positive impact upon connections, routines, and engagement. Your approach to the Arts is part of a wider philosophy of teaching. You cite Artsmark as giving you a creative confidence, dedicated to celebrating your personal creativities empowering you to plan and deliver with more flexible approaches to our teaching and learning."

We will continue our journey and share more exciting new and updates along the way!

In other news, the planning stages continue to move forward with the proposed extension and remodelling of our school. We are working with the architects and construction managers as well as pupils and staff to design more great places to learn and play. We will continue to keep you updated.

Please remember Friday 21st October is a training day for staff and school is closed for pupils.

Wishing you all a happy half term and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 31st October.

Best wishes

Joanne

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

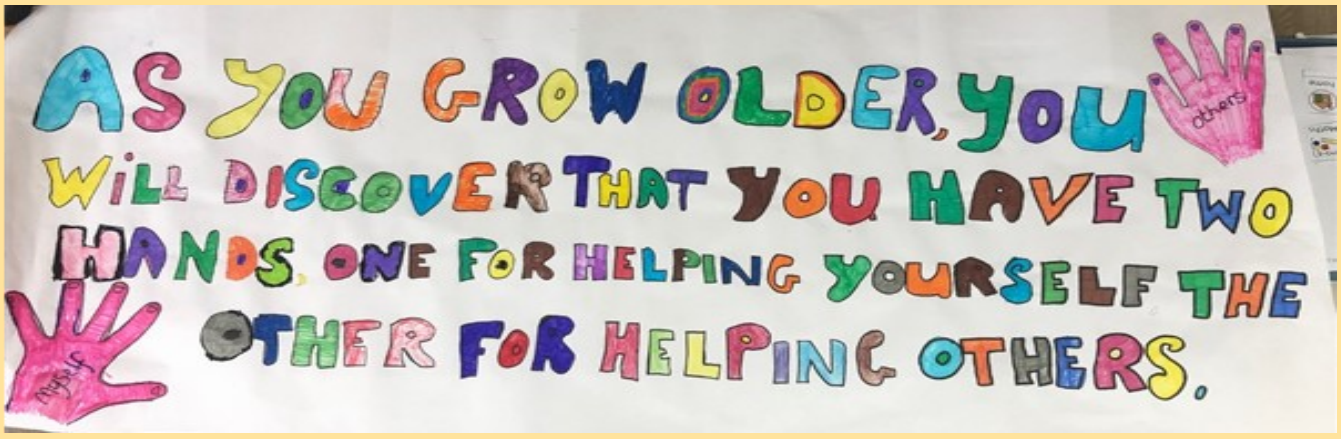
Artsmark Gold Award
Awarded by Arts Council England

PFA Students

PFA students have been shopping in the community, learning to use community shopping facilities, following a symbol shopping list, finding items and using money to pay for the shopping.

A small group of PFA pupils have also been bowling, developing their communication and maths skills.

Look at the lovely banner we made in PFA1 (KS4)



In horticulture this term, pupils from across the school have been exploring the changes in our garden and preparing for autumn

Harvest Assembly— Thank you for all your contributions

Rowling class have been using Roald Dahl's text 'George's Marvellous Medicine' and have had fun becoming scientists and mixing their own potions.

The Secret Life of Pets

Pupils in KS3 have been learning all about pets. We got up close to some dogs, a rabbit and even a bearded dragon called Brian!