



LEAP NEWS

Friday 23rd January 2026



SPANISH PHRASE of the week

Me gustaría aprender más español....*I would like to learn more Spanish ...*

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

LEAP'S CROSS FEDERATION STAFF MEETING

This week staff from all four LEAP schools gathered at Mandeville school for a special joint staff meeting to plan and prepare for the upcoming LEAP Creativity Week, which will be taking place in the week before the half term break.

For Creativity Week once again LEAP will be taking part in our Take Two Picture project using this year's National Gallery chosen Take One Picture artwork, which is the painting 'A Muse' by Cosimo Tura, with a second painting by a British artist from the global majority, which has been chosen by LEAP. More information on these artworks will follow in the week before Creativity Week.

Staff enjoyed taking part in a creative activity together, preparing collage self-portraits.

'It was great to work with colleagues across the federation and share ideas. There was a real buzz around the pictures chosen. We're all very excited for Creativity Week' - **Ella** - Assistant Headteacher Gayhurst

'I loved being able to work with staff across all four schools.

The creative activity we did to explore the artists was a lovely opportunity to get to know each other better.' - **Barley**, Grasmere art specialist teacher.



LEAP STAFF MEETING CONTINUED.....



IMPORTANT REMINDER TO REGISTER FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE

A reminder to parents to PLEASE ensure that they still register for Free School Meals if they are eligible to, even though all families are currently benefiting from the universal free school meal offer that the Mayor of London has funded.

Schools get extra funding, known as the 'Pupil Premium', for every child registered as eligible for a free school meal if their parents are receiving benefits. It is vitally important for the amount of funding that our LEAP schools receive from the Department of Education, that all families who are eligible, are actually registered for Free School Meals.

Not only will this additional school funding benefit your child in terms of what the school is able to offer it's pupils, but there are also other benefits that come with having your child registered for Free School Meals.

Depending on which LEAP school your child attends these additional benefits include free sweatshirts (for the LEAP schools that have school uniform), school bags, trips and clubs and extra activities to name a few— and only children registered for Free School Meals are entitled to school holiday supermarket vouchers.

You can find more information about Free School Meals eligibility [here](#). To apply for Free School Meals you will need to first register. Please follow the link above, scroll down the page and click on the Apply For Free School Meals button.

After you have completed your application you will receive an email to confirm your eligibility, you can then bring this into the school office as proof of your entitlement. Hackney Education will also send out a notification to school confirming your child's FSM and Pupil Premium eligibility.

If you're not sure whether you are eligible to register just speak to a member of staff in your school's school office and they will help you.



GRASMERE NEWS



GOLDEN AWARDS

Nur: **Blanca** Yr 3: **Lili**
Rec: **Vincent** Yr 4: **Efe**
Yr 1: **Eymen** Yr 5: **Meriem**
Yr 2: **Niamh** Yr 6: **Antonia G**

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**

ART IN THE UNDERGROUND

On Monday, Year 5 enjoyed their first session of an exciting new project with The Spaghetti Club: Art in the Underground, as part of the Kids Art Map Project. They worked with artists Michael and Jessica.

Before meeting the class, Michael shared a message with the children about the kinds of creative questions they would be exploring together. They began thinking about art on the London Underground, including mosaics, labyrinths and buildings wrapped in patterns, and how these artworks can surprise, guide and inspire people in everyday spaces.

The children will be taking part in lots of writing and drawing, creating ideas for a booklet that will be available for people to pick up for free on the Tube. A key message from the artists was that there are no wrong answers. This project is all about creativity, imagination and ideas, not perfect drawings.

Year 5 approached their first session with great enthusiasm and curiosity, and we are very much looking forward to seeing how their thinking and artwork develop over the coming weeks.

"It was a lot of fun" - **Eli**

"I really like that there was a template for us to fill out but we were also allowed to be creative" - **Isabella**



A MESSAGE TO GRASMERE FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION



Bridget Philipson, the Secretary of State for Education has written to Grasmere to congratulate us on our achievements in last year's SATs.

See an extract of her letter below:

Congratulations to you and your team on the excellent outcomes the disadvantaged pupils at Grasmere Primary School achieved at the end of the 2024/25 academic year. Your school's performance places it among the very best nationally, and this is a significant achievement.

This success reflects the dedication of your staff and the hard work of your pupils. It shows what can be achieved when ambition and commitment come together. Thank you for everything you do to give children the best possible opportunities to succeed.

Your school's achievements demonstrate what is possible, and I hope you will continue to share your experience and best practice with others. Even the strongest schools can go further. We encourage you to lead the way as a system leader - sharing effective practice, championing networks, supporting collaboration, and helping raise standards across the sector.



PTO 

Please remember to inform the main office of any changes to your contact details i.e: home number, mobile phone number, address, or if your child has a medical condition.

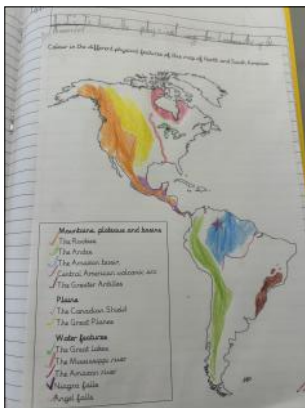


YEAR 6 UPDATE

Year 6 have had a fun and busy week of learning! In English, they have been developing their creativity by writing a backstory for Skellig, a character from their current class reading book. In maths, the children have been exploring algebra and working hard to apply new skills with confidence.

As part of the Justin Thompson project, we had a visit from Desree, a poet who is visiting Grasmere and inspired some thoughtful and imaginative work.

Alongside this, we've had a fantastic week producing some great artwork focusing on the artist Mary Cassat. It's been a brilliant week all round!



POETRY PERFORMANCES REMINDER

Our Poetry Performances will be taking place on **Tuesday 27th January**.

Over the past couple of weeks, as part of the Justin Thompson Project, children in Years 1 to 6 have been working with Desree, an award-winning spoken word artist, developing their confidence, creativity and performance skills. The children are very excited to share what they have been learning and creating. Parents are welcome to attend these performances.

Performance times are as follows:

Years 1, 3 and 5: 14:00

Years 2, 4 and 6: 15:00

GRASMERE BOOK BAGS



We have bought back Grasmere book bags with our new school logo printed on them. All children entitled to FSM have received a book bag for free. If you wish to purchase a book bag, they are £6.50 and you can do this any day after school on the gate for the next two weeks, after

this, you can buy them from the main office. If your child already has a Grasmere book bag, they are very welcome to continue using it. There is no need to purchase a new one unless you would like to.

SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATE



This week, Grasmere school councillors reviewed their work from the Autumn term and discussed what impact there has been from all the actions taken. We have seen several children receive tickets in the lunch hall for showing fantastic manners, saying please and thank you. We have also seen children going out of

their way to help keep the lunch hall a calm and relaxing environment for everyone. Stay tuned for more school council updates this term!

KEY DATES FOR THIS TERM

- Tues 27 Jan** Years 1—6 Poetry performances:
Yrs 1, 3 & 5 at 2pm Yrs 2, 4 & 6 at 3pm
- Thurs 29 Jan** Rec class assembly 3pm
- Fri 30 Jan** FROGS Cinema night 3.30—6pm
(Hoppers will still be running)
- Fri 6 Feb** Year 1 & 2 Maths parent workshop 9am +
FROGS Yr 3 cake sale
- w/c **Mon 9 Feb** Creativity Week
- Mon 16—Fri 20 Feb** Half term break
- Fri 6 March** Year 1 & 2 Phonics parent workshop 9am
- Thurs 12 March** Year 4 class assembly 3pm
- Fri 13 March** FROGS Yr 2 cake sale
- Thurs 19 March** Parent & Carer consultation evening
school closes early at 1.30pm for children
- Fri 20 March** Last day of specialist clubs
- Wed 25 March** Gymnastics performances
- Thurs 26 March** Year 2 class assembly 3pm +
FROGS Easter Egg Hunt
- Fri 27 March** Last day of Spring term -
school closes early at 1.30pm for children