



LEARNING EDUCATION ARTS PARTNERSHIP



# LEAP NEWS

## Friday 27th March 2026

**SPANISH PHRASE** of the week  
Es un día hermoso..... *It's a beautiful day.....*

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

### JTP: PARENT & CHILD COOKING SESSIONS

As part of our ongoing Justin Thompson Project (JTP) we have been really fortunate to have been able to run some parent and child cooking sessions at the Hackney School of Food, over the last month. These have focused on Caribbean and Turkish/Kurdish dishes and have been a lovely opportunity for mums, dads, grandparents and carers to enjoy cooking with their child, in a mixed group of families from across all four of our schools. A few more sessions will run at the start of the summer term, which will include two sessions with Irish inspired dishes, to which we're hoping to welcome some of the Irish and Irish Traveller families from our LEAP schools.

Thanks to the team at the Hackney School of Food for hosting these lovely sessions. We've had some really nice feedback from parents & carers who've taken part so far.

We very much hope to be able to continue to offer these parent and child cooking sessions next year.



*"I enjoyed the communal spirit. It was lovely to be cooking with others. It was a nice skill to share with the children."* - **Annieth- Gayhurst parent**

*"It was great cooking with my son and others because this is not the norm. I learned how to cook fish differently."* - **Jamel - Gayhurst parent**

*"I really enjoyed spending time with my son and cooking one of my favourite dishes- Jollof. This experience was a great bonding time."* - **Alvan, Grasmere parent**

*"I had a wonderful experience with my son. This helped to build confidence and learn a new skill."* - **Zariyan's dad, Grasmere**

### PARENT & CHILD COOKING SESSIONS CONTINUED....

*"I couldn't believe how delicious the food we made was. I had a fun time with my grandson."* - **Irene, Mandeville**

*"I really liked spending time with my daughter and creating a core memory. I learned how to dice properly and loved cooking with my mum."* - **Taeyah-Mae and mum, Mandeville**

*"It was really exciting for my daughter and gave her lots of confidence. She enjoyed chopping all the ingredients."* - **Elizabeth and Rebecca, Kingsmead**

*"I learned how to be careful when cutting and also flavouring the food. It's a lovely bonding experience between parent and child."* - **Malachi and mum, Kingsmead**



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### PARENT & CHILD COOKING SESSIONS CONTINUED...



## END OF TERM MESSAGE FROM LEAP GOVERNORS

As the Spring Term draws to a close, we've been blown away by the achievements across all four schools. It has been a term where the shared vision of our schools has truly come to life, and as Co-Chairs, we are incredibly proud of the progress we have witnessed.

A highlight of this term has been seeing the ongoing success of the Justin Thompson project. It's been truly inspiring seeing the contributions from the children, families, staff and even the wonderful community from local poets to Hackney School of Food stepping in to share cultures, upbringings and identities that has fuelled meaningful connections.

Through governors recent school visits, we have had the opportunity to find out more about the project's impact firsthand, and it has been heartening to see such a high level of engagement and spirit. Alongside this, Creativity Week provided a spectacular showcase of talent. It was a privilege for the governing board to tour the schools and see such meaningful displays of self and belonging.

At governor visits across the curriculum this term, we've been incredibly pleased with the passions fuelling a rich and diverse education. Governors have also enjoyed meeting parents at the Parent consultation evenings which has been a great opportunity to directly engage with the school community. We'll keep attending these, so do pop along and visit us next time.

### END OF TERM MESSAGE FROM GOVERNORS CONTINUED...

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributes to our school life. To our families, for your unwavering support; to our staff, for your energy and inspiration; and to our leadership teams, for your clarity of vision and pivotal direction that guide our schools daily, thank you.

We are immensely proud of our Federation. There is a unique strength in our partnership that allows us to share expertise, resources, and successes. As we look toward a strong and exciting Summer Term, we do so with great anticipation for the final months of the academic year. We wish you all a restful and joyful Spring break.

**Shanielle Shrouder & Gill Brady**  
Co-Chairs of the Governing Board

## FREE BOOKS FOR UNDER FIVES

Do you have a child under 5? If you do—did you know you can sign up to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, which is open to any Hackney family with a child under five. You will

then receive free, age-appropriate books delivered straight to your home every month!

Registration is easy—click on this link:

<https://imaginationlibrary.com/uk/affiliate/HACKNEY/>



## LEAP SPRING HOLIDAY CAMPS

### MAKE SURE YOU REGISTER YOUR CHILD!

A four day Spring Holiday camp will be running at Gayhurst, for **Gayhurst** and **Grasmere** children and at Kingsmead for **Kingsmead** and **Mandeville** children on **Monday 30th March through to Thursday 2nd April**. The camps will run from 10– 2pm and will be staffed by school staff running a range of fun activities including sports and games, art activities, gardening sessions and more. The holiday camps will be for children from Reception class to Year 6.

If you haven't already booked, come along to the camp just before 10am and a member of staff will show you how to register....

## HACKNEY SCHOOL OF FOOD HOLIDAY CAMP DATES

Hackney School of Food are running a cooking holiday camp for children aged 7+ on the following dates:

Mon 30th March, Thurs 2nd April, Tues 7th April, Wed 8th April from 10am - 3pm

Cost is £40 per day (with a limited number of free tickets for families on low income)

You can find out more and links on how to book [here](#).



# GRASMERE NEWS



## GOLDEN AWARDS

Nur: **Whole class** Yr 3: **Olivia C**  
 Rec: **Asya** Yr 4: **Vincent**  
 Yr 1: **Ella** Yr 5: **Nouri**  
 Yr 2: **Whole class** Yr 6: **Johan**

## SUMMER TERM 2026

1st half of term: **13.04.26 - 22.05.26**  
 Half term: **25 - 29 May 2026**  
 2nd half of term: **02.06.26 - 17.07.26**  
**INSET days** - Mon 1 June & Mon 20 July

## GYMNASTICS PERFORMANCES

On Wednesday we had our Gymnastics Performances for all the classes and parents. It was an opportunity to show the wonderful work the children have been doing with our gymnastics teacher Autumn. The classes created presentations to showcase the skills they have learnt this half term in their gymnastics lessons. Their presentations included apparatus work, floor moves as well as lifts with other children. All were very impressed with the level of skill the children demonstrated and could see the hard work Autumn has put into each class in supporting the development of their gymnastic abilities.

**Olivia S** Yr 3 *"It was really fun even though there were lots of adults there, my Dad cheered me on and I felt supported."*

**Liam** Yr 1 *"I really liked the show it made me smile"*

**Zac** Yr 1 *"When I was doing the cartwheel it was fun"*



## YEAR 2 ASSEMBLY CONTINUED....

groups showed off books that we have been reading in class. The highlight of the assembly was the glockenspiel performance at the end – and we even had Hugo accompanying the performance on his accordion. What a lot of learning and fun to pack into one term!



## EID CELEBRATION

Last week we were delighted to welcome a group of parents into school who kindly volunteered their time to create beautiful henna designs on some of the children's hands as part of our Eid celebration. The activity gave children a wonderful opportunity to learn more about cultural traditions while enjoying a calm and creative experience.

The children were incredibly relaxed and engaged throughout the session, and it was lovely to see their excitement as the intricate designs were created. The parents also guided the children in contributing to a special collaborative artwork centred around the theme of "joy," reflecting the spirit of Eid and the happiness that comes with celebrating together.

*'Thank you so much for today. It was a beautiful celebration for Eid. The kids were such a delight & super relaxed. We did a lovely collaborative piece which was around 'joy'.'*- **Shabana** (Parent)



## YEAR 2 ASSEMBLY

The Year 2 assembly was a brilliant showcase of learning across the curriculum during Spring 2 – with each subject represented by a special team of ambassadors. The children demonstrated their gymnastics skills on the mat, while the cricket squad showed us how to bat, bowl and field during a match. The Maths group performed a lively experiment on mass, capacity and volume, and other

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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.



### HACKNEY SEND PARENT CARER WORKSHOP

Parents and carers from our school community recently attended a supportive and uplifting workshop led by the Hackney SEND Parent Carer Forum, focusing on stress management and wellbeing.

The session created a welcoming space for parents and carers to take time for themselves while learning practical strategies to manage the pressures that can come with supporting children with additional needs. Members of the Parent Carer Forum shared valuable information about different ways families can access support locally, as well as practical ideas for managing stress and maintaining wellbeing.

A highlight of the event was a visit from a professional massage therapist, who provided relaxing massages for parents and carers. This gave attendees an opportunity to unwind and enjoy a moment of calm during the session.

The workshop also encouraged open conversation, allowing parents to connect with others, share experiences, and learn from one another in a supportive environment.

At the end of the session, parents were each given a free goodie bag to take home as a small gesture of appreciation for their participation.

Many parents commented on how valuable it was to have time dedicated to their own wellbeing while also learning about the support available within the Hackney community.



### EXTREME READING

At Grasmere we love seeing our children develop a passion for reading—and now it's time to make it even more exciting! We are launching our Extreme Reading Challenge, and we're asking children to take a photo of themselves reading in an unusual, imaginative, or "extreme" place. Here are some ideas:

- Reading under a table
- Reading up a tree (with an adult nearby!)
- Reading in a tent or den
- Reading in fancy dress
- Reading with a pet
- Reading at the park

Once you've taken your photo, please email it in to [info@grasmere.hackney.sch.uk](mailto:info@grasmere.hackney.sch.uk). We'll be creating a whole school Extreme Reading Display to celebrate all our readers!



### FROGS NEWS

#### JUMBLE SALE

A big thank you to all the parents who gave up their time, shared their baking skills, lifted tables, filled bags, ran a stall, shopped, smiled and supported at the Jumble Sale last Saturday. **Over £1800** was raised in two hours! As always, Frogs are in close contact with the school to find out the school's priorities and wishlists. Then parent-raised money will be directed to activities, events and resources which will enrich the school experience for all Grasmere children. Our Frogs newsletter and website shares news of those events. Your class reps can show you where to sign up to the Frogs newsletter.

Thank you to Grasmere's Business Manager Mel Burrows for her help on the day also



### KEY DATES

**Mon 30 March—Thurs 2 April** - Gayhurst & Grasmere Spring Holiday camp at Gayhurst school 10 - 2pm daily

**Mon 13 April** Children return to school for start of Summer Term

**Mon 25 - Fri 29 May** Half term break

**Mon 1 June** INSET day— school closed to children

**Tues 2 June** Children return to school for second half of Summer Term

### HAPPY SPRING HOLIDAYS

Grasmere staff wish all our children and their families a happy spring break and we look forward to seeing the children **back at school on Mon 13th April for the start of the Summer Term.**