

Head of School Newsletter

End-of-year Newsletter

Head of School end-of-year letter

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Governors and Children;



This truly has been a successful and incredible year. The school has gone from strength to strength and collectively we have all accomplished so much.

The term finished on a high note with the phenomenal Year 6 bilingual performance of 'Alice in Wonderland' and their Graduation ceremony. This week has been a mix of emotions, where we have shared many tears as we said farewell and goodluck to our year 6 leavers. These children have achieved incredible results academically, grown into mature young adults ready to face the world, we couldn't be any prouder of them. Miss Jo, Mr Manfred and Miss Donna, alongside Friends and parents, organised a sensational Graduation service which included guest appearances from Judith Kerr (author) and Zara Long (Olympic Swimmer).

The week ended with a Year 6 v Staff Netball match which was great fun for everyone to watch!

Our German team have worked exceptionally hard on our curriculum, developing a structured programme for German as a first language and German as a Modern foreign language. We also had our first results for our Year 6 Goethe Intitute certificates:

Sporting successes continued this year; with our JKPS tigers attending various matches, our classes attending netball and tennis tournaments and Year 4 swimming. We won our first Netball trophy (Year 4) and a Fair play award for our JKPS Tigers. Naturally, Sports day was a true success and reflected the fabulous partnership between the school, our families and the local community.

In addition to regular music moments, it's wonderful to see how much the children enjoy performing at their concerts, composing their own musical pieces and the achievements of the school choir also. Miss Nemiah has created even more opportunities for the children to develop their musical interest further including forming partnerships with Cadogan Hall, Royal Albert Hall, Festival Hall and BBC Tens pieces.

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The Friends' contributions and projects this year have been phenomenal and truly valued by all. Our playgrounds have a timber trail, tipis and marked games that are thoroughly enjoyed by all the children. Our outdoor spaces have all been maximised significantly with the hard work of our volunteers and parents, we now have a secret garden where the children have unique learning experiences in. The Friends' Fairs and Deutsche kulturelle Veranstaltungen including St Martins Fest and the regular fundraising events have raised a significant amount of money which has provided the school with additional IT resources. We couldn't be more grateful to our parental community for this invaluable support.

The children have had great fun with our special focus days and weeks. This year we introduced 'Dress up as a scientist and a Londoner days' which were great fun. One of our most successful focus weeks was Enterprise Week organised by Mr Patrick where the children had the opportunity to acquire some financial expertise and learn about making profit. The JKPS children's market was a truly successful and inspirational event.

Other developments and successes this year include: a better system for club administration with a wide range of clubs on offer. We had our first residential experiences for Year 5 and Year 6 children to Magdalen Farm and Bawdsey Manor. Our parental involvement with various aspects of learning has increased significantly, which we are so grateful for! We now have a football team, a garden club and much more, all run by incredibly talented parents!

As I look back on this extraordinary year, it is with gratitude that I thank all the children, parents, families, staff and governors for all their incredible hard work and contributions that make our school truly unique.

Saying goodbye to staff and children is always hard, end of Summer term is especially harder as we say goodbye to staff, interns and Year 6 children. But we are all looking forward to another exciting year ahead, welcoming new staff, children and their families in September.

Once again, thank you to everyone, those staying, those moving on, families, staff, children, governors – JKPS is what it is – because of you.

Have a wonderful summer, thank you for making me the happiest head teacher in the country!

Best wishes,

Miss Marta Correia

Head of School



Message from our Educational Director:

'It is with great delight that we learn of the excellent first ever Y6 results at Judith Kerr Primary School, and Andy Yarrow and I send our warmest congratulations to all the pupils and staff. These excellent results place the school well above the recently published national results both at the 'expected' level and for those pupils who achieved at 'greater depth.' What a great start and how wonderful for all those potential new families in the local community who we enthusiastically invite to come and visit us!'

Karen Walker

CfBT Schools Trust

Attendance:

Our attendance for the year was **96.08%**

I know I keep going on and on about attendance, but the fact is: your children really do love school and want to be here ☺ Thank you to all our families for following our attendance procedures so well. I know our attendance percentage figure will be even higher next year!

The class with the best attendance for the whole year was 3B with 97% from 4 Sept – 20 July followed by both Reception classes with 96.97% Wow!

Key dates for Summer term: Save the date!

Monday 3rd September: Inset day – Staff only

Tuesday 4th September: Inset day – Staff only

Wednesday 5th September, 9:00am: School starts for all children Year 1-Year 6

All our term dates for 2018-2019 are on our school website. Please avoid any term-time leave arrangements unless these are emergencies or exceptional circumstances.

Summer Birthdays:

We would like to say '**alles Gute zum Geburtstag**' to the following staff and children and staff born in July & August:

July Birthdays: Camilla, Pablo, Julie, Iggy, Kaspar, Hermela, Mia, Anna, Pola, Oscar R, Ella SS, Roisin, Emma, Caspar J, Amerigo, Valentina, Alys, Jack B, Lily K, Simon, Maya O, Maya VS.

August Birthdays: Miss Jaydine, Miss Marina, Miss Marta, Miss Donna, Ocean MB, Michel, Cara, David, Yolanda, Ruby, Martyna, Jack, Percy, Roma, Olivia, Kelsey, Omobola, Aurelia, Esme, Eli, Kharis, Nina.

JKPS Tigers: Message from Amanda Johnson

JKPS Tigers finished their first season in the Lambeth and Southwark Primary Schools League in a very creditable joint 5th place out of 13 teams. In the Fair Play league, they topped the table with a clean sheet for fair play in every single one of their games. JKPS Tigers' final, game, played in the blazing sun on 16 June, saw them come home 2-1 winners against a dogged and tough St Leonard's team.

The team has come along way since the first match on 20th January and they have played through driving rain, sleet, snow and pitches resembling a quagmire. They beat the team that came top of their league 7-1 and drew with the second place team 2-2. There were, of course, games that they should have won, but five wins and two draws is a fantastic start in this league for Judith Kerr Primary School and much can be learnt from a game, whether you win, draw or lose. Football is not just physical, it is technical, social and psychological and all these 'four corners of football' need careful nurturing.

Many thanks, therefore, must go to Thomas Brandt for his careful nurturing and coaching of the team this season. Training will continue for both boys and girls next season and JKPS Tigers will again be entering a team in the L&SPSF League. More details to follow on this.

Finally, many congratulations to David in Reception for attending the Chelsea FC Academy Talent ID event for Reception/Year 1 and being invited to attend six weeks of free coaching sessions to further develop his talent for football. We look forward to having him play for the Tigers. Well done David!

A massive thanks to Amanda and Thomas for their invaluable support to the school.

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**Year 6 graduation evening – Chair of Governors Speech
19 July 2018**



Well, Year 6, who would have thought it?

It was bonfire night in 2010, nearly eight years ago, when a group of idealistic and curious parents sat down around our dining room table and asked themselves how – and indeed why – one would go about doing something different. We knew that most primary schools didn't teach languages well, and we wanted to start a primary school that would really give every child, alongside everything else, a proper start in a language – in our case German – from the day they begin at school until the day they need to move on.

Back then, the government under a Prime Minister called David Cameron had a policy to allow groups to set up new schools that would offer something out of the ordinary, and we wanted to take advantage of that. It took a while for our group to settle down, but those that stayed and hoped to tear up at least some of the rule book shared, I think, these three strongly held values:

First of all, a passion for language, because – if you stop and think about it – it's an incredible thing to be able to communicate with other people at all, and the more people you can communicate with, the better. If I knew aliens were headed this way, I'd certainly want to learn Alien. You see, they might not be very good at Earth.

Along with that, we knew that there's a kind of understanding that is really only possible if you are good at more than one language, and we wanted to share that. This special understanding teaches us that words – and therefore the ideas that we turn into words, even simple ones – in one language never exactly correspond to words and ideas in another language. It means that two people having a conversation can never quite say the same thing, so you have to keep an open mind and use your insight and imagination. And that stops us thinking of other people as foreign. Which has to be a very good thing.

And thirdly, we also knew that everyone can be good at languages, which helps you be good at other things too. I hope you found that in your time here.

So who were we? Well, some have moved on, but one of those parents, who has been part of the journey from that first meeting on bonfire night 2010, and is here this evening, is Arlo's mum Juliane. And another, Jean, joined us early on and has served on the school's governing body since we opened. Without their friendship and commitment, and that of every single person – there are far more than I could name – who's been part of this adventure, we really wouldn't be here today. It couldn't have happened.

It took nearly three years to open your school in 2013. You'll remember the building was shabby then, it rained a lot, there were leaks inside, and outside, where the dripping wet grass wasn't too long for Mr Manfred's lawnmower, the playground was cramped and muddy, and we only had four class teachers. But if opening a school was hard work,

running a good school is even harder, and on top of that the real world has this annoying habit of making things tougher than you want them to be. Occasionally you might have felt as if you were part of an experiment, like a dish of agar jelly waiting for something weirdly furry to grow and spread towards the edge.

But you've also experimented yourselves, far more than we have. Your classroom is full of your wonderful and imaginative art and science and writing, and we can see how you make your own stories and colour the world, each in your unique, personal way. You've learned more German than you would have done at any other primary school, and you must be the only children in the country with a certificate from the Goethe-Institut to prove it. Aside from learning, you've sung in a sensational school choir, played chess against other schools, formed our first school football team, written a newspaper, grown fruit and veg in our garden, put on plays, and have done fantastically well in your SATs. You've been the oldest year group in the school since the start, and no other group in the school will ever be that. Each one of you has truly led the line. You can be really proud of yourselves and look forward confidently to new opportunities at your next schools and beyond.

But Miss Marta, the school team, and I and others are staying behind. We're not done yet, and together with our still growing community of teachers and parents and children we'll keep getting better, if we can.

And you're nowhere near done yet either. In fact, I'd say: Don't ever be done. Our wonderful patron Judith isn't: you know, in spite of being a bit less young than even I am, she's busier than ever, bringing her magical energy, creativity, and above all kindness to every new project. She's a model for all of us.

So, Year 6, be brave about your ideals. Care about what and whom you really love. Figure out what you want to do, and why, and who you want to do it with. Don't let anyone tell you it's too difficult. Work your best and make it happen. Enjoy the feeling – that's really important – and share it out. And then do it again... and again, why not?

I so hope you had a great time here, Year 6. Wherever life takes you, you'll always have friends and a warm welcome here. Each one of you is part of the story of Judith Kerr Primary School, and I also hope the school will be part of the stories you tell your friends and families in future years.

Thank you for being such an awesome first Year 6.

Auf Wiedersehen, und viel Glück!

Peter Johnson 19/7/18



Staff v Year 6 Netball game

