



LEARNING EDUCATION ARTS PARTNERSHIP



LEAP NEWS

Friday 27th February 2026

SPANISH PHRASE of the week

¿Puedo usar el sacapuntas?.... *Can I use the pencil sharpener?.....*

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

JTP SPRING 2026 UPDATE



#We are LEAP

Story ExchaNGE:
Connecting Cultures,
Connecting Generations.

This second half of Spring Term sees the launch of the next Justin Thompson Project strand: Story ExchaNGE. Story ExchaNGE is a cross-community, cross-generational storytelling project designed to deepen connections between families, neighbours, and community groups. When we share our stories especially to those whose experiences differ from our own, we open a window into our world. Sharing a story is an act of generosity: it offers insight, builds empathy, and strengthens relationships. Sharing our personal stories breaks down barriers and builds trust, understanding, and belonging.

Through art, audio, music, food and, and workshops families and the local community are invited to share meaningful stories and anecdotes from their lives. Watch future newsletters for news and updates on Story ExchaNGE events.

Story Boxes Family Workshop

1. Collect a box for each participant - a shoebox or an old picture frame (or any other box with a transparent lid) An A4 or A5-size box is ideal - though you can use square boxes, too.
2. Choose a background - you could use a piece of patterned wrapping paper, old photos, an old map, or a page from a magazine.
3. Gather items to tell your story

Now it's time to create your own personal story. Gather small objects that mean or symbolise something to you. You could include things like passport photos, puzzle pieces, scrabble letters, old stamps, photos, or clippings from magazines and newspapers.

Consider tools

Glue and scissors or a craft knife to cut out fine details. To raise things up in the box to create a sense of depth, use a layer of cardboard underneath the image or objects. To hang objects from the top of the box, use wire or string.



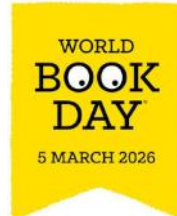
Elder Life Timeline

- **Activity:** Children and elder family members create a timeline of key life events (birthdays, moves, achievements) and share stories about each.
- **Benefits:** Builds narrative structure, memory, and personal identity.



WORLD BOOK DAY

**COME TO SCHOOL
DRESSED AS A CHARACTER
FROM A BOOK OR COMIC**



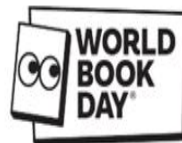
On **Thursday 5th March**, next week all four schools will be celebrating World Book Day. World Book Day is a special day when children and staff come to school dressed as a character from a favourite book or comic. So start planning your costume!

Please don't feel you have to buy a costume - we are hoping to see lots of homemade creations. You could make your costume using cardboard boxes, tin foil, an old sheet that you could draw on, face paints...whatever you have to hand at home! Get creative! Prizes will be given out at each school to the best home-made costumes.

If you need help with ideas [here's a link](#) to some ideas for how to make easy homemade costumes, and [another link](#) for a range of ideas linked to lovely children's books

NATIONAL BOOK TOKEN COMPETITION

To celebrate World Book Day and the UK's National Year of Reading 2026, sponsors National Book Tokens are inviting children of all ages to DESIGN A NATIONAL BOOK TOKEN for their annual competition.



**DESIGN
A NATIONAL BOOK TOKEN
COMPETITION**



To celebrate World Book Day and the UK's National Year of Reading 2026, National Book Tokens are inviting children of all ages to DESIGN A NATIONAL BOOK TOKEN for their annual competition. This year's winners will be selected by three very special guest judges. Deadline is Friday 27th March. Find your template and all details on how to enter at www.worldbookday.com



Follow us on Instagram: [@leapfederation](https://www.instagram.com/leapfederation)

KINGSMEAD'S READING CHAMPIONS JOIN TRIP TO TENERIFE!

Just before the half term brake, six of Kingsmead's Year 5 students were lucky enough to enjoy an exciting week long trip to Tenerife with their class teacher Jane. This was part of a Hackney Reading Champions visit which included children from five other Hackney primary schools, having an adventure on the Spanish island. Hackney's Music Service also had a group of Secondary School students who are part of their Classical Meets Jazz ensemble, take part in trip, making music links with older children on the island and representing Hackney's amazing musical talent.

The first days were spent in a local Spanish school, finding out more about school life there and trying out the children's Spanish language skills. There were new friends to be made in spite of the language differences and the students loved playtime with their Spanish classmates. They learned about the island's Carnival and took part in the school's marching band. They were so warmly welcomed by the staff and students of the school in Punta Brava, Puerto de la Cruz that it was quite emotional to say goodbye!

As well as experiencing school life, the children also got to venture into town, to splash in the sea pools, wander amongst the beautiful architecture, marvel at the musical skill of their fellow Hackney school students in the Classical Meets Jazz group's performance, visit the zoo, and spend a day at the beach swimming in the Atlantic.

All six children were wonderful ambassadors for Kingsmead and Hackney. They demonstrated open, curious minds and wholeheartedly threw themselves into every experience. We are very proud of them all! For many of the children attending it was their first ever trip away from home and their first trip abroad.

"It was very enjoyable and we were so lucky to go" -

Kimarni

"It was amazing to have such a fun and interesting opportunity" - **Anya**

A huge thank you to Jane for looking after all the children so well and her incredible dedication. We are truly grateful.



TENERIFE TRIP CONTINUED.....



FAMILY COACH SCREENTIME PARENT WORKSHOPS

Hackney's Family Coach service are hosting 4 workshops this half term around screentime, which parents might find very helpful. You can attend these sessions if you have a child with an identified SEND need who accesses a Hackney educational setting and/or lives in Hackney. :

Family Expectations Around Screentime.

Wednesday 4 March, 11 am to 12 pm at Hackney Service Centre 1 Hillman St, London E8 1DY

Transitions Between Screentime & Different Activities.

Tuesday 10 March 6 pm to 7.30 pm. Online.

Using Screentime as a Reward or Consequence.

Thursday 19 March 12 pm to 1.30 pm. Online.

Feeling Confident to Make a Change to our Family's Screentime. Monday 23 March. 1 pm to 2.30 pm. Hackney Service Centre 1 Hillman St, London E8 1DY

To join any, please email us confirming your child's school on familycoach@hackney.gov.uk



GRASMERE NEWS



GOLDEN AWARDS

Nur: **Wilfred** Yr 3: **Pasha**
Rec: **Isabella** Yr 4: **Harrison**
Yr 1: **Zac** Yr 5: **Magnus**
Yr 2: **Georgina** Yr 6: **Aran**

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**

CROSS COUNTRY EVENT

Well done to our Year 5 and 6 children who took part in a 2K cross-country event on Tuesday. They were running against 5 other schools and represented Grasmere School brilliantly!



FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

This week, our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils proudly represented Grasmere as they took part in football fixtures against other local schools.

The boys' team put in a fantastic performance, showing great teamwork and determination leading to a 5-3 win. Well done to all of the players for their effort and sportsmanship.

The girls' team also played with enthusiasm and resilience. Although the match ended in a 0-3 result, the team demonstrated excellent commitment and represented the school brilliantly throughout.

We are very proud of all the children who took part and thank them for being such positive ambassadors for Grasmere.



YEAR 4'S MUSIC WORKSHOP

This week Year 4 had their second session of the Apollo Music workshop.

Once again we watched two incredible performances by a string quartet. This week we listened to two new pieces by the Austrian composer **Joseph Haydn**.

In one of the pieces we were introduced to the musical technique of plucking, which we really enjoyed. We cannot wait to see a complete orchestra in our next workshop.

Karima: 'The plucking was really interesting to listen to.'



LIBRARY SUPPORT

We are looking for parent volunteers to support with organising our school library. We currently have a lot of books that need labelling and sorting. If you are able to give up some time to support it would be greatly appreciated. To offer your support you can either email info@grasmere.hackney.sch.uk or speak to Jacqueline or Bianca on the gate.



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.

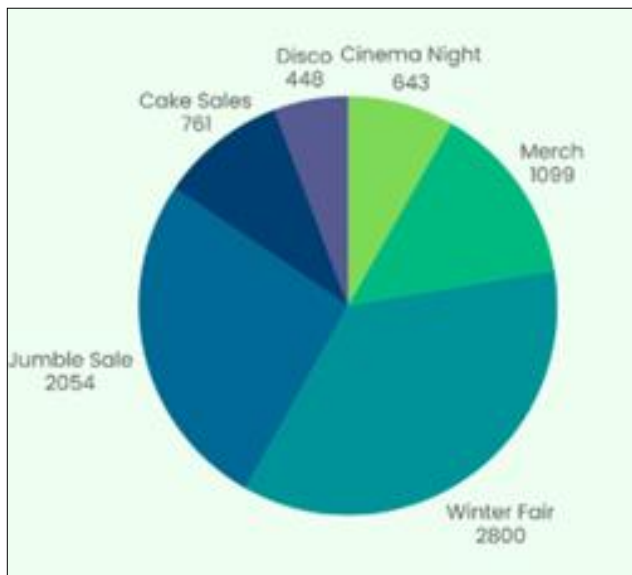
FROGS FUNDRAISING



Thank you to FROGS and all of the many parent volunteers who have given up their time to support the school.

So far this year, the FROGS team and parent volunteers have had cake sales, a winter fair, cinema night, jumble sale, disco and continue to sell Grasmere merch.

Below is a pie chart that shows the amazing impact these events have had on raising much needed money for the school.



As a result of all of the great fundraising, below is a list of the enrichment opportunities and school developments that otherwise wouldn't happen!

- Garden development
- Apollo 5 Music project
- Immersive Punchdrunk English experience in Year 4 (coming up)
- Outdoor and indoor equipment and resources for Nursery and Reception
- Whole school yoga workshops
- Author visit for World Book Day (next week)

When you volunteer, you're not just helping for an hour, you're helping make real enrichment opportunities possible for every child at Grasmere.

FROGS FUNDRAISING CONTINUED.....



DROP OFF AND COLLECTION

All parents must stay and supervise their children during drop off each morning. Teachers will collect classes in the playground at 08:55, before this, parents are responsible for supervising your children, ensuring they are lined up and ready to go inside to start their learning.

CLUBS AND HOPPERS COLLECTION

As the evenings are getting brighter, year 5 and 6 children who have provided the school with permission forms to walk home from school alone can resume from Monday. All children attending Hoppers until 6pm will still need to be collected by an adult.

KEY DATES FOR THIS TERM

- 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 + SEND Wellbeing Parent Workshop 9:15-10:45am
- 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