

SPANISH PHRASE of the week
Me gusta el otoño.....I like Autumn

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

LEAP'S YEAR 2 TOWER OF LONDON TRIPS

This week Year 2 children from **Gayhurst, Kingsmead** and **Mandeville** had their learning brought to life by visiting the incredible Tower of London! A time-travelling candle-maker and maid from 1666 showed them around the tower and shared lots of facts about the Great Fire of London. They saw a portrait of Samuel Pepys and acted out the fire starting in Thomas Farriner's bakery and then spreading through the narrow streets of wooden houses. They saw some real wooden buildings that existed in 1666 but were not burnt. They also saw the famous ravens, Tower of London guards and even the crown jewels! What an adventure for Year 2 historians! **Grasmere's** Year 2 class will be having their Tower of London visit next week.

Uma 2S - 'I really loved listening to the ravens. They were loud!'

Rafi 2S - 'When the guards marched, they made me laugh. It was so funny.'

Rosa TJ: 2L "My favourite part was getting to see the biggest diamond in the world!"

Nate 2L: "I enjoyed the whole day because I love history!"



TOWER OF LONDON TRIP CONTINUED...

'It was really fun acting out different parts of the story'.—
Salma

'We saw wooden buildings that survived the fire because they were inside the Tower of London'
- Jesse

'I liked pretending to be the maid, even though she didn't survive the fire!' - **Dejhari**



Lako - 'I thought the tower was going to be scary but I enjoyed it.'

Angelusia - 'The tower looked so big, there are guards everywhere.'

Hayden - 'I liked it. Best trip ever!'



JUSTIN THOMPSON PROJECT

We are happy to announce that as a federation we have successfully applied for funds to run a project across all four schools in the federation. This project aims to increase the sense of belonging for all members of our school communities. We aim to do this through story telling. We will collect, celebrate, and share the stories of parents across our school communities, shining a light on the importance of parental involvement in the raising of our children.

We made a bid for a share of money allocated for Hackney schools to raise achievement in our schools. We looked at a common theme to increase engagement which is parental involvement by those who don't usually engage with school life. By hosting events in schools and classroom projects that include everyone and share our stories that brought us to where we are today, we hope to promote a shared understanding and pride in our shared experiences that lead to a greater understanding across differing groups and promote community cohesion. The project will be called the **Justin Thompson Project** named after one parent who enabled his son among many others. It will be the **JTP** for short.

More will be announced shortly, this term we will be working on the theme of the 'story of my name' through the project called simply 'my name'.

Our names are unique and help to shape our personal identities. How we got our names, who named us and why forms a rich narrative that contribute to our story. This will lead into next term and the theme of My Story My Story is a creative and therapeutic storytelling project designed to uplift underrepresented voices by capturing lived experiences from across Hackney. Through oral shorts, photography, video workshops, and community storytelling, the project provides a space for pupils, parents, and local role models to share their journeys with their own community and beyond.

Through the Justin Thompson Project, we will:

- Break down barriers between parents and schools.
- Inspire parents to champion their children's futures.
- Celebrate diversity, representation, and visibility in leadership.
- Create a lasting, living archive of real, local stories to inspire future generations

This is part of our approach and ethos and commitment to equality, diversity and actively promoting belonging, which we will sharing with you over the coming term so look here for updates and in your individual school announcements for workshops and activities linked to this project which will be shared in innovative and creative new ways!

POLITICAL IMPARTIALITY IN SCHOOLS

We would like to remind families that staff working in our schools, are bound by a legal and professional duty to remain politically impartial. This means that teachers and school staff cannot promote or display partisan political views while at work.

For example, staff are not permitted to wear badges, t-shirts or jewellery that express a political position (such as openly supporting one side in an international conflict). While there is no law that explicitly bans such displays, they risk conflicting with:

- The legal duty schools have to avoid promoting partisan political views.
- The professional standards requiring staff to remain neutral and avoid influencing children with personal views.

This does not mean that important or challenging issues cannot be discussed in school. On the contrary, children are encouraged to learn about current affairs, history, and political ideas. What matters is that these topics are presented in a balanced way, with different perspectives explained fairly. Staff are not permitted to share or promote their own personal opinions with the children. While schools may support humanitarian principles and have a zero tolerance of racism or 'hate speak' of any sort, they cannot engage in political advocacy. This is a very fine line to tread.

It's also important to note that school events such as International Evening are not political occasions. They are a chance for children and staff to celebrate and share their individual heritages, cultures and traditions in a positive, inclusive and non-political way.

Although we can ask that children and staff do not express partisan views in school, it is less clear cut when it comes to parents. We respectfully request that parents remain sensitive to others in our community who may hold different views, and support us in promoting harmony, mutual respect, and inclusion for all members of our school community especially whilst on school premises.

We hope this helps explain why we are all required to uphold neutrality in the classroom and across the school. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch through the usual channels.

BAGS OF TASTE FREE COOKING SESSIONS

This course of FREE cooking sessions is open to anyone receiving benefits to apply for and is particularly aimed at those needing support around food and/or cooking.

All skill levels welcome.

Save money and cook better than the takeaway

JOIN OUR FREE FUN COOKING COURSES

...all you need is a kitchen and a phone!

Free, fun cooking courses **AT HOME**
Cook great food in just two weeks!
Impress friends and family

Exciting meals can be quick, fun, easy and cheap to cook with our **FREE** (ingredients included), flexible, home-based short courses

To register
Phone or text/Whatsapp 07701 304 555
or email: hackney@bagssoftaste.org
or you can sign up online:
<https://bagssoftaste.org/students>

personal charities
HPC

Are you worried about the rising cost of food and how to eat healthily on a tight budget?

Then join one of our free, fun cooking courses. Learn how to make delicious, healthy meals from all over the world whilst saving money.

All you need is a kitchen and a phone!

About the course

- **FREE**, ingredients included*
- Cook tasty, healthy meals, cheaply
- Get tips on how to budget and save money when you're shopping
- Learn how to waste less

How does it work?

- We deliver three step-by-step recipes and all the ingredients you need, straight to your door
- Your personal mentor will support you by phone or WhatsApp with lots of tips and advice along the way
- At the end you'll get a free gift of wallet-friendly recipes

What do I need to do?

- All we ask is that you cook the three recipes and send us photos of your lovely food!

How long does it take?

- About two weeks but you can work at your own pace

How do I join?

- Register online: <https://bagssoftaste.org/students>
- Call/WhatsApp **07701 304 555**
- Email hackney@bagssoftaste.org

Once we've confirmed your registration we'll contact you to arrange your delivery

*For qualifying participants only

HACKNEY YOUTH CHOIR FOR YEAR 4-6 CHILDREN

Do you love to sing?

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

HBYC 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 on Wednesday 24th September. For venue details & times, please call 020 3076 1535 or email xanthe.sarr@hackney.gov.uk, or scan the QR code for info & registration

Supported using public funding by

VOLUNTEERS FOR ADULT READING PROGRAMME

Readeasy Hackney teach Hackney adults with low literacy to read, on a one-to-one basis. They are urgently looking for volunteers.

@ReadEasyHackney

Can you read this?

1 in 14 adults in the UK struggle to read. Volunteer in Hackney and be part of the change.

We are looking for **Coordinators** to ensure our Readers and Coaches have the day-to-day support they need on their reading journey.

Time commitment:
3+ hrs p/w (working hours)

To find out more call 07936 116 903 or email hackneyrecruiter@readeasy.org.uk



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

TOP ATTENDANCE

Nursery		Year 3	76	EYFS & KS1	Tyne 99%
Reception		Year 4	84	KS2	Severn 98.8%
Year 1	74	Year 5	73		
Year 2	80	Year 6	80		



GOLDEN AWARDS

Ouse class (Nur) *No awards*
Lea class (Rec) *first weeks*
Lagan class (Yr 1) Lamiyah
Tyne class (Yr 2) Talya

Severn class (Yr 3) Meryem
Ness class (Yr 4) Apollo
Fowey class (Yr 5) Issak
Avon class (Yr 6) Aisha

YEAR 4'S PADDINGTON EXPERIENCE

This week, Year 4 had the incredible opportunity to step into the world of Paddington Bear during their visit to the Paddington Experience. From the moment we arrived, the immersive journey transported us from room to room, each one bursting with colour, charm, and the magic of Paddington's London.

We met Mrs Brown, who welcomed us warmly and enlisted our help in preparing for Marmalade Day! The children were thrilled to take part in the preparations, from sorting marmalade jars to helping decorate for the celebration. The experience was not only fun but also sparked wonderful conversations about kindness, curiosity, and adventure—just like Paddington himself.

It truly felt like we were part of the story, and the children left with huge smiles and unforgettable memories.

'I loved meeting Paddington Bear!'-April

'Everything felt so real! George



COFFEE MORNINGS & PARENT WORKSHOPS

Throughout the year we will be running a series of Coffee Mornings and Parent Workshops for Kingsmead parents and carers. These offer an opportunity for us to share useful information with parents and also provide a chance for parents to share ideas and suggestions with the school and to support each other. Sometimes we provide specific workshops targeted at parents of children in particular year groups, to give parents guidance on how they can best support their child's learning at home.

We have dates for the first three Parent Workshops of this term confirmed—see below. More dates will follow soon.

Maths workshop for Nur, Rec, Yr 1 & Yr 2 parents -
Thursday 2nd Oct

Phonics workshop for Rec & Yr 1 parents -
Thursday 16th Oct

Maths for Yr 3 & 4 parents -
Thursday 6th Nov

We look forward to welcoming you!

KEY DATES THIS TERM

- w/c Mon 22 Sept** After School clubs start
- Thurs 25 Sept** Yr 6 class assembly 3pm
- Thurs 2 Oct** Maths workshop for Nur, Rec, Yr 1 & Yr 2 parents 9—9.45am
- Wed 8 Oct** Yr 4 class assembly 3pm
- Wed 15 Oct** Yr 3 RE assembly 3pm
- Thurs 16 Oct** Phonics workshop for Rec & Yr 1 parents 9—9.45am
- Wed 22 Oct** Yr 5 class 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
- Thurs 27 Nov** Parent Carer consultation
school closes early at 1.30pm for children
- Wed 10 Dec** Yr 1 RE assembly
- Wed 17 Dec** Last day of Autumn term -
school closes early at 1.30pm for children

PTO



POSTER COMPETITION

Hackney Council have invited pupils from Kingsmead School to design a poster aimed at tackling the issue of dog fouling.

Hackney Council is launching a new campaign to keep our streets and public spaces clean and tidy, tackling issues like littering, dog fouling and fly-tipping.

After the council have received posters from Kingsmead, they will invite school pupils to a session to talk about their work to senior leaders in the Council and winning posters will be used in the campaign.

If you need some inspiration please see [this example from Haringey](#).

Please bring in your poster designs to school and give them to your teacher—making sure your name and your age are clearly written on the back of your design. Our newly elected School Council will be deciding which of the best designed posters should be sent onto Hackney Council to enter the competition.

Posters need to be handed into school by Monday 29th September latest.

YEAR 5 VISIT BRITISH MUSEUM

Year 5 enjoyed a trip to the British Museum on Wednesday to further explore their history topic on the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. The children loved getting to see so many of the real artefacts that we have been looking at pictures of in class. They were particularly impressed by the artefacts from Sutton Hoo, such as the shield, helmet and silver bowls and were also amazed to see such intricately made jewellery from over a thousand years ago! This has helped further our understanding of the skills and lifestyles of the peoples who came to settle all that time ago. A member of British Museum staff even complimented the children on how well behaved they were in a busy gallery and how interested they were in finding out as much as possible! Well done Year 5!

"All the information was so good. I feel like an Anglo-Saxon right now!" - Sulayman

"I saw a Viking sword and wondered if it was used for raiding." - Asha



YR 5 VISIT BRITISH MUSEUM CONTINUED.....



SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

This week Kingsmead elected their new school councillors for the year.

Children were excited to experience the democratic process of voting anonymously in the ballot box, for their favourite candidates at the polling booth.

Winners were announced in assembly today.

The new School Councillors are:

- Yr 1 **Lamiyah and Ryan**
- Yr 2 **Ayla B and Zephaniya**
- Yr 3 **Calisa and Musa**
- Yr 4 **Manha and Rico**
- Yr 5 **Asha and Kimarni**
- Yr 6 **Najat and Samuel**



Thank you to all the children who put themselves forward as candidates, giving speeches to their classes earlier in the week.

