



LEARNING EDUCATION ARTS PARTNERSHIP



LEAP NEWS

Friday 5th December 2025

SPANISH PHRASE of the week

Veo a mi familia en navidad..... I see my family at *Christmas*

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

KINGSMEAD'S YEAR 1 AT DAUBENEY FIELDS GREEN FLAG CELEBRATION

Year 1 children from Kingsmead and Daubeneby Primary Schools came together last Friday to celebrate the Green Flag Award which Daubeneby Fields, (the park that sits right next to Kingsmead school), was awarded in the summer. The Award recognises over 10 years of hard work by the Hackney Council Parks team and the local community to improve the park for local residents - with a new natural play area, renovated skate park, improved paths and entrances, outdoor gym, wildflower meadows, cherry blossom trees and other habitat enhancements. Kingsmead school children have played their part in winning this award by helping to sow wildflower meadows in the park. The Park Green Flag complements the eco-schools Green Flag also won by Kingsmead School this summer.

The Green flag was raised up the flagpole for the first time by Hackney's Mayor, **Caroline Woodley**, joined by the Deputy Mayor, **Anntoinette Bramble**, our three local councillors and the council's parks team.

Children from the two schools marked the occasion by sowing Hackney's first 'chalk wildflower meadow' next to the Flag. A chalk meadow provides a special kind of pollinator habitat.

Caroline Woodley, Hackney's Mayor said: *"My Deputy Mayor and I were so impressed when we met with the schoolchildren! We asked them lots of questions about why it's important to make our parks accessible, beautiful and exciting places where they can enjoy nature and play. They knew all about planting seeds and showed us how it's done - we had a lot of fun! Thank you to everyone for making the day so cheerful, sunny and bright!"*

Gerry Tissier, Community Ecologist at EcoACTIVE and project lead for the Hackney Buzzline said: *"Did you know that Kingsmead is short for King's Meadow? Who knows whether a king really had a meadow here but there were certainly meadows buzzing*



DAUBENEY FIELDS GREEN FLAG CELEBRATION CONTINUED..

with bees and butterflies. The Hackney Buzzline wants to bring these beautiful and important pollinators back to Daubeneby Fields and children from Kingsmead School are helping make the magic happen! Big thanks to the Year 1 classes who were out on Daubeneby Fields last week sowing a wildflower meadow fit for a king!



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HACKNEY SCHOOL OF FOOD IS RECRUITING NEW DIRECTORS

Hackney School of Food is looking for [three New Board Directors](#) to help guide and strengthen their community food education work. This is an exciting opportunity to support Hackney School of Food, a Community Interest Company, that is making a real difference to children, families, and communities across Hackney.

As a Board Director, you'll play a key role in:

- Shaping our strategic direction
- Supporting fundraising and partnerships
- Championing our mission locally
- Ensuring our long-term financial sustainability

The team at School of Food are particularly keen to hear from people with experience in fundraising or income generation, business development or social enterprise, or those with strong networks in Hackney and East London.

If you bring relevant skills or expertise, or if you're passionate about food, community, and creating positive change, this could be the role for you! Find out more about [applying here](#)



HACKNEY'S FAMILY COACH SERVICE

At the start of Spring Term, Hackney's Family Coach service are offering a range of different support for families with children with special educational needs and disabilities (no formal diagnosis or EHCP necessary to access this support). Take a look at what is on offer.

The Family Coach Service's 5 week
Building a Behaviour Toolbox Parent Empowerment Group
Wednesdays 1pm -2.30pm @ Hackney Service Centre
STARTING WEDNESDAY 14TH JANUARY

All families with a child that has a need within **any of the 4 areas of SEND** are welcome
We are a needs based service. **No EHCP or formal diagnosis** is needed.

4 Areas of SEND		14TH JANUARY	21ST JANUARY	28TH JANUARY
Communication & Interaction	Cognition and learning	What's already in your behaviour toolbox?	Understanding your child's behaviour	Responding to your child's behaviour
Social, Emotional & Mental Health	Sensory and Physical	4TH FEBRUARY	11TH FEBRUARY	<i>"Coming to the group helped me realise I'm not alone in this"</i>
		Repairing after challenging moments	Preventing parental burnout	

There are **10 spaces available**. We ask that families are able to attend **all 5 sessions**.
To sign up send an email to familycoach@hackney.gov.uk

FAMILY COACH SERVICE OFFERS CONTINUED...

Understanding Autism Training

Are you waiting for assessment or does your child already have an Autism Diagnosis?

Are you curious and would you like to know more about Autism?

"Helping to develop good autism practice"

Understanding Autism Training for Parents

Wednesday 21st January 10am - 12pm @ Hackney Service Centre, 1 Hillman Street, London, E8 1DY

Tuesday 10th February 11.30am - 1.30pm ONLINE

Thursday 19th March 6pm - 8pm ONLINE

Sign me up!

familycoach@hackney.gov.uk
Let us know which session you'd like to attend. We look forward to working with you!

Family Coach Service

Winter Wellbeing Walks 2026

For parents of children with **special educational needs and disabilities**.
No formal diagnosis or Educational Health Care Plan necessary.

All walks will meet at [Hackney Service Center](#)

<p style="font-size: 8px;">Friday 16th January 12pm-1pm</p> <p style="font-size: 8px; color: #0070c0;">A walk for focus</p> <p style="font-size: 7px;">Take notice to your surroundings whilst focusing on your own choices</p>	<p style="font-size: 8px;">Friday 30th January 12pm-1pm</p> <p style="font-size: 8px; color: #0070c0;">A walk to change</p> <p style="font-size: 7px;">An opportunity to view the changing seasons and reflect on how you might change.</p>	<p style="font-size: 8px;">Friday 13th February 12pm-1pm</p> <p style="font-size: 8px; color: #0070c0;">A walk to appreciate</p> <p style="font-size: 7px;">Take a moment to notice all the beauty and excellence around you</p>
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To sign up please email: familycoach@hackney.gov.uk

Can't make the walks but still want to be part of the community?
Please email us to be sent the walks to complete in your own time.

NEXT NEWSLETTER OF AUTUM TERM

There will be no newsletter next week on Friday 12th December. Instead we will issuing a final newsletter for this Autumn Term on the last day of school - **Wednesday 17th December**.



AUTUMN TERM 2025

1st half of term: 02.09.25 - 24.10.25

Half term: 27 — 31 Oct 2025

2nd half of term: 03.11.25 - 17.12 25

INSET days: Mon 1 Sept 2025,
Thurs 18 & Fri 19 Dec 2025

CROWN WINNERS

Nursery	83	Year 3	95
Reception	80	Year 4	108
Year 1	73	Year 5	76
Year 2	92	Year 6	85

TOP ATTENDANCE

EYFS & KS1	Lagan	98.2%
KS2	Fowey	97.8%



GOLDEN AWARDS

Ouse class (Nur) Fatma
Lea class (Rec) Carl
Lagan class (Yr 1) Emaan
Tyne class (Yr 2) Afnan

Severn class (Yr 3) Nathan
Ness class (Yr 4) Rico
Fowey class (Yr 5) David
Avon class (Yr 6) Niovi

PLANT GROW COOK CLUB

Last week, we celebrated the end of the Plant Grow Cook after-school club at the Hackney School of Food. Over the past few months, a number of pupils from **Year 3** at **Mandeville** and **Kingsmead** have been taking part in an exciting programme, learning how to grow, cook and enjoy their own food.

The children have got stuck into a wide range of activities - from harvesting sweet potatoes to making their own flatbreads and curry! They also discovered which fruits and vegetables grow in different seasons, and explored what makes a healthy, balanced meal. Parents have been feeding back that their children have been more willing to try new foods, and have grown in confidence in the kitchen.

We finished the term with a lovely celebration in the Garden Room, where families were invited to join us and share some of the delicious dishes the students had made. It was a wonderful way to wrap up a fantastic project!

This has been a funded programme, thanks to The Fishmongers. Company's charitable trust.



YEAR 6'S JUNIOR CITIZENSHIP SESSION

Year 6 took part in the annual Hackney Junior Citizenship Scheme at the Forest Road Youth Hub. The day was packed with interactive workshops led by local services, all designed to help pupils build confidence, stay safe, and make informed decisions as they grow more independent.

Pupils moved through a carousel of real-life scenarios, beginning with the Hackney Health and Wellbeing Team, who explored good dental hygiene. Many children said they learned a lot about sugary drinks.

YEAR 6 JUNIOR CITIZENSHIP SESSION CONTINUED.....

"I didn't realise how much sugar affects your teeth," said Harry, "and I didn't realise ketchup contains 23 cubes of sugar!"

From there, pupils joined Transport for London staff to practise safe and sensible bus and train travel using a Zip Oyster card. The Met Police Transport Team followed with eye-opening discussions about snatch theft, personal belongings, and how to report a problem calmly and confidently.

The workshop delivered by Hackney Road Safety was a real highlight, helping pupils understand stopping distances and the importance of crossing roads safely, especially in busy areas. The London Fire Brigade also brought their expertise, giving proactive advice on fire safety and how to plan an escape route at home.

Finally, a local police officer spoke frankly about the dangers and consequences of carrying a knife. Pupils engaged thoughtfully, asking mature questions and demonstrating real awareness. **Zahcai** said: *"It made me think about how one bad decision can affect your whole life. I'm glad we talked about it."*

Year 6 represented the school brilliantly throughout the day—showing curiosity, respect, and teamwork.



ECO WARRIORS LEAD THE WAY ON RECYCLING

This week, our Eco Warriors hosted a special assembly all about improving recycling at school and at home. We were joined by **Kelly Sullivan**, the Climate Education Officer from Hackney, who taught us what we can and can't recycle—and why it matters.

Kelly showed us simple ways to sort our waste correctly and explained how small changes can make a big difference to the environment. She also created colourful posters to help everyone remember the best recycling practices, which will soon be displayed around the school.

We want the children to continue these positive habits at home and encourage their families to recycle as well. Parents can help by talking to their children about recycling, checking what materials can go in the recycling bin, and setting a good example through everyday actions. We also encourage families to be mindful of buying heavily packaged products, choosing items with less packaging whenever possible to help reduce waste.

A big thank-you to Kelly and to our Eco Warriors for inspiring our whole school community to take better care of our planet!



YEAR 5'S WAPPING WANDER

Year 5 enjoyed a wander around the docklands area to explore the setting for our class novel, *Street Child*, by Berlie Doherty. Set in Victorian London, the main character, Jim Jarvis, experiences a hard life around the warehouses and wharves by the river Thames.

We took some maps from 1872 to compare to the maps of today. We walked around Shadwell Basin and imagined the boats coming in, full of goods for the city. Looking at the Victorian maps, we realised that some of the places we walked used to be other docks. Some features, like Pelican Stairs, remain and we loved the adventure of taking them down to the river foreshore and imagining where Jim might have unloaded coal from boats using the pulleys and doors of the warehouses that are still there today.

"I loved getting to go down to Wapping 'beach' and seeing the river up close" **Skye**

WAPPING WANDER CONTINUED....

"It was amazing to see the old warehouses still there" **Assya**
"This was the best day ever!" **Heaven**



PANTO COMES TO KINGSMEAD!

On Monday, the hall was filled with laughter, cheers, and plenty of boos as the children enjoyed the fantastic

Chaplins Panto performance of **Dick Whittington**. From the moment the show began, the excitement could be felt!

The children fully embraced the audience participation, joining in with songs, clapping along and shouting out at just the right moments. They were captivated by all the characters, but the animals were a particular favourite.



KEY DATES THIS TERM

- Tues 9 Dec** Kingsmead Christmas Lunch & Festive Jumper Day
- Wed 10 Dec** Yr 1 Nativity assembly 2.45pm
- Tues 16 Dec** Drumming & Dance performances 2.15pm for Yrs 6, 5, 4, 3 and 2 + Dynamics
- Mon 15 Dec** Class parties in the afternoon. Please bring party food donations.
- Wed 17 Dec** Last day of Autumn term - **school closes early at 1.30pm for children**