



LEARNING EDUCATION ARTS PARTNERSHIP



# LEAP NEWS

Friday 6th February 2026

## SPANISH PHRASE of the week

¿Te gusta jugar en la nieve?.....*Do you like to play in the snow? ...*

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

## LEAP'S CREATIVITY WEEK

Next week all four LEAP schools will be taking part in our annual Creativity Week. Each year we use the National Gallery's Initiative, 'Take One Picture' to inspire our own unique LEAP project, 'Take Two Pictures', featuring a second artwork by a contemporary British artist from the global majority. Creativity is a special week at LEAP where all staff and children come away from the usual timetabled lessons and use their own art, drama and music to explore themes in paintings by famous artists. The teachers work with each other to create inspiring and fun sessions where children can explore aspects of the work to create a whole school and indeed federation of work that encourages expressive freedom and new ways of seeing.

This year the National Gallery has chosen Cosimo Tura's 'A Muse (Calliope?)', painted between 1455—1460 as their focus painting. This Renaissance painting is of one of the nine Muses from Greek mythology. The Muses were divine sisters who inspired the arts and sciences. Calliope is the Muse traditionally associated with poetry. If you would like to find out more about the painting, click on this [National Gallery link](#).



**A Muse (Calliope?) by Cosimo Tura**

## LEAP'S CREATIVITY WEEK CONTINUED.....

Our second artwork, chosen by LEAP is Lina Iris Viktor's mixed media work 'Eleventh' created in 2017—18 and is part of a series that merges self-portraiture with historical narratives. Lina is a British-Liberian artist and Eleventh is part of a series exploring and reimagining the founding of Liberia. In this piece the artist uses herself as a figure of the Libyan Sibyl. A sibyl was an prophetic priestess from Greek mythology, who guarded her writings that foretold the future.



**Eleventh by Lina Iris Viktor**

Children will be investigating ideas of self portraiture, identity and power, exploring links between art and history as well as thinking about fabric, pattern and how symbols can be used to create narrative.

Whole class displays will be created from the children's artworks and we'll feature photos of the displays in a later newsletter after the half term break.

We're really looking forward to seeing all the creative work that is produced next week across LEAP.

### LEAP SCHOOLS TAKE PART IN SPELLING BEE

For the second year running LEAP schools entered the Spanish Spelling Bee competition, held at Waterside Academy on Wednesday 4th February. The competition was fierce, with a total of 32 children competing in three heats to get to the final. In turn, children were read a Spanish word or phrase which they had to repeat and then spell out using the Spanish alphabet. Some were easy e.g. arroz while others were very tricky e.g. 'instalaciones' and 'sacar buenas notas'. It was a ruthless process, one mistake and you were out! Of the nine finalists there was one each from Grasmere, Gayhurst and Kingsmead. The children were so good that the organisers ran out of pre-learned Spanish words and had to start testing children on unseen words. Zoya from Kingsmead was one of the last standing and received a joint winners' trophy. We were so proud of all the children who took part.



**Assiya (Kingsmead)** - *'It was scary standing in front of everyone but I tried my best'*

**Lara (Gayhurst)** - *'When I got the microphone my heart started beating'*

**Christopher (Grasmere)** - *"I was complemented on my excellent pronunciation by a Spanish teacher at Waterside!"*

**Jahvari (Mandeville)** - *'I was excited to compete against other schools I didn't know'*

**Zoya (Kingsmead)** - *'I felt determined but quietly confident'*



### JUNIOR BAKE OFF

Love Productions, the production company behind The Great British Bake Off, The Great British Sewing Bee and The Great Pottery Throw Down, have recently opened applications for the 12th series of **Junior Bake Off**, a Channel 4 competition series celebrating Britain's young baking talent!

They are looking for young budding bakers between **9-15 years old** and interested bakers can apply online at

[www.applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.uk](http://www.applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.uk)

Filming would take place from July 2026, but applications close on **Sunday 15th March 2026**



### FELIX PROJECT: KITCHEN APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITY

The Felix Project who work with Kingsmead, Mandeville and Gayhurst to supply fresh produce for their free food shops, are recruiting for a Kitchen Apprenticeship training programme. This is an opportunity for **18—25yr olds** who are not in employment, education or training, and offers a valuable opportunity to gain hands-on culinary skills and real-life work experience, with the aim of supporting participants into permanent employment within the food sector. It is particularly suited to young people who may have struggled to find the right opportunity in their educational or professional journey.



- Full-time (37.5h a week), 14-month position paid at London Living Wage.
- Mainly based at the Felix Kitchen in Poplar, E14 7BN; occasional work experiences and events in other location in London.
- Apprenticeship contract combining training and paid work.
- Recruitment in February-March, program starting in April.

To find out more please contact Toto De'll Aringa, [toto.dell-aringa@thefelixproject.org](mailto:toto.dell-aringa@thefelixproject.org)

### JTP COMMUNITY COOKING PROJECT - CALL OUT FOR FAMILY RECIPES

Dear LEAP families,

As part of the Justin Thompson Project (JTP), we're excited to announce a series of fully funded cooking sessions for LEAP families, taking place over the next two months, at the Hackney School of Food.

We'd love to showcase family recipes and the stories behind them, cooking selected dishes together. For the first sessions, we're especially interested in recipes from **Caribbean, Turkish, Kurdish, and Irish** food cultures.

To help us plan, please click here to complete this short questionnaire by **Friday 13th February**: Paper copies of the questionnaire are available at your school's office if you'd prefer to complete a paper version. Thank you!





# GRASMERE NEWS



## GOLDEN AWARDS

Nur: **Rozalin** Yr 3: **Max**  
 Rec: **Albi** Yr 4: **Beatrice**  
 Yr 1: **Ela** Yr 5: **Christopher**  
 Yr 2: **Finn** Yr 6: **Rita**

## 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**

### APOLLO MUSIC PROJECT

On Thursday, year 4 were lucky enough to have a classical music performance by professional musicians live in our classroom! One of the pieces was by Mozart. It was very dramatic, which we all enjoyed.

We spoke about what we liked about the pieces as well as how they made us feel and what they made us think about, which was really interesting. We cannot wait for our next performance.



**Ediz**- *My favourite part was how calm it made me feel.*

**Vincent** - *I enjoyed every part of the workshop*

**Harrison** - *the music made me feel tranquil.*

This is part of an ongoing project with Apollo Music. Apollo Music is a charity that brings live classical music to children who might not otherwise experience it, with the aim of transforming children's lives through music, promoting wellbeing, self-confidence and creativity.



The series of live performances in the classroom with culminate in the thrilling spectacle of a full orchestra in concert at the end of the project.



### YEAR 3 NEWS



As part of Geography work Year 3 have also been looking at how different areas in the UK are used. Looking at similarities and differences between them. We went for a field trip to Stoke Newington round about. In this one area we have some very interesting uses of space. The next day we went for a field trip to Butterfield Green. Children were able to talk about the differences between the two areas.

*"There are a lot more shops and restaurants in Newington Green this is because it is an urban area"*  
**Marissa.**

*"There are two many trees to count in Butterfield Green,"* **Frida.**

*"There are lots of houses around this area,"* **George**



PTO



### YEAR 5 & 6 GIRLS FOOTBALL

It was a fantastic day for the Grasmere Girls Football Team. After a full season of competitive matches, the team earned their place in the Hackney Schools Grand Finals and rose to the occasion with an impressive performance against strong opposition.

The team showed determination, skill and teamwork throughout the match, handling the pressure of the final with confidence and maturity. Their commitment and hard work over the course of the season were clear to see on the pitch.

Well done to the Grasmere Girls Football Team on an excellent achievement and a season to be proud of.

*'It was great playing against other teams.'* – **Ricki- Leigh**

*'I loved it, it was a great trip.'* - **Kate**



### DT IN YEAR 6

This week Year 6 have been learning about mechanisms as part of their design and technology lessons. The topic was introduced by watching a video of a sandwich-making machine, which helped pupils understand different types of mechanisms, including levers, gears, pulleys and cams.

During the project, they reviewed and improved their designs. They discovered that sharp-edged followers created too much friction and that smoother, heavier followers worked better to stay in contact with the cam.

The children then built their own pulleys, gears and simple cams using materials such as cardboard, paper and split pins. By turning the cam, they were able to see how the follower moved up and down, helping them understand how mechanisms work in real-life designs.

They went on to use their mechanisms to make their own fairground rides.

*'I used two came to make my design.'*

– **Eni**

*'My design includes a plane!'*–

**Michael**

*'I really enjoyed making our designs come to life.'* – **Elif**



### FROGS NEWS



#### CINEMA NIGHT

Last week's Cinema Night was the perfect way to shake off the winter gloom. It

was lovely to cosy up indoors with good company, popcorn, and cushions, enjoying "Home" in the hall and "Octonauts: Ring of Fire" in the Early Years room.

A big thank you to everyone who helped make it such a warm and happy afternoon!



#### GRASMERE PUB QUIZ

Coming up next is the Grasmere Pub Quiz on **Wednesday, 25 February at 7 pm** at The Shakespeare. Tickets need to be purchased in advance via the FROGS website, so please don't leave it too late. We're also still looking for a few volunteers to help make chilli for the night. If you're happy to cook or lend a hand, please reach out to your class reps. Thank you!



### KEY DATES FOR THIS TERM

- 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
- Wed 25 Feb** FROGS event: Grasmere Pub Quiz 7pm at The Shakespeare
- Thurs 5 March** World Book Day
- 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 -