

LEAP NEWS

Friday 18th September 2026

SPANISH PHRASE of the week

Me gusta el otoño..... I like Autumn....

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

HACKNEY CALENDAR COMPETITION SUCCESS!

Last April, children from across the federation had the opportunity to enter the annual Hackney Religious Education (RE) Calendar Competition. This borough-wide competition includes entries from both primary and secondary schools. Every year, the LEAP federation schools have had winning entries, and this year is no exception.

Congratulations to **Angela**, a former Year 6 pupil at **Kingsmead**; **Harleen**, a former Year 6 pupil at **Grasmere**; and **Kate** (Year 6) and **Daya** (Year 4) from **Grasmere**, who have all been successful in this year's Hackney RE Calendar Competition.

The theme of this year's competition was "Sacred Stories" and children were invited to create artwork inspired by stories that are important to different faiths. All four pupils produced thoughtful and creative designs, showcasing both their artistic talents and their understanding of the theme.

We are especially proud that Angela's artwork was selected for both the front and back covers of the calendar, which is an outstanding achievement.

Well done to Angela, Harleen, Kate, and Daya on this fantastic success. We are incredibly proud of their



Harleen's design



Daya's design



Kate's design

CALENDAR COMPETITION CONTINUED....

creativity, hard work & achievement. What a wonderful way to celebrate and share their talents with the wider community!

We look forward to entering next year's RE Calendar Competition and hope that even more pupils from across our federation will be inspired to take part and showcase their creativity.

"I was really surprised and happy when I found out that I had won the RE Calendar Competition. I enjoyed taking part because I got to be creative and use what I had learnt in RE. I tried my best with my design and spent time making sure I was happy with it. I didn't expect to win, so when I found out, I felt really proud and excited. It was a great experience and I'm really glad I took part."

Kate



Angela's design

HACKNEY BOROUGH YOUTH CHOIR

Free taster session on **Wednesday 23 September**, for children in Years 4, 5 & 6 who might be interested in joining the Hackney Youth Choir.

For more details please contact **02030761535** or email **xanthe.sarr@hackney.gov.uk**

Do you love to sing?

We are recruiting young singers to join the Hackney Borough Youth Choir (Yr4-6) & Senior Vocal Ensemble (Yr7-9)

HBVC is an inclusive musical community that brings together singers from Hackney schools to regularly perform joyful, uplifting and diverse repertoire.

Join us for a free of charge taster session after school on Wednesday 23 September 2026. Ongoing fully funded places in the choir available for eligible families.

For venue details & times, please call 020 3076 1535 or email **xanthe.sarr@hackney.gov.uk**



1st half of term: 03.09.26 - 23.10.26

Half term: 26 - 30 October 2026

2nd half of term: 02.11.26 - 18.12.26

INSET day - Weds 2 Sept 26

Nursery	82	Year 3	103
Reception	85	Year 4	80
Year 1	78	Year 5	95
Year 2	93	Year 6	72

EYFS & KS1	Butler 99%
KS2	Iris 98.6%



GOLDEN AWARDS

Riley class (Nur) Max
Butler class (Rec) Frankie
Kahlo class (Yr 1) Sanaa
Boyce class (Yr 2) Ridwhan

Iris class (Yr 3) Malachi
Marshall class (Yr 4) Immanuel
Ay class (Yr 5) Rico
Basquiat class (Yr 6) Jayden

NURSERY & RECEPTION CLASS NEWS

Nursery:

The children have settled into Nursery really well and have been amazed at all the fruits and vegetables that have grown over the summer. We looked at, picked, drew and then tasted some of them. The children especially liked the grapes and tomatoes. They were delicious!



Ruadhan:

'The grapes are sweet and yummy!'

Ishaq: *'I love tomatoes!'*



Reception:

Reception class have been settling really well. We have been busy exploring and learning about many things including how to take care of our teeth, thinking about feelings and looking at patterns. We also enjoyed the Sustainability drama workshop where we became superheroes for our planet.



SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTION

Next week, children in Years 2—6 who are interested in becoming a school councillor, will be invited to make speeches to their classes so a list of nominees can be drawn up for the School Council Election, which will be taking place on **Thursday**. More info to follow.....

SUSTAINABILITY DRAMA WORKSHOPS

Reception, Year 1 and Year 3 children had a fantastic time in drama workshops this week, delivered by Perform - who also run drama classes at the Round Chapel. The exciting adventure saw the children recruited by Supa Dupa to become superheroes and travel to Party Land to stop the Bad Boppa and save the environment.

Through imaginative drama games, superhero training and environmental challenges, children developed confidence, speaking and listening skills, teamwork and creativity. They learned about the importance of reducing waste, reusing materials and recycling, while taking part in energetic movement activities.

The session ended with everyone making a superhero promise about how they can help the environment in their daily lives.

"I enjoyed running around and learning about how to recycle." **Zaire**, Yr 1

"I recycle at home. The things I

throw away can be made into something else."

Neve, Yr 1

"I always use old things to make new things."
King, Yr 1



NEW CLASS NAMES

We are excited to announce that our classes now have new artist-inspired names. Teachers and children have explored the lives and achievements of a range of inspiring artists, considering how their creativity, determination and individuality connect to our Empowerment Framework and Justin Thompson Project (JTP) values.

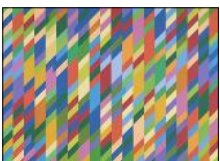
From Nursery to Year 6, each class has chosen an artist whose story encourages us to be ambitious, resilient and confident in expressing ourselves. This year, our classes will be known as:

- **Riley Class** (Nursery) - inspired by Bridget Riley
- **Butler Class** (Reception) - inspired by Bisa Butler
- **Kahlo Class** (Year 1) - inspired by Frida Kahlo
- **Boyce Class** (Year 2) - inspired by Sonia Boyce
- **Iris Class** (Year 3) - inspired by Lina Iris Viktor
- **Marshall Class** (Year 4) - inspired by Kerry James Marshall
- **Ay Class** (Year 5) - inspired by Garip Ay
- **Basquiat Class** (Year 6) - inspired by Jean-Michel Basquiat

We look forward to celebrating these remarkable artists throughout the year and encouraging our children to demonstrate the creativity, courage and perseverance that helped them make such a positive impact on the world.



Nursery- Riley Class are named after Bridget Riley. In 1960, Bridget Riley went to Venice where she saw sculptures by the Italian artist Umberto Boccioni. She wanted to make paintings that had curves like Boccioni's sculptures. She also started experimenting with colour, putting warm



and cold colours together like red and blue to make the paintings vibrant. She travelled to many different countries, like Egypt and India, and looked closely at the way the artists in those countries used colour. She was interested in the way hot countries used very bright colours to stop them fading in the sun.



Reception- Butler Class, are named after Bisa Butler. She is an American artist who creates amazing quilts. Her art has changed how people see quilting, turning it from a craft into a form of fine art. She is famous for her bright, colourful quilted portraits that celebrate Black life. She shows both everyday people and im-



portant historical figures. Butler's quilts are now in many famous museums. These include the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture and the Art Institute of Chicago. In 2020, she even made quilt

NEW CLASS NAMES CONTINUED

covers for Time magazine, including the "Person of the Year" issue. Her unique quilts are very popular, with a long waiting list for people who want to buy them.



Year 1 - Kahlo Class, are named after the Mexican artist Frida Kahlo. Frida Kahlo is among the most famous Mexican artists of the 1900s. She was known especially for her disturbing style and her many unsmiling self-portraits. She often



included skulls, daggers, and bleeding hearts in her paintings. The pain Kahlo expressed in her paintings came from her own life. She suffered from the disease polio at 6-year-old and walked with a limp the rest of her life. At 18 she was nearly killed in a bus crash. Her injuries were so severe that she spent many weeks in the hospital. She felt physical pain throughout her life. She began painting self-portraits while in the hospital.



Year 2- Boyce Class, are named after Sonia Boyce. She was born in Islington in London in 1962. When she was at school she would always draw in the margins of her notebooks. Her art teacher noticed and told her she should go to art school. She went on to study at East Ham



College of Art & Technology and Stourbridge College in the West Midlands. She is now both an artist and a teacher. She said: 'Art was a door that hadn't been opened to me before. I grew up in a very working-class community and had no idea about art school.'



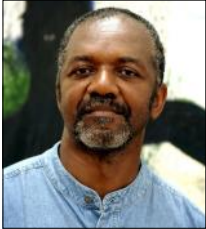
Year 3- Iris Class are named after Lina Iris Viktor is an artist from Liberia and Britain who lives and works in Italy. She creates many different types of art, including paintings, sculptures, photographs & performances. Viktor uses her art to tell stories about the past, present and future. She is inspired by history, different cultures, and her own imagination. Her artwork often explores big ideas such as time, nature, the universe, and what it means to be human. One special thing about Viktor's art is that she uses beautiful materials like 24-carat gold, black marble, and volcanic rock—materials that help make her artwork look striking & timeless.

Before becoming a visual artist, she studied film and performance arts, which influenced the creative way she



NEW CLASS NAMES CONTINUED

shares stories through her work.



Year 4- Marshall Class are named after Kerry James Marshall. He is an internationally acclaimed artist and one of the most important painters working right now.

His vivid and mostly large-scale paintings place the Black figure front and centre. Marshall builds upon the Western tradition of history painting and makes visible those people who were so noticeably absent in the works that came before him.



These powerful paintings are full of references which span art history, civil rights, comics, science fiction, his own memories and more. He uses these to comment on the past, celebrate everyday life and imagine more optimistic futures.



Year 5- Ay Class, are named after Garip Ay, a talented artist from Siirt, Turkey. From a young age, Garip loved drawing and painting. He studied art at a special fine arts high school and later at university, where he focused on Traditional Turkish Arts.



Garip Ay is famous for his work with Ebru, also known as Turkish marbling, which is the art of creating colourful patterns on water and transferring them onto paper. He believed that, just like

water is always moving and changing, art can change and grow too. At first, Garip created portraits of important Turkish figures. Later, he became known around the world when he recreated Vincent van Gogh's famous painting *Starry Night* using Ebru techniques. This unique artwork helped introduce Ebru to a global audience.



Year 6- Basquiat Class, are named after Jean-Michel Basquiat. He first became known for his graffiti (writing or drawing made on a public surface), but later he was known for his paintings. His paintings often feature unusual portraits with scrawled text and symbols.

Basquiat's first public exhibition was the "Times Square Show" in 1980. After the show his career took off. Much of his work addressed his personal anxiety in self-portraits. He also brought in themes and ideas from African, Caribbean, Aztec & Hispanic cultures. He often mixed "high art" references with images from popular culture, especially cartoons. Basquiat



YEAR 3'S STONE AGE TRIP

Year 3 had a fantastic time at Epping Forest, bringing their Stone Age topic to life through a range of hands-on activities. The children explored Stone Age artefacts, including flint, which was used to make tools & weapons, and rabbit fur, which was used as a material for warmth and shelter.

They then put their skills to the test by building their own mini shelters using sticks and leaves and learning how Stone Age people made fire using fire strikers. It was a fun and exciting day of practical learning, teamwork and discovering what life was like in the Stone Age!

Reaya— *'They shaped flint and used it to make weapons and tools'.*

Zepheniyah— *'For the first time I experienced sparking a fire, it was hard at first but I kept on trying. It was exciting and learnt a new skill!'*



KEY DATES THIS TERM

- w/c Mon 21 Sept** After School Clubs start this week
- Mon 28 Sept** Citizens Advice session -must be booked
- Thurs 1 Oct** Parent Coffee Morning with Hannah (our EMHP) on Supporting Your Child with Big Emotions 9—10am
- Fri 9 Oct** World Mental Health Day - Hello Yellow - option to wear something yellow to school
- Mon 12 Oct** Citizens Advice session -must be booked
- Thurs 22 Oct** Kingsmead's International Evening
- Mon 26—Fri 30 Oct** Half term break
- Mon 9 Nov** Citizens Advice session -must be booked
- Fri 13 Nov** Children in need day—option to wear PJs
- Mon 16 Nov** Anti-Bullying Week starts—option to wear odd socks to celebrate difference
- Mon 23 Nov** Citizens Advice session -must be booked
- Mon 7 Dec** Citizens Advice session -must be booked
- Friday 18 Dec** Last day of Autumn Term

School closes early at 1.30pm for children