



LEARNING EDUCATION ARTS PARTNERSHIP



LEAP NEWS

Friday 13th February 2026

SPANISH PHRASE of the week

Necesito mi abrigo y mi sombrero.... *I need my coat and hat....*

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

ROYAL ACADEMY'S YOUNG ARTISTS SUMMER SHOW REMINDER

A reminder to families that the deadline for submitting children's artwork to the Royal Academy's prestigious Young Artists Summer Show is **4th March 2026**.

Half term could be the perfect opportunity for your child to get creative and produce some artwork to submit to the Royal Academy's Young Artists show with the chance of it getting selected for the online or physical exhibition later this summer.

Now in its eighth year, the Young Artists' Summer Show is a free, open submission exhibition for students aged 4–18 studying in the UK. Artworks are judged by a panel of artists and arts professionals, with selected artworks displayed online and on-site at the Royal Academy of Arts.

There is no theme so the children can do any piece of art work that they want. Children can submit a drawing, painting, photograph, collage or sculpture—the only restriction is that all artworks must be original pieces so please encourage children NOT to copy other famous artworks as they won't get chosen for the exhibition.

The children will need a parent or carer to submit the work. Please visit the link below for more information and to instructions on how to submit your artwork.

<https://youngartists.royalacademy.org.uk/get-involved>

If you have difficulties submitting work, please speak to your child's class teacher.

The deadline for submissions is 4 March 2026

Judging then commences in May and any successful artists will have their work displayed in this years Summer Show at the RA in July and August.



LEAP STAFF GOVERNOR ELECTED

We are delighted to share that we have a newly appointed staff member on our LEAP Governing Body. After members of staff nominated themselves for the role, an election was carried out to decide on our new staff member. **Winnie Cox** has been successfully appointed to this position. Winnie is currently a Year 6 teacher at Grasmere, and has previously been a teacher at Gayhurst

LEAP STAFF GOVERNOR ELECTED CONTINUED.....

for twenty years. Being such a dedicated member of our LEAP team, showing such commitment to our children and families, we know that Winnie will be an asset to our Governance team, as we continue in our strategic work for the federation.



FREE HALF TERM FAMILY ACTIVITIES AT HACKNEY LIBRARIES

There are a range of different drop in family activities being offered across Hackney's libraries this half term for children aged 5–11 including:

- Making Your Own Book at the Stamford Hill Library on **Tues 17 Feb at 2– 4pm** and Woodberry Down Library on **Wed 18 Feb from 3—4.30pm** for ages 6+
- Collage Your Favourite Books activity at Dalston CLR James Library on **Mon 16 Feb at 11am - 12** for ages 5+
- Make a Hiccup-inspired Shield at Homerton Library on **Mon 16 Feb at 4-5pm** for ages 6+
- Plant a Beanstalk at Clapton Library on **Tues 17 Feb at 11am-12** for all ages
- Share your Love of Books by creating a poster at Hackney Central Library on **Tues 17 Feb at 4-5.30pm** for ages 6+
- The Magic Book Circle - an interactive storytelling event on **Thurs 19 Feb at 3-4pm** for ages 5-11
- Children's Classic Storytime storytelling session on **Fri 20 Feb at 3-4pm** for ages 6+

You can find out more information on all these workshops [here](#).



Follow us on Instagram: [@leapfederation](#)



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	86	Year 3	120
Reception	90	Year 4	73
Year 1	77	Year 5	103
Year 2	81	Year 6	96

TOP ATTENDANCE

EYFS & KS1	Tyne	98.4%
KS2	Avon	99.2%



GOLDEN AWARDS

Ouse class (Nur) Taliah
Lea class (Rec) Talilah
Lagan class (Yr 1) Eliora
Tyne class (Yr 2) Violet

Severn class (Yr 3) Asia
Ness class (Yr 4) Manha
Fowey class (Yr 5) Simon
Avon class (Yr 6) Duong

CREATIVITY WEEK AT KINGSMEAD

Creativity Week has been in full flow with the whole-school learning new skills, techniques & experimenting with a range of mediums and resources. The buzz around the school has been infectious...

Each class have been working hard on their process to create a class final piece which you will see in the school corridors and the next newsletter after half-term. Exciting!

Nursery

Nursery class looked at the two paintings and decided to create self-portraits on paper plates. These portraits will be arranged together on a large piece of card cut out in the shape of Liberia with red and blue African fabric for the background.



Reception

As a class piece Reception have been exploring collage for their background using different materials. They also created a golden arch using a range of mixed media with a large face for the final display.



Two more photos from Reception class



Year 1

Year 1 created mixed media self-portraits by combining photography, drawing, fabric textures and a string painting background
Eliora 'It made me happy because I love drawing and Art'
Ryan 'I feel excited that we are doing my favourite subject Art everyday'



Year 2

Year 2 have been creating beautiful block prints and collages inspired by their heritage and personal interests. The children explored themes of identity and culture through their artwork. Each child then posed for a class collage, inspired by Lina Viktor's distinctive style.

Victoria "I liked Creativity Week, as I got to show off all about my country."



PTO

Year 3

Year 3 have been busy creating two large cardboard cut-outs of two powerful women which have been inspired by the images selected. We have used oil pastels and printing to create the background of our display alongside painting the women and adding small detail using clay!

Joud "I like how we are going to print our patterns onto our oil pastel drawings. It will look good with the display we have planned."

Carter "Creativity week has been really fun and we have also made a lot of cool things. We've used clay, oil pastels, printing ink... and it was just fun!"



Year 4

Year 4 have been thinking about what their future would look like with their chosen career. Being inspired by the powerful poses we recreated

poses with objects that represent their chosen career

Serine - "This has been the best Creativity Week yet! I loved taking all the photos".



Year 5

Year 5 started by a pose on camera that they wanted for their self-portrait. They used acetate to trace over a print of their pose in black pen, thinking about which lines in their faces and clothing to make more prominent. Then they chose the colour scheme of reds or blues and mixed acrylic paints to make different shades. A collage technique was used for the rest of the portrait and background to create mixed media art pieces.



Year 6

Year 6 have been creating mixed media self-portraits inspired by their own personal stories.

Our display combines both pieces of artwork, set against a map of Hackney in the background with the children's class song written across.

Humaira 'I really enjoyed Creativity Week because it allowed me to create an ambiguous self-portrait using a range of mixed media.'

Teddy 'This week encouraged us to let out our inner creativity'.



KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

In the last two weeks there have been a number of concerns raised by children and families about children's use of social media outside of school. We know that many children like to use phones, games and social media. Technology can be positive but some online spaces are not suitable for children under 13. If you want your child to have a smart phone they need to know how to stay safe. (Some parents prefer to wait until secondary school to let them have one). We would like to share some simple guidance to help you support your child in staying safe and confident when using social media.

Talk regularly about online life

Chat with your child about what they're doing online, who they're talking to, and how it makes them feel. Keeping the conversation open helps them come to you if something goes wrong.

Review privacy settings together

Most platforms allow children to make their accounts private and limit who can contact them. It's helpful to check these settings from time to time, as apps often update and change features.

Know the apps they use

Ask your child to show you the apps, games, and social platforms they enjoy. Understanding how they work makes it easier to guide them safely.

Promote kindness and respect online

Remind children that how we treat each other online matters just as much as in person. Encourage them to pause before posting and think about how their words might be received.

Remember age restrictions

Many popular social media platforms require users to be 13 or older. These age limits help protect younger children from content, contact, and features that may not be appropriate for them. Please check the apps your child is using and ensure they are suitable for their age.

Agree on clear boundaries

Setting routines around screen time, appropriate apps, and who they can chat with online helps children develop healthy digital habits.

Save evidence of concerns

If your child receives upsetting or inappropriate messages, take screenshots and keep a record before anything is deleted. This helps us and if needed, external agencies such as the police or social care, respond effectively.



KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE ON SOCIAL MEDIA CONTINUED....

We're here to help

If you have any concerns about your child's online experiences, please speak to us. Working together, we can help keep all children safe, supported, and confident online.

MEADOW SOWING IN HALF TERM WITH HACKNEY BUZZLINE

Hackney Buzzline will be sowing wildflower meadows along the railings of **Ashbourne Court, Mandeville Street**, on **Monday Feb 23rd from 3pm**. Families are very welcome to come and join in and help sow some seeds, to create a pollinator friendly meadows for the Spring and Summer.

Meet at Ashbourne Court 3pm



PARENT WORKSHOP : SUPPORTING CHILDREN WITH LITERACY DIFFICULTIES AT HOME

Jane Beavis, our Specialist Teacher, is back running another really useful workshop giving parents & carers tips and ideas on how to support children with literacy difficulties at home on **Thursday 26th February at 9am**.

Families who have attended other workshops run by Jane have commented on how helpful they have found them. All welcome! As usual there will be tea, coffee and refreshments. We look forward to seeing you there

KEY DATES FOR THIS TERM

- Mon 16—Fri 20 Feb** Half term break
- Thurs 26 Feb** Parent Workshop on Supporting Children with Literacy Difficulties at home 9 - 9.45am
- Mon 2 March** School Photographer in
- 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