



LEAP NEWS

Friday 5th September 2025



SPANISH PHRASE of the week

Bien venidos a la escuela..... Welcome to school

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

LEAP SUMMER CAMPS

We were delighted to be able to offer another amazing 3 weeks of Summer Camps for LEAP children, during the summer holiday: one at Kingsmead for **Mandeville & Kingsmead** children, and one at Gayhurst for **Grasmere & Gayhurst** children. **A huge thank you** to all the school staff who worked at the camp and made them such enjoyable experiences for the children, to the staff at The Hackney School of Food, who ran the cooking sessions that children took part in, to the Cycle Confident cycling instructors who worked with children at the Kingsmead & Mandeville camp and last but not least, to the **Kingsmead kitchen team** who made delicious hot lunches for the children at both camps every day.

We are thrilled to have recently been informed by Hackney Council that a further three year's funding means we will be able to continue to offer Spring and Summer holiday camps for LEAP children for the next three years.



LETTER FROM SCHOOL ON VOLUNTARY DONATIONS

All LEAP families will be receiving letters from their schools about voluntary donations to support their school with the costs of extracurricular activities.

MAKING US ALL PROUD AT LEAP!

Evelyn, the headteacher of Kingsmead, had the pleasure of visiting the Royal Academy in August to see **Asmah Nassimbwa's** amazing self portrait at the Young Artists' Summer Show 2025. It is such an achievement that her work is on display in such a prodigious building known for its exhibitions of work by famous artists.



Making art enriches young people's lives by developing a sense of free, flexible and independent thinking – skills that make them resilient to the challenges of an ever-changing world. Creating art can help us make sense of our lives and the world around us, and in looking at art we have opportunities to understand the lived experiences of others.



We are also very proud of **Noah D'Alo** from **Gayhurst** & **Lara Warwick** from **Grasmere** who are also featured in the online exhibition and of all our children in LEAP schools who entered, the standard of work was excellent.



As always at LEAP we focus on developing children's means of expression through visual and performing arts to help them develop and take pride in their own achievements. We invest heavily in the arts through specialist teachers, projects, visits and workshops and look for every opportunity to link express our knowledge and understanding creatively.

If you would like to know more about the exhibition here is a link

[Young Artists' Summer Show 2025 | Royal Academy of Arts](#)



YEAR 6 SECONDARY SCHOOL OPEN EVENTS

A reminder to all Year 6 parents and carers to make sure you visit as many secondary schools as possible, before making your secondary school choices. [You can find a list of Hackney's Secondary school open events and their dates here](#)

PTO

MARGARET RECEIVES SCHOOL CHEF LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Margaret Blairy, who recently retired from her role as Mandeville Primary school's head chef, where she worked for over four decades, has been crowned the winner of Chefs in Schools' inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award.

Over her 42 years of service, it's estimated Margaret served up around 2 million school meals, serving on average 250 pupils every school day.

As well as her work in the kitchen, during Covid Margaret helped set up the free food shop giving away food to local families and free school meals to children who needed them.

She hung up her school chef apron last year but was lured from retirement to speak at the recent Chefs in Schools Sustainability Conference at the prestigious Fishmongers Hall. After the Q&A she was surprised with the award. Margaret said: *"I am lost for words. Thank you. I committed to the job because it was for the children. I loved to cook for them."*

The job was only intended to be a short-term role to fit around family commitments while Margaret raised her own children, but leaving became impossible.

Margaret said: *"I fell more and more in love with the job and the cooking and feeding the children. It was a highlight when the children would come to the kitchen and ask for a favourite recipe to take home for their parents to cook. That was inspiring. What's kept me going is I found I was committed to making sure that the children were well fed. School food has changed a lot in forty-two years. It's no longer custard and cake or sponge with jam. There's a lot more fruit and vegetables, less sugar and salt. It's healthier now. It's nice that things change and for the better. It's good for the children and there's always something new to learn. It's a very rewarding job. It's nice when the children walk in and appreciate the food or come in through the gates excited to ask what's for lunch?"*

Louise, LEAP's Executive Headteacher and co-founder of Chefs in Schools, presented the award to Margaret. Louise said: *"Margaret was so important to the community and she embraced every challenge. The food was always great but when I wanted to change the menus and brought Nicole Pisani (Executive Chef at*

MARGARET'S LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD CONTINUED.....

Chefs in School) in to help us make it all from scratch, Margaret took it in her stride and made the food even better. Margaret is the kind of person who takes every idea and runs with it. She is very missed at the school and we are so grateful for everything she's done."

When asked how she'd like to be remembered at the school and what her legacy is, Margaret told the conference: *"I would like to be remembered as the chef who loved her job, loved cooking, loved serving the clients – and I mean the children because without them we wouldn't have a job, so I called them my clients. For my legacy, it would be the jerk chicken with rice and peas and the jollof rice. We were all proud of those dishes. And I shouldn't forget my Christmas tree biscuits – the children will miss those!"*

HACKNEY SCHOOL OF FOOD

After School Club

Hackney School of Food After School Club starts next week and there's still time to sign up! Come and try making simple and seasonal recipes every **Tuesday 3:45-5:15pm**, with recipes sent home to try again afterwards! Book for the whole or half term with low cost options available. For children aged 7+ [You can book here.](#)

Hackney School of Food is looking for parent/carer advisors!

Hackney School of Food is creating a parent & carer advisory group to help shape its future programmes. There's no experience necessary - being a parent or carer is more than enough! There are a number of benefits to joining such as discounts and free children's club places and we're especially keen to hear from LEAP families.

Find out more here or call Emma at the Hackney School of Food on **07395747296**

HSF

JOIN OUR PARENT/CARER ADVISORY GROUP

If you'd like a chance to shape the future of Hackney School of Food - we want to hear from you!

We're looking for parents and carers to join our brand-new Parent/Carer Advisory Board at Hackney School of Food.

What's involved:

- 3 informal and friendly meetings per year
- A chance to give feedback and share ideas

What you get:

- Up to 3 free holiday club places for your child
- 10% off workshops at Hackney School of Food

FILL IN OUR FORM TO APPLY!

COMMUNITY FUND

COMMUNITY EVENT AT EAST LONDON WATERWORKS PARK

East London Waterworks Park is hosting special launch events for their community research report entitled, 'Community Voices: Shaping East London Waterworks Park'.

The events will honour the voices, ideas & energy of local residents and community groups who contributed to the report and is supported by The National Lottery Community Fund and the Mayor of London, as part of the Mayor's Community Weekend 2025. The interactive events are open to all and drop-in, so people can learn about their findings and where the project stands, enjoy nature and craft activities for all ages, connect with neighbours and celebrate community-led design and help shape what comes next.

See flyer for the events that will be taking place on:

Sat 13 Sept 2025, 11.00am to 1.00pm

Sun 14 Sept 2025, 1.00pm to 3.00pm

Venue: Leaside Trust, Spring Lane Clapton London E5 9HQ.

Shaping East London Waterworks Park

Community Voices

Join us to explore the proposed biodiverse park shaped by local voices, with creative activities for all, and an inclusive co-design exhibition.

13-14 September 2025

Leaside Trust, Clapton E5
Saturday 11-1 pm
Sunday 1-3 pm

This event is supported by The National Lottery Community Fund and the Mayor of London, as part of the Mayor's Community Weekend 2025.

LOCAL MOVEMENT & RUNNING CLUBS FOR OVER 8s

Free running club and movement activities are on offer from local running charity the Out Runners.

These sessions are for children aged 8 and over.

All abilities are welcome.

They will be operating from Pembury Estate and Hackney Bridge...

see contact details and more information on the poster below.

The Outrunners also offer running sessions for adults. You can find out more about them on their website.

<https://www.theoutrunners.co.uk/running>



SPORTS & ACTIVITIES

MOVEMENT & RUNNING CLUBS FOR 8-18 YEAR OLDS

FREE ACTIVITIES ALL ABILITIES WELCOME

- Improve physical fitness
- Incentives for participation
- Holiday and weekend trips and races
- Build teamwork and leadership skills
- Build confidence and self esteem
- Socialising
- Nike kit as rewards

When? MON, WEDS, THURS
WHO? 8-18 year olds across Hackney and Newham
WHERE? Hackney Bridge & Pembury Estate

Contact
Sangeeta:
sangeeta@theoutrunners.co.uk
07562517308

@theoutrunners



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		Year 3	75
Reception		Year 4	72
Year 1	82	Year 5	79
Year 2	94	Year 6	80

TOP ATTENDANCE

EYFS & KS1	Lagan	98.2%
KS2	Fowey	98.5%



GOLDEN AWARDS

Ouse class (Nur) *No awards*
Lea class (Rec) *first week*
Lagan class (Yr 1) Jai
Tyne class (Yr 2) Alya

Severn class (Yr 3) Anaiah
Ness class (Yr 4) Nerayah
Fowey class (Yr 5) Veselin
Avon class (Yr 6) Lily

WELCOME BACK!

Welcome back everyone. It's been lovely to see children settling happily in to their new classes and a great start to the new term. We are all looking forward to another exciting year ahead.

HELLO TO SOME NEW FACES

This term we welcome some new staff to Kingsmead – Finn, Maryam and Elif



Finn will be teaching alongside Stephanie in Year 1 this year. Lots of you may have already met Finn at the Summer Holiday Camp. Finn has worked in a number of schools, with a focus on supporting SEND children and we are really pleased to have him at Kingsmead.

Maryam, a recent graduate, is a new teaching assistant at Kingsmead, working mainly in Year 5. We are really looking forward to getting to know Maryam at Kingsmead.



Welcome to Elif, who will be teaching alongside Chloe in Reception this year. Elif has lots of experience working in schools, delivering Maths & English interventions and supporting children in the Early Years. We are delighted to have Elif at Kingsmead.

As always, members of the leadership team will be at the school gates during drop-off and collection. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak with us directly or email admin@kingsmead.hackney.sch.uk with any queries or requests.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

After school activity clubs will begin week commencing **Monday 22nd September** and will run for 10 weeks, finishing on **Thursday 4th December**. Club information will be sent out to all children on Wednesday next week. Once you have received this, to book and secure a place for your child on their preferred club/s, please pay by card with Debs or Michelle at reception.

Cost: Clubs cost £30 per club per term, payable in advance.

Children eligible for Pupil Premium are entitled to one free after school club each term. To book a Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) space, please let the school office know. If you are unsure whether your child qualifies for PPG, the office will be happy to advise.

PLAYCENTRE AT KINGSMEAD

We are delighted to announce that Kingsmead after school play centre which will run from **3.30 - 5.30pm Monday to Thursday**, will now be available to support working parents of children in all year groups.

The cost is **£5 per hour** - so £10 if your child stays from 3.30 - 5.30pm. Children who attend an after school club from 3.30 - 4.30 are welcome to attend Playcentre from 4.30 - 5.30 for a cost of £5.

To book your Playcentre place please come to or call the school office and speak to Debs or Michelle. Payment must be made in advance.

KEY DATES THIS TERM

- Wed 10 Sept** Yr 6 weekly swimming lessons start
- w/c Mon 22 Sept** After School clubs start
- Wed 24 Sept** Yr 6 class assembly 3pm
- Wed 1 Oct** Yr 5 class assembly 3pm
- Wed 8 Oct** Yr 4 class assembly 3pm
- Wed 15 Oct** Yr 3 RE assembly 3pm
- Thurs 23 Oct** Kingsmead's International Evening
- Mon 27—Fri 31 Oct** Half term break
- Wed 19 Nov** Yr 2 class assembly 3pm
- Wed 26 Nov** Yr 6 RE assembly
- Wed 10 Dec** Yr 1 RE assembly
- Wed 17 Dec** Last day of Autumn term - **school closes early at 1.30pm for children**