



LEAP NEWS

Friday 23rd January 2026



SPANISH PHRASE of the week

Me gustaría aprender más español....*I would like to learn more Spanish ...*

Kingsmead, Gayhurst, Mandeville & Grasmere Primary Schools working in partnership

LEAP'S CROSS FEDERATION STAFF MEETING

This week staff from all four LEAP schools gathered at Mandeville school for a special joint staff meeting to plan and prepare for the upcoming LEAP Creativity Week, which will be taking place in the week before the half term break.

For Creativity Week once again LEAP will be taking part in our Take Two Picture project using this year's National Gallery chosen Take One Picture artwork, which is the painting 'A Muse' by Cosimo Tura, with a second painting by a British artist from the global majority, which has been chosen by LEAP. More information on these artworks will follow in the week before Creativity Week.

Staff enjoyed taking part in a creative activity together, preparing collage self-portraits.

'It was great to work with colleagues across the federation and share ideas. There was a real buzz around the pictures chosen. We're all very excited for Creativity Week' - **Ella** - Assistant Headteacher Gayhurst

'I loved being able to work with staff across all four schools.

The creative activity we did to explore the artists was a lovely opportunity to get to know each other better.' - **Barley**, Grasmere art specialist teacher.



LEAP STAFF MEETING CONTINUED.....



IMPORTANT REMINDER TO REGISTER FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE

A reminder to parents to PLEASE ensure that they still register for Free School Meals if they are eligible to, even though all families are currently benefiting from the universal free school meal offer that the Mayor of London has funded.

Schools get extra funding, known as the 'Pupil Premium', for every child registered as eligible for a free school meal if their parents are receiving benefits. It is vitally important for the amount of funding that our LEAP schools receive from the Department of Education, that all families who are eligible, are actually registered for Free School Meals.

Not only will this additional school funding benefit your child in terms of what the school is able to offer it's pupils, but there are also other benefits that come with having your child registered for Free School Meals.

Depending on which LEAP school your child attends these additional benefits include free sweatshirts (for the LEAP schools that have school uniform), school bags, trips and clubs and extra activities to name a few— and only children registered for Free School Meals are entitled to school holiday supermarket vouchers.

You can find more information about Free School Meals eligibility [here](#). To apply for Free School Meals you will need to first register. Please follow the link above, scroll down the page and click on the Apply For Free School Meals button.

After you have completed your application you will receive an email to confirm your eligibility, you can then bring this into the school office as proof of your entitlement. Hackney Education will also send out a notification to school confirming your child's FSM and Pupil Premium eligibility.

If you're not sure whether you are eligible to register just speak to a member of staff in your school's school office and they will help you.



SPRING TERM 2026

1st half of term: 05.01.26 - 13.02.26

Half term: 16 - 20 Feb 2026

2nd half of term: 23.02.26 - 27.03.26

CROWN WINNERS

| | | | |
|-----------|-----|--------|----|
| Nursery | 78 | Year 3 | 85 |
| Reception | 90 | Year 4 | 72 |
| Year 1 | 123 | Year 5 | 89 |
| Year 2 | 83 | Year 6 | 70 |

TOP ATTENDANCE

| | |
|------------|---------------|
| EYFS & KS1 | Lagan 100% |
| KS2 | Severn 99% |



GOLDEN AWARDS

Ouse class (Nur) Mabel
Lea class (Rec) Oliver
Lagan class (Yr 1) Frederikos
Tyne class (Yr 2) Raeya

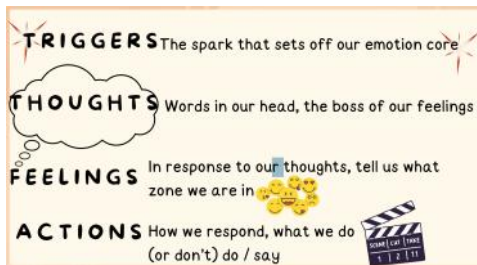
Severn class (Yr 3) Immanuel
Ness class (Yr 4) Rania
Fowey class (Yr 5) Suleyman
Avon class (Yr 6) Manha

BRAIN BUDDIES & MANAGING EMOTIONS

Our new Educational Mental Health Practitioner, Hannah, has been delivering some lovely workshops with some of the classes at Kingsmead.

Year 3 recently took part in an **Exploring & Managing Our Emotions** workshop with Hannah, which they all thoroughly enjoyed. The session helped them to use the Zones of Regulation

model to identify and understand their feelings, consider how feelings can affect us and to build a tool kit to help them manage their emotions and get themselves back to a green zone, where they feel calm and settled.



Year 5 are part way through a series of weekly **Brain Buddies** workshops with Hannah that are taking place this term. Brain Buddies Emotion Regulation course aims to develop students' understanding of what emotion regulation is. It focuses on psychoeducation and skills building in understanding, identifying and developing strategies for children to regulate their emotions through self-care, self-calming strategies and thinking strategies such as problem-solving.

A MESSAGE TO KINGSMEAD FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION



Bridget Philipson, the Secretary of State for Education has written to Kingsmead to congratulate us on our achievements in last year's SATs.

A MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY OF STATE CONTINUED.....

See an extract of her letter below:

Congratulations to you and your team on the excellent outcomes the disadvantaged pupils at Kingsmead Primary School achieved at the end of the 2024/25 academic year. Your school's performance places it among the very best nationally, and this is a significant achievement.

This success reflects the dedication of your staff and the hard work of your pupils. It shows what can be achieved when ambition and commitment come together. Thank you for everything you do to give children the best possible opportunities to succeed.

Your school's achievements demonstrate what is possible, and I hope you will continue to share your experience and best practice with others. Even the strongest schools can go further. We encourage you to lead the way as a system leader - sharing effective practice, championing networks, supporting collaboration, and helping raise standards across the sector.

KEY DATES FOR THIS TERM

- Thurs 29 Jan** Yr 5 class assembly 3pm
- Wed 4 Feb** Nursery & Rec Chinese New Year assembly 3pm
- w/c **Mon 9 Feb** Creativity Week
- Mon 16—Fri 20 Feb** Half term break
- Mon 2 March** School Photographer in
- Wed 4 March** Yr 2 class assembly 3pm
- Thurs 5 March** World Book Day
- Wed 11 March** Yr 4 RE assembly 3pm
- Wed 18 March** Yr 1 class assembly 3pm
- Wed 25 March** Rec class assembly 3pm
- Thurs 26 March** Parent & Carer consultation evening
school closes early at 1.30pm for children
- Fri 27 March** Last day of Spring term -
school closes early at 1.30pm for children

PTO

ART K MOTOR SKILLS AND ART PROJECT

Kingsmead is embarking on an exciting 6 week pilot project that involves our Reception and Year 1 classes working with local art education organisation art-K that is linked to a research project they are undertaking. A new YouGov survey commissioned by art-K has revealed an alarming decline in children's basic fine motor skills, with more than three-quarters of UK primary school teachers reporting deterioration over the past five years. The research highlights a growing crisis in creative education that experts warn could have far-reaching consequences for children's development and the future of Britain's creative industries.

In response to the survey findings, Art-K have designed a pilot programme with the goal of helping to progress fine motor skill development in children, through a series of art activities, which will also nurture their confidence and creativity through fun art activities.

Hannah, from art-K, delivered the first session today at Kingsmead and the children responded enthusiastically and were very engaged.



'The class had lots of fun listening to a story about Luca the astronaut who flies to the moon. We all drew Luca together thinking about the circles for his helmet.' - **Chloe** - Reception class teacher



READING CHAMPIONS ASSEMBLY

This week, Kingsmead's Reading Champions gave an assembly where they gave out a new book to each class. They had previously visited the bookshop to make their choices and then explained to each class why they had chosen each book for them. Reception were happy to

READING CHAMPIONS ASSEMBLY CONTINUED....

get their hands on the latest Julia Donaldson book and Year 3 were pleased to get a new Bunny vs Monkey book!

The Reading Champions talked about how books can be both mirrors and windows. 'Mirror books' show us lives that are similar to our own and help us understand ourselves better, while 'window books' take us to places we aren't familiar with and help us learn about different people and places. The assembly also included a quiz which the rest of the school enjoyed to show off their story knowledge! The Reading Champions have lots of ideas

planned to promote a love of reading across the school so we look forward to seeing what they do next.



HACKNEY WELLBEING PARENT PROGRAMME

A new Wellbeing Programme for parents is starting at Daubeney Children's Centre. It will be delivered on Tuesdays from 1—3pm for five weeks, starting on Tuesday 24th February. The programme is designed to empower parents and support their overall wellbeing. Throughout the sessions, the group will explore a range of topics including sleep hygiene, positive thinking and emotional wellbeing, nutrition, stress management, and more. Parents will also have the opportunity to take part in a variety of practical and engaging activities such as adult stay-and-play, group cooking of healthy meal, an empowerment walk, mindfulness and meditation, music and movement, canvas painting, and additional wellbeing-focused exercises.

Please note that this workshop is for parents only, and a crèche **will not** be available. Parents can book a place by calling the Daubeney Hub Reception on **0208 525 7040**



Hackney
WELLBEING SESSIONS FOR PARENTS

Every Tuesday
From 24th February to 24th March 2026
1pm to 3pm

What to expect from the 5 week sessions

- **Week 1** : Self- Care Foundations
- **Week 2** : Stress & Emotional Regulation
- **Week 3** : Positive Communication & Connection
- **Week 4** : Sleep, Nutrition & Energy
- **Week 5** : Resilience & Long - Term Wellbeing

At
Daubeney Children & Family Hub
103, Daubeney Road London E5 0EG
For booking call
Daubeney Hub reception
on 0208 525 7040