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Dear Parents and Carers,

Our Year 5 and 6 choir joined pupils from across the borough to sing at the Croydon Schools Music Association concert this week which was held at Fairfield Halls. The power of so many voices together is always striking and we are very grateful to our staff for giving up so much of their own time to support this opportunity for our pupils. We received a lovely email from a parent who commented:

There wasn't a dry eye in the house at Fairfield Hall last night! What an amazing concert and the most beautiful celebration of music.... there's just nothing quite like singing in a group to uplift you and I'm so grateful and happy that my daughter had the chance to do this. Thank you for making it happen, for your encouragement of the children and for recognising how formative these moments are, they will remember it forever.

Our recent STEM Fair was a fantastic success and truly inspiring for everyone involved! The community had the opportunity to explore science, technology, engineering and maths through a wide range of exciting hands-on activities. A huge thank you to our visiting partners, Morgan Sindall Construction and Code Camp, who shared their expertise and inspired students with insights into real-world STEM careers. We are also grateful to our staff who hosted engaging interactive science activities throughout the event. From LEGO engineering challenges and construction tasks to exploring innovative gadgets at the Gadget Shop, there was something to spark curiosity in every corner of the fair. A special thank you to all pupils who entered the Eco Sculpture Competition; the entries were imaginative, thoughtful and demonstrated a real commitment to sustainability. The day was a brilliant celebration of curiosity, creativity and collaboration. Many thanks to all of the families who joined us.

Year 6 Leaders have worked hard to organise this year's Red Nose Day event for us and have been selling red noses this week which have been very popular. We are hoping to see everyone wearing them on Friday. There will also be a cake sale after school in the playground - thank you to everyone for supporting the fundraising.

Through a link with the Museum of Croydon project to celebrate the work of the Black-British composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912), our year 5 pupils enjoyed a wonderful drumming workshop with a professional musician this week. This was a great introduction to djembe as we have recently acquired our very own set of drums to use as part of our music curriculum experiences. The session was provided by the wonderful Cheikh Diop, who shared his expertise in traditional African drumming and brought incredible energy to the session. Pupils explored rhythm and musical expression while learning about the influence of African music on composers like Coleridge-Taylor, who grew up in Croydon.

Our next Community Club gardening session will take place this Sunday morning. We usually hold the sessions on the first Sunday of every month but as the next date will fall during the Easter break we have decided to get together on Sunday 22nd March instead. All children, accompanied by a willing parent or carer, are welcome to join us between 10.00 and 12.00 when we will be spreading bark chippings on the pathways, painting the playground pods and improving the pond area for the children to use as well as the usual planting, weeding and garden maintenance.

We look forward to seeing many of you at our Parents/Carers evenings next week. If you have not already made an appointment then please contact your child's class teacher as soon as possible.

Have a lovely weekend,

Helen Carvall