

SPANISH PHRASE of the week

Veo a mi familia en navidad..... I see my family at *Christmas*

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

KINGSMEAD'S YEAR 1 AT DAUBENEY FIELDS GREEN FLAG CELEBRATION

Year 1 children from Kingsmead and Daubeneby Primary Schools came together last Friday to celebrate the Green Flag Award which Daubeneby Fields, (the park that sits right next to Kingsmead school), was awarded in the summer. The Award recognises over 10 years of hard work by the Hackney Council Parks team and the local community to improve the park for local residents - with a new natural play area, renovated skate park, improved paths and entrances, outdoor gym, wildflower meadows, cherry blossom trees and other habitat enhancements. Kingsmead school children have played their part in winning this award by helping to sow wildflower meadows in the park. The Park Green Flag complements the eco-schools Green Flag also won by Kingsmead School this summer.

The Green flag was raised up the flagpole for the first time by Hackney's Mayor, **Caroline Woodley**, joined by the Deputy Mayor, **Anntoinette Bramble**, our three local councillors and the council's parks team.

Children from the two schools marked the occasion by sowing Hackney's first 'chalk wildflower meadow' next to the Flag. A chalk meadow provides a special kind of pollinator habitat.

Caroline Woodley, Hackney's Mayor said: *"My Deputy Mayor and I were so impressed when we met with the schoolchildren! We asked them lots of questions about why it's important to make our parks accessible, beautiful and exciting places where they can enjoy nature and play. They knew all about planting seeds and showed us how it's done – we had a lot of fun! Thank you to everyone for making the day so cheerful, sunny and bright!"*

Gerry Tissier, Community Ecologist at EcoACTIVE and project lead for the Hackney Buzzline said: *"Did you know that Kingsmead is short for King's Meadow? Who knows whether a king really had a meadow here but there were certainly meadows buzzing*



DAUBENEY FIELDS GREEN FLAG CELEBRATION CONTINUED..

with bees and butterflies. The Hackney Buzzline wants to bring these beautiful and important pollinators back to Daubeneby Fields and children from Kingsmead School are helping make the magic happen! Big thanks to the Year 1 classes who were out on Daubeneby Fields last week sowing a wildflower meadow fit for a king!



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Follow us on Instagram: @leapfederation

HACKNEY SCHOOL OF FOOD IS RECRUITING NEW DIRECTORS

Hackney School of Food is looking for [three New Board Directors](#) to help guide and strengthen their community food education work. This is an exciting opportunity to support Hackney School of Food, a Community Interest Company, that is making a real difference to children, families, and communities across Hackney.

As a Board Director, you'll play a key role in:

- Shaping our strategic direction
- Supporting fundraising and partnerships
- Championing our mission locally
- Ensuring our long-term financial sustainability

The team at School of Food are particularly keen to hear from people with experience in fundraising or income generation, business development or social enterprise, or those with strong networks in Hackney and East London.

If you bring relevant skills or expertise, or if you're passionate about food, community, and creating positive change, this could be the role for you! Find out more about [applying here](#)



HACKNEY'S FAMILY COACH SERVICE

At the start of Spring Term, Hackney's Family Coach service are offering a range of different support for families with children with special educational needs and disabilities (no formal diagnosis or EHCP necessary to access this support). Take a look at what is on offer.

The Family Coach Service's 5 week
Building a Behaviour Toolbox Parent Empowerment Group
Wednesdays 1pm -2.30pm @ Hackney Service Centre
STARTING WEDNESDAY 14TH JANUARY

All families with a child that has a need within **any of the 4 areas of SEND** are welcome
We are a needs based service. **No EHCP or formal diagnosis** is needed.

4 Areas of SEND		14TH JANUARY	21ST JANUARY	28TH JANUARY
Communication & Interaction	Cognition and learning	What's already in your behaviour toolbox?	Understanding your child's behaviour	Responding to your child's behaviour
Social, Emotional & Mental Health	Sensory and Physical	4TH FEBRUARY	11TH FEBRUARY	<i>"Coming to the group helped me realise I'm not alone in this"</i>
		Repairing after challenging moments	Preventing parental burnout	

There are **10 spaces available**. We ask that families are able to attend **all 5 sessions**.
To sign up send an email to familycoach@hackney.gov.uk

FAMILY COACH SERVICE OFFERS CONTINUED...

Understanding Autism Training

Are you waiting for assessment or does your child already have an Autism Diagnosis?

Are you curious and would you like to know more about Autism?

"Helping to develop good autism practice"

Understanding Autism Training for Parents

Wednesday 21st January 10am - 12pm @ Hackney Service Centre, 1 Hillman Street, London, E8 1DY

Tuesday 10th February 11.30am - 1.30pm ONLINE

Thursday 19th March 6pm - 8pm ONLINE

Sign me up!

familycoach@hackney.gov.uk
Let us know which session you'd like to attend. We look forward to working with you!

Family Coach Service

Winter Wellbeing Walks 2026

For parents of children with **special educational needs and disabilities**.
No formal diagnosis or Educational Health Care Plan necessary.

All walks will meet at [Hackney Service Center](#)

<p style="font-size: x-small;">Friday 16th January 12pm-1pm</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; color: blue;">A walk for focus</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Take notice to your surroundings whilst focusing on your own choices</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">Friday 30th January 12pm-1pm</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; color: blue;">A walk to change</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">An opportunity to view the changing seasons and reflect on how you might change.</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">Friday 13th February 12pm-1pm</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; color: blue;">A walk to appreciate</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Take a moment to notice all the beauty and excellence around you</p>
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To sign up please email: familycoach@hackney.gov.uk

Can't make the walks but still want to be part of the community?
Please email us to be sent the walks to complete in your own time.

NEXT NEWSLETTER OF AUTUM TERM

There will be no newsletter next week on Friday 12th December. Instead we will be issuing a final newsletter for this Autumn Term on the last day of school - **Wednesday 17th December**.



Nur: **Wynne** Yr 3: **Tailer**
 Rec: **Fiadh** Yr 4: **Emir**
 Yr 1: **Whole class** Yr 5: **Elijah**
 Yr 2: **Blake** Yr 6: **Ava**

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

CHESS TRIP REPORT

On Tuesday, our Chess Club enjoyed an exciting day out at the London Chess Classic 2025 at the Emirates Stadium. The children arrived full of energy, and they played incredibly well, finishing in a brilliant 4th place.

They even had the chance to learn from a grandmaster, who shared some fantastic tips and gave them a memorable lesson. After choosing their opponents, the children loved getting stuck into their games, many said it was especially fun playing alongside their friends. Some members of our club even earned medals for their efforts.

'I was happy to win a medal!' – Roman

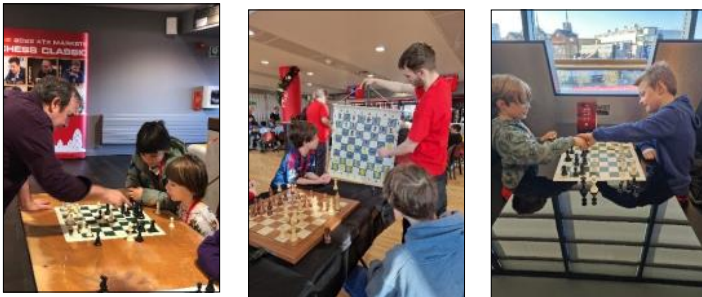
'There was a point system and I got 12 points!' – David

The players were eager to share their favourite moments from the day:

'It was an amazing day. I'm proud of how well we all did.' -

Martha

A huge well done to our amazing team, we can't wait to see where their chess journeys take them next!



EYFS & YEAR 1 VISIT A CHURCH

Year 1, Reception and Nursery enjoyed visiting St Matthias' Church recently, where Father David warmly welcomed them.

The children were fascinated as he shared the story of Christmas, bringing the nativity to life through the use of props and discussions.

The Year 1 children also wowed Father David with a small snippet of their class nativity performance.

'I liked the colourful windows (stained glass windows)' -

Wilfred Nursery

'I liked learning about the story of Christmas -

Mia Reception

'I liked looking at them' - **Liam** Year 1

EYFS & YR 1 VISIT A CHURCH CONTINUED...



YEAR 4 GEOGRAPHY NEWS

Year 4 have been loving learning about earthquakes and volcanoes in Geography this term. We have learnt many facts about tectonic plates and how earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur.

We even had a volcanic eruption and an earthquake happen in our classroom to help us learn about their impact!

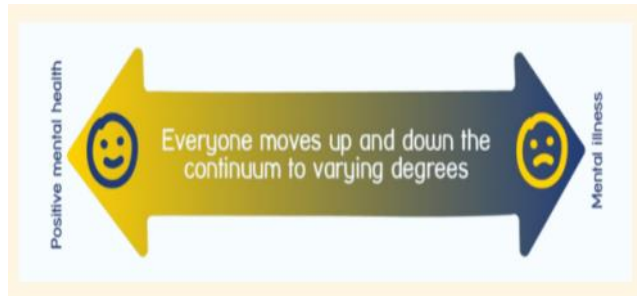
'I have loved learning about how tectonic plates cause earthquakes and volcanoes. It is so interesting'. -**Bruno I**

'I really enjoyed the lesson where we made our own volcanic eruption' - **Miles**



INTRODUCTION TO MENTAL HEALTH WORKSHOP

Last week, **Renissa**, our Education Mental Health Practitioner, delivered a workshop for our parents and carers. She talked us through how the Mental Health Support Team supports schools across Hackney and what her work at Grasmere looks like.



Renissa helped parents think about what mental health means for children, and how things like friendships, family life, school pressures or big changes can affect their wellbeing. She also introduced the one-to-one parent programmes available for families who may need support with anxiety or challenging behaviour, and explained why working with parents is such a key part of helping children feel and do better.

It was a friendly, relaxed session with lots of useful discussion. Thank you to everyone who came along, and to Renissa for leading such a helpful workshop.

A PDF of her presentation can be found on the [Parent Workshop page](#) of the school website.



MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS: SOME HELLOS & GOODBYES!

We have had a great term of enrichment activities and performing arts at Grasmere. The end of term performances are always a favourite on the school calendar and very well attended so come early to get your spot.

Between now and the end of term, we have Ms Harley and Victor on **Monday 15th December** with the drumming and dance performances for Years 1, 2, 5 and 6 and we have Ken doing his final music performance at Grasmere at 3pm.

MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS CONTINUED....

Next term for more enrichment our fantastic Gymnastics teacher, **Autumn**, who already works across our other schools, will be in Grasmere for a whole day each week delivering whole class gymnastics lessons. These gymnastic lessons will work up to end of term performances in March for you to come and see what the children have learnt. Autumn went to the North East London Gymnastics club (round the corner from Grasmere) herself, as a child, and her mother Julia (who used to be the LEAP gymnastics teacher) was also the coach there. Autumn has coached there herself and now works across our schools.

Next term there won't be Djembe drumming and dance to make room for gymnastics in the curriculum, so we want to thank **Ms Harley and Victor** for a brilliant term and we will see them again next year as they rotate around our schools sharing their magic.

Ken, who has been at Grasmere for a few years now, is also moving onto new things - he works in several other schools in Haringey and Cricklewood mainly. We want to thank Ken for all his wonderful dedication to music at Grasmere and we hope to see him again soon. If you would like to say goodbye to Ken before the end of this term come to the Y4 Music performance on the 15th December at 3pm, where we will be thanking Ken.

Magnus, who teaches brass currently, and **Ashley**, who teaches woodwind, are also an essential part of the Grasmere music offer, ensuring that children begin to specialise in specific instruments. We are looking forward to the children who work with them performing at the end of the Spring term in March.

Ben, who many of you know from Friday afternoons in Grasmere for the last year, will now be teaching specialist music lessons on Monday, Early Years singing and choir after school on Mondays. Ben is the Music Leader for the federation and has also been training Grasmere teachers this year to ensure that they are able to deliver music weekly in their classes. If you would like to know more about what and how the children learn in music it is all featured on this [Grasmere Music page](#)

KEY DATES THIS TERM

- Fri 12 Dec** Coffee Morning: Supporting Emotional Regulation 9.10-10am +
EYFS Music Performance at 3pm +
Christmas lunch and Festive jumper day
- Mon 15 Dec** Drumming and Dance Performances
Year 1 & 4 at 9.30am Year 2, 5 and 6 at
10:30am + Year 4 Music Performance at 3pm
- Wed 17 Dec** Last day of Autumn term -
school closes early at 1.30pm for children