



LEARNING EDUCATION ARTS PARTNERSHIP



LEAP NEWS

Friday 27th February 2026

SPANISH PHRASE of the week

¿Puedo usar el sacapuntas?.... *Can I use the pencil sharpener?.....*

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

JTP SPRING 2026 UPDATE

JTP

#We are LEAP

Story ExchaNGE:
Connecting Cultures,
Connecting Generations.

This second half of Spring Term sees the launch of the next Justin Thompson Project strand: Story ExchaNGE. Story ExchaNGE is a cross-community, cross-generational storytelling project designed to deepen connections between families, neighbours, and community groups. When we share our stories especially to those whose experiences differ from our own, we open a window into our world. Sharing a story is an act of generosity: it offers insight, builds empathy, and strengthens relationships. Sharing our personal stories breaks down barriers and builds trust, understanding, and belonging.

Through art, audio, music, food and, and workshops families and the local community are invited to share meaningful stories and anecdotes from their lives. Watch future newsletters for news and updates on Story ExchaNGE events.

Story Boxes Family Workshop

1. Collect a box for each participant - a shoebox or an old picture frame (or any other box with a transparent lid) An A4 or A5-size box is ideal - though you can use square boxes, too.
2. Choose a background - you could use a piece of patterned wrapping paper, old photos, an old map, or a page from a magazine.
3. Gather items to tell your story

Now it's time to create your own personal story. Gather small objects that mean or symbolise something to you. You could include things like passport photos, puzzle pieces, scrabble letters, old stamps, photos, or clippings from magazines and newspapers.

Consider tools

Glue and scissors or a craft knife to cut out fine details. To raise things up in the box to create a sense of depth, use a layer of cardboard underneath the image or objects. To hang objects from the top of the box, use wire or string.



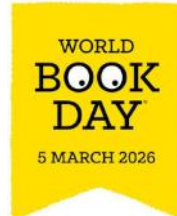
Elder Life Timeline

- **Activity:** Children and elder family members create a timeline of key life events (birthdays, moves, achievements) and share stories about each.
- **Benefits:** Builds narrative structure, memory, and personal identity.



WORLD BOOK DAY

**COME TO SCHOOL
DRESSED AS A CHARACTER
FROM A BOOK OR COMIC**



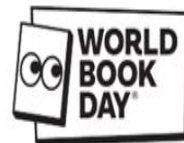
On **Thursday 5th March**, next week all four schools will be celebrating World Book Day. World Book Day is a special day when children and staff come to school dressed as a character from a favourite book or comic. So start planning your costume!

Please don't feel you have to buy a costume - we are hoping to see lots of homemade creations. You could make your costume using cardboard boxes, tin foil, an old sheet that you could draw on, face paints...whatever you have to hand at home! Get creative! Prizes will be given out at each school to the best home-made costumes.

If you need help with ideas [here's a link](#) to some ideas for how to make easy homemade costumes, and [another link](#) for a range of ideas linked to lovely children's books

NATIONAL BOOK TOKEN COMPETITION

To celebrate World Book Day and the UK's National Year of Reading 2026, sponsors National Book Tokens are inviting children of all ages to DESIGN A NATIONAL BOOK TOKEN for their annual competition.



DESIGN
A NATIONAL BOOK TOKEN
COMPETITION



To celebrate World Book Day and the UK's National Year of Reading 2026, National Book Tokens are inviting children of all ages to DESIGN A NATIONAL BOOK TOKEN for their annual competition. This year's winners will be selected by three very special guest judges. Deadline is Friday 27th March. Find your template and all details on how to enter at www.worldbookday.com



Follow us on Instagram: [@leapfederation](https://www.instagram.com/leapfederation)

KINGSMEAD'S READING CHAMPIONS JOIN TRIP TO TENERIFE!

Just before the half term brake, six of Kingsmead's Year 5 students were lucky enough to enjoy an exciting week long trip to Tenerife with their class teacher Jane. This was part of a Hackney Reading Champions visit which included children from five other Hackney primary schools, having an adventure on the Spanish island. Hackney's Music Service also had a group of Secondary School students who are part of their Classical Meets Jazz ensemble, take part in trip, making music links with older children on the island and representing Hackney's amazing musical talent.

The first days were spent in a local Spanish school, finding out more about school life there and trying out the children's Spanish language skills. There were new friends to be made in spite of the language differences and the students loved playtime with their Spanish classmates. They learned about the island's Carnival and took part in the school's marching band. They were so warmly welcomed by the staff and students of the school in Punta Brava, Puerto de la Cruz that it was quite emotional to say goodbye!

As well as experiencing school life, the children also got to venture into town, to splash in the sea pools, wander amongst the beautiful architecture, marvel at the musical skill of their fellow Hackney school students in the Classical Meets Jazz group's performance, visit the zoo, and spend a day at the beach swimming in the Atlantic.

All six children were wonderful ambassadors for Kingsmead and Hackney. They demonstrated open, curious minds and wholeheartedly threw themselves into every experience. We are very proud of them all! For many of the children attending it was their first ever trip away from home and their first trip abroad.

"It was very enjoyable and we were so lucky to go" - **Kimarni**

"It was amazing to have such a fun and interesting opportunity" - **Anya**

A huge thank you to Jane for looking after all the children so well and her incredible dedication. We are truly grateful.



TENERIFE TRIP CONTINUED.....



FAMILY COACH SCREENTIME PARENT WORKSHOPS

Hackney's Family Coach service are hosting 4 workshops this half term around screentime, which parents might find very helpful. You can attend these sessions if you have a child with an identified SEND need who accesses a Hackney educational setting and/or lives in Hackney. :

Family Expectations Around Screentime.

Wednesday 4 March, 11 am to 12 pm at Hackney Service Centre 1 Hillman St, London E8 1DY

Transitions Between Screentime & Different Activities.

Tuesday 10 March 6 pm to 7.30 pm. Online.

Using Screentime as a Reward or Consequence.

Thursday 19 March 12 pm to 1.30 pm. Online.

Feeling Confident to Make a Change to our Family's Screentime. Monday 23 March. 1 pm to 2.30 pm. Hackney Service Centre 1 Hillman St, London E8 1DY

To join any, please email us confirming your child's school on familycoach@hackney.gov.uk



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	82	Year 3	90
Reception	76	Year 4	86
Year 1	83	Year 5	74
Year 2	107	Year 6	92

TOP ATTENDANCE

EYFS & KS1	Lagan
	98.7%
KS2	Fowey
	99%



GOLDEN AWARDS

Ouse class (Nur) Zion
Lea class (Rec) Ahmad
Lagan class (Yr 1) Sumayya
Tyne class (Yr 2) Anu

Severn class (Yr 3) Inaya
Ness class (Yr 4) Zacara
Fowey class (Yr 5) Robert
Avon class (Yr 6) Samuel

ORCHESTRA WORKSHOP

Year 3, 4 and 5 were treated to an interactive workshop with BBC symphony orchestra. The children listened to performances of classical music using the violin and viola. The children sang a repeating rhyme with actions to the beat of a cajon drum. They learnt about the four elements of music; the beat, silence, tune and harmony which are present in all music. Lots of children were surprised to learn that silence is present in music. They also learnt about the role of a conductor in an orchestra and had the chance to become conductors. The bigger the movements of the conductor, the louder the sound is made and the smaller the movement, the quieter the sound. The children enjoyed following the instructions of the conductor. The session ended with a chance to ask the musicians questions and inspired children to learn how to play an instrument and watch an orchestra.



"The music was great. I liked when we sang together." **Marty**

"I liked when we used our hands to do the movements to the song." **Ali**

"I liked when Peter split us into groups to sing different parts of the song and we sang in different rounds starting at different times."

Musa

"I wonder how they came up with the song."

Nayla



HACKNEY SCHOOL OF FOOD

The Hackney School of Food has two new community groups starting up which might be of interest to friends and relatives in the local area:

Gardening for Wellbeing Club

Who it's for: Adults aged 18+ in Hackney experiencing mental or physical health challenges or social isolation. No previous gardening experience is required—just enthusiasm and a willingness to get stuck in.

What it offers: 10 therapeutic gardening sessions led by an expert garden facilitator, involving food growing, garden maintenance, and skill-building.

When & where: Our productive garden at Hackney School of Food, Oswald Street, **third Wednesday of every month**, (first session Wed 18th of March) 10am–12.30pm.

Cost: Free for participants, with an expectation to attend at least the first 5 sessions.

To express interest, please ask interested participants to fill out [this form](#).

Mornings in Motion

Gentle, low-impact movement sessions aimed at older adults and people who have fewer opportunities to be active, paired with healthy breakfasts, aimed at improving physical wellbeing and social connection. These will take place on **Saturday mornings once a month, over ten months**.

Find out more [here](#) and please ask interested participants to express interest [here](#).



SUSTAINABLE WORLD BOOK DAY

This year on the 5th March, our school is proud to be participating in the **Plastic Clever Schools** initiative for World Book Day. As part of our commitment to reducing single-use plastics and protecting our environment, we are taking a greener approach! Instead of purchasing new, shop-bought costumes, which are often made from non-recyclable polyester, we are encouraging children to be creative and eco-friendly with their costumes this year. Some tips for making costumes more eco-friendly, using what is already in your house:

- Use everyday clothes as a base - a red hat can be a good start for a Paddington Bear costume!
- Swap with others - check with friends or family members what items they have before buying anything new.
- Transform old cardboard boxes into fantasy items, like armour or wings.
- Look out for hidden plastics - glitter is a form of microplastic, which can be damaging for the environment.



Why are we doing this? Most mass-produced costumes are worn only once and end up in landfill. By repurposing and recycling what we already have, we want to encourage creativity in our pupils and show that looking after our planet can be fun. If you'd like a planning sheet to design your costume, please come and see Debs at the office who can help. We look forward to seeing your creations!

BOOK SWAP ON WORLD BOOK DAY!

We will also be holding a book swap in the KS2 playground on the World Book Day. Bring along a book from home that you no longer want and swap it for a different book.

LION MAN WORKSHOP



Year 6 had an exciting and energetic workshop with Lamin from Yaram Arts this week. The children were introduced to West African culture through music and movement, learning a traditional Gambian song filled with rhythm and call-and-response patterns.



The session ended with a fantastic dance battle performance, where pupils confidently showcased the moves they had been practising. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm, teamwork and growing confidence throughout the workshop. A brilliant cultural experience enjoyed by all!

PARENT WORKSHOP: SUPPORTING CHILDREN WITH LITERACY DIFFICULTIES AT HOME

Thanks to Jane Beavis, our Specialist Teacher, and all the parents and carers who attended the workshop that she ran on Thursday this week, giving advice on how to support children with literacy difficulties, at home. It was great to see so many parents attending - and to receive feedback on how helpful many of you found the session.



SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHER IN

A reminder that the School Photographer will be in on Monday 2nd March, taking individual and sibling photos. Please make sure your child is wearing full school uniform for their photos.

PARENT CHAMPION MEETING

Next week we're holding a Parent Champion meeting at **9am on Wednesday 4th March**, to plan next steps for our Parent Champions and to look at recruiting at least one Parent Champion representative for each year group. Do come along if you're interested in finding out more about Kingsmead's Parent Champions and how you can support the school with fundraising activities in the Spring and Summer term.

KEY DATES FOR THIS TERM

Mon 2 March	School Photographer at school
Wed 4 March	Parent Champion meeting 9am + Yr 2 class assembly 3pm
Thurs 5 March	World Book Day
Tues 10 March	Parent Champion meeting 5pm
Wed 11 March	Yr 4 RE assembly 3pm
Wed 18 March	Yr 1 class assembly 3pm
Tues 24 March	Drumming & Dance performance for Yrs 1, 4, 5, 6 & Dynamix 2.15pm
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
Mon 30 March to Thurs 2 April - Mandeville & Kingsmead Spring Holiday camp 10 - 2pm daily	