



LEARNING EDUCATION ARTS PARTNERSHIP



LEAP NEWS

Friday 6th February 2026

SPANISH PHRASE of the week

¿Te gusta jugar en la nieve?.....*Do you like to play in the snow? ...*

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

LEAP'S CREATIVITY WEEK

Next week all four LEAP schools will be taking part in our annual Creativity Week. Each year we use the National Gallery's Initiative, 'Take One Picture' to inspire our own unique LEAP project, 'Take Two Pictures', featuring a second artwork by a contemporary British artist from the global majority. Creativity is a special week at LEAP where all staff and children come away from the usual timetabled lessons and use their own art, drama and music to explore themes in paintings by famous artists. The teachers work with each other to create inspiring and fun sessions where children can explore aspects of the work to create a whole school and indeed federation of work that encourages expressive freedom and new ways of seeing.

This year the National Gallery has chosen Cosimo Tura's 'A Muse (Calliope?)', painted between 1455—1460 as their focus painting. This Renaissance painting is of one of the nine Muses from Greek mythology. The Muses were divine sisters who inspired the arts and sciences. Calliope is the Muse traditionally associated with poetry. If you would like to find out more about the painting, click on this [National Gallery link](#).



A Muse (Calliope?) by Cosimo Tura

LEAP'S CREATIVITY WEEK CONTINUED.....

Our second artwork, chosen by LEAP is Lina Iris Viktor's mixed media work 'Eleventh' created in 2017—18 and is part of a series that merges self-portraiture with historical narratives. Lina is a British-Liberian artist and Eleventh is part of a series exploring and reimagining the founding of Liberia. In this piece the artist uses herself as a figure of the Libyan Sibyl. A sybil was an prophetic priestess from Greek mythology, who guarded her writings that foretold the future.



Eleventh by Lina Iris Viktor

Children will be investigating ideas of self portraiture, identity and power, exploring links between art and history as well as thinking about fabric, pattern and how symbols can be used to create narrative.

Whole class displays will be created from the children's artworks and we'll feature photos of the displays in a later newsletter after the half term break.

We're really looking forward to seeing all the creative work that is produced next week across LEAP.

LEAP SCHOOLS TAKE PART IN SPELLING BEE

For the second year running LEAP schools entered the Spanish Spelling Bee competition, held at Waterside Academy on Wednesday 4th February. The competition was fierce, with a total of 32 children competing in three heats to get to the final. In turn, children were read a Spanish word or phrase which they had to repeat and then spell out using the Spanish alphabet. Some were easy e.g. arroz while others were very tricky e.g. 'instalaciones' and 'sacar buenas notas'. It was a ruthless process, one mistake and you were out! Of the nine finalists there was one each from Grasmere, Gayhurst and Kingsmead. The children were so good that the organisers ran out of pre-learned Spanish words and had to start testing children on unseen words. Zoya from Kingsmead was one of the last standing and received a joint winners' trophy. We were so proud of all the children who took part.



Assiya (Kingsmead) - *'It was scary standing in front of everyone but I tried my best'*

Lara (Gayhurst) - *'When I got the microphone my heart started beating'*

Christopher (Grasmere) - *"I was complemented on my excellent pronunciation by a Spanish teacher at Waterside!"*

Jahvari (Mandeville) - *'I was excited to compete against other schools I didn't know'*

Zoya (Kingsmead) - *'I felt determined but quietly confident'*



JUNIOR BAKE OFF

Love Productions, the production company behind The Great British Bake Off, The Great British Sewing Bee and The Great Pottery Throw Down, have recently opened applications for the 12th series of **Junior Bake Off**, a Channel 4 competition series celebrating Britain's young baking talent!

They are looking for young budding bakers between **9-15 years old** and interested bakers can apply online at

www.applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.uk

Filming would take place from July 2026, but applications close on **Sunday 15th March 2026**



FELIX PROJECT: KITCHEN APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITY

The Felix Project who work with Kingsmead, Mandeville and Gayhurst to supply fresh produce for their free food shops, are recruiting for a Kitchen Apprenticeship training programme. This is an opportunity for **18—25yr olds** who are not in employment, education or training, and offers a valuable opportunity to gain hands-on culinary skills and real-life work experience, with the aim of supporting participants into permanent employment within the food sector. It is particularly suited to young people who may have struggled to find the right opportunity in their educational or professional journey.



- Full-time (37.5h a week), 14-month position paid at London Living Wage.
- Mainly based at the Felix Kitchen in Poplar, E14 7BN; occasional work experiences and events in other location in London.
- Apprenticeship contract combining training and paid work.
- Recruitment in February-March, program starting in April.

To find out more please contact Toto De'll Aringa, toto.dell-aringa@thefelixproject.org

JTP COMMUNITY COOKING PROJECT - CALL OUT FOR FAMILY RECIPES

Dear LEAP families,

As part of the Justin Thompson Project (JTP), we're excited to announce a series of fully funded cooking sessions for LEAP families, taking place over the next two months, at the Hackney School of Food.

We'd love to showcase family recipes and the stories behind them, cooking selected dishes together. For the first sessions, we're especially interested in recipes from **Caribbean, Turkish, Kurdish, and Irish** food cultures.

To help us plan, please click here to complete this short questionnaire by **Friday 13th February**: Paper copies of the questionnaire are available at your school's office if you'd prefer to complete a paper version. Thank 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	130	Year 3	94
Reception	108	Year 4	87
Year 1	91	Year 5	74
Year 2	89	Year 6	80

TOP ATTENDANCE

EYFS & KS1	Lea 99%
KS2	Severn 98.4%



GOLDEN AWARDS

Ouse class (Nur) Ishaq
Lea class (Rec) Rome
Lagan class (Yr 1) Gourik
Tyne class (Yr 2) Ire

Severn class (Yr 3) Abraj
Ness class (Yr 4) Ayla
Fowey class (Yr 5) Hussein
Avon class (Yr 6) Tinaye

TRIP TO TENERIFE!

Next week, some of the Year 5 Reading Champions will be joining some other Hackney schools and heading off on a very special adventure, all the way to Tenerife! They will be spending some time in the local schools of Tenerife to find out more about how they learn about language and reading. Of course, this will also be a great opportunity to practise and learn some more Spanish! On other days, the students will enjoy visiting the beach and the zoo as well as getting a feel for the local town.

They are really looking forward to taking advantage of this amazing opportunity, and we know they will do us proud in representing Hackney and Kingsmead while there.

"I'm so excited for our trip!" **Charlie**

"I can't wait to find out what it's like there." **Gideon**



NURSERY & RECEPTION'S LUNAR NEW YEAR ASSEMBLY

Lea class and the full-time children from Ouse class performed their Lunar New Year assembly this week.

Ouse class performed a Dragon procession before the children in Lea class spoke about what happens during the Lunar New Year and why? They both sang two songs; Gong Xi (Congratulations) and Kung Hei Fat Choi (Congratulations and may you be prosperous).



LUNAR NEW YEAR ASSEMBLY CONTINUED.....

Ben, Nursery class teacher : *Both classes were excellent, and the singing was absolutely amazing!*

Ishaq: *I liked singing the songs.*

Kavanaugh: *It was fun.*



KEY DATES FOR THIS TERM

- w/c **Mon 9 Feb** Creativity Week
- Mon 16—Fri 20 Feb** Half term break
- 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

PTO

YEAR 3 VISIT NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Year 3 have been learning about Mary Anning, a fossil collector, as part of their Science topic about rocks. The children visited the Natural History museum and were able to see different specimens collected by Mary Anning and her brother Joseph. They were even lucky enough to spot some almost complete fossils of ichthyosaurs & plesiosaurs.

The children also paid a visit to the roaring T-rex and met some of the world-famous dinosaurs in the museum. The children were amazed at how well kept the skeletons were despite being from millions of years ago! They then moved onto looking at other extinct animals in the mammal gallery.

"I had lots of questions as to how the skeletons have been brought to the museum? Were all of them real? How are they so big?"

Nayla

"I wanted to know why people hunt rhinos for their tusks. All the tusks in the museum were replicas."

"I enjoyed seeing the T-rex and wasn't scared!"

Musa
"The outside of the building is like Disneyland!"



KINGSMEAD PARENT CHAMPIONS CONTINUED.....

We are keen to recruit some more Parent Champions. The aim is to have at least one Parent Champion from each year group from Nursery to Year 6, and to find two parents who would like to take on the role of leading the Kingsmead Parent Champion group and support the Champions to take on organising the weekly Cake & Ice Cream Sales in the summer term, raising money for enrichment activities and the extra-curricular offer for all children at Kingsmead—such as school and class trips .

Would you like to take on the role of being one of the Parent Champions for a class at Kingsmead?

If you'd like to become a Parent Champion, please call the school office and give them your name.

We will be holding two meetings to plan the next stages in growing our Parent Champion team on:

Wed 4th March

at 9am

and

Tues 10th March

at 5pm

Please let the office know if you are coming along to one of the meetings.

We look forward to seeing some new faces and hearing all your ideas!

OUR CURRENT PARENT CHAMPIONS



Esther & Yves

Heaven's Yr 4 & Nathan's Yr 2 mum & dad



Shanique

Adrian's Yr 3 mum

Ali

Maryam's Yr 3 mum



Johnnie

Marcel's Yr 4 dad

Beh

Jayden's Yr 4 dad



Balqis

Sulayman's Yr 5, Rania's Yr 4 & Sumayya's Yr 1 mum

Adama

Ibrahim's Yr 3 mum

KINGSMEAD'S PARENT CHAMPIONS - MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Kingsmead's Parent Champions are a group of dedicated parents who support the school in building a sense community by helping with various activities and social events for our families, such as our annual International Evening and Summer Fair.