



LEARNING EDUCATION ARTS PARTNERSHIP



# LEAP NEWS

## Friday 8th May 2026

### SPANISH PHRASE of the week

Las flores son bonitas..... *The flowers are beautiful.....*

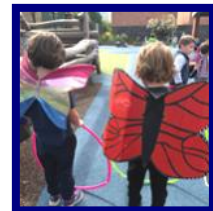
**Kingsmead, Gayhurst, Mandeville & Grasmere Primary Schools working in partnership**



### LEAP GO WILD!

To celebrate Sir David Attenborough's 100th Birthday today, children and staff dressed up as their favourite animal or insect today and what an amazing array of animal life we had on show. Happy Birthday David Attenborough and thank you for all you have done for the animal and natural world in your long career!

### LEAP GO WILD CONTINUED....



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### LEAP CENTRAL TEAM NEWS

There are some organisational changes taking place behind the scenes across the federation. As you know, Grasmere joined the federation this financial year, and from April we have now fully incorporated Grasmere into the combined LEAP budget.

We are really pleased to share that all four schools have been able to set individual in-year balanced budgets. All income for individual schools is spent on the children in that school but by having consolidated budgets we can make great savings on time, purchasing and specialist provision.

Even more encouragingly, our pupil numbers are going against the wider Hackney trend. Numbers have increased over the past year and continue to rise, with all schools operating waiting lists. This is a significant achievement, particularly at a time when many schools locally are seeing numbers fall well below their published admissions. This is a testament to children, parents and staff all working together to ensure our schools continue to be great places of learning and true community hubs.

As part of our continued development as a federation, we are pleased to let you know that **Mel Burrows**, School Business Manager at Grasmere, will now be working across all four schools, overseeing Business Operations. Mel will take on a key role leading on procurement, IT spending, premises compliance, health and safety, and kitchen and catering provision.

Mel will join our team alongside **Louise** (Executive Head) **Parveen** (Finance), **Camilla** (HR), and **Jatin** (Business consultant) and **Emma** (Communications lead). Mel is a fantastic addition to the central team and brings many years of experience in managing these areas across schools in Islington and Hackney. Mel will continue to be mainly based at Grasmere, and Parveen at Mandeville, Emma at Kingsmead with Louise and Camilla moving between schools.



Louise



Mel



Parveen



Camilla



Emma

### HACKNEY SCHOOL OF FOOD ON TOUR: A SUFFOLK ADVENTURE!

This June, the Hackney School of Food are packing up our aprons and taking our "Soil to Spoon" ethos on the road! We are incredibly excited to announce that Chef Tom is heading into the heart of the Suffolk countryside for a very special collaboration at Shimpling Park Farm. On **Saturday, 6th June**, the Hackney School of Food will be on tour, joining forces with an amazing collective of regenerative growers, micro-bakers, and local producers for the inaugural **Soil to Feast** event.

The day is designed to be a total immersion into the life cycle of our food. Rather than just watching from the sidelines, you'll be stepping directly into the process. Chef Tom will be leading a series of hands-on cookery classes where guests help craft the very menu we'll enjoy later that evening. You might find yourself mastering a specific dish under Tom's guidance, learning the patient science of sourdough fermentation from onsite baker Dom Biddle or heading out into the fresh air to harvest the micro-greens with Lara from Skool Beans crisp salads, and fragrant herbs that will garnish our plates. And if that wasn't enough, you'll be doing citizen science in the fields and getting creative with soil-based paint and plant-inspired ceramics!

It is a true celebration of the journey from the earth to the dinner table. You'll work alongside fabulous local suppliers to understand how healthy soil creates nutrient-dense food, culminating in a spectacular community banquet at the end of the day—a feast created entirely by the guests themselves.

Whether you are 8 or 80, this is a wonderful opportunity to swap the pavement for the pasture and gain a deeper connection to what we eat. Thanks to generous local funding, tickets are just £25 for adults and £15 for those aged 8–16, covering all your food, materials, and activities. We want this day to be accessible to everyone; if the cost is a barrier for your family, please reach out to Alice at [alice@shimplingparkfarm.co.uk](mailto:alice@shimplingparkfarm.co.uk) to enquire about the limited bursary vouchers.

We have also been speaking to a local transport company who may be able to run a bus from our local train station and back which would mean if any of your kids and their families wanted to come to the farm for the day..... it is possible!

Here is info on which train station to travel to and train times

**OUT** Liverpool Street 11.36 arrives Sudbury 13.21

**RTN** Sudbury 20.26 arrives Liverpool Street 22.14

Pack your curiosity (and some sturdy boots) and join us at **Shimpling Park Farm from 1.30pm to 7.30pm** for a day of growing, harvesting, and eating together! More info and booking can be found [here](#).





Nur: **Blanca**      Yr 3: **Atom**  
 Rec: **Ali Kaan**    Yr 4: **Sienna**  
 Yr 1: **Liam**        Yr 5: **Annabelle**  
 Yr 2: **Florence**   Yr 6: **Sam**

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

### YEAR 1'S BRUCE CASTLE MUSEUM TRIP

Last week, Reception enjoyed a wonderful day out at Bruce Castle, where they took part in a Gruffalo-themed workshop. The visit brought one of their favourite stories to life and created plenty of excitement.

The session began with the children settling in to listen to the much-loved tale of The Gruffalo. They were completely captivated, joining in with familiar phrases and eagerly anticipating what would happen next.

Following this, the children took part in a delightful Gruffalo tea party. They sat together, sharing snacks and chatting happily, while role-playing different characters from the story. The children then enjoyed creating their own Gruffalo inspired masks, which they proudly wore as they explored the museum. After a busy morning, everyone enjoyed their packed lunches before having a play in the local park.



*'My favourite part was wearing the Gruffalo costume!'* - **Junaid**



*'I liked making my mask and cutting it out'* - **Ares**



*'I liked looking at all the things in the museum and seeing the park'* - **Alexander**



### YEAR 4 VISIT APPLE STORE

This week, Year 4 enjoyed an exciting trip to the Apple Store for a fun and creative emoji-making workshop.

Using the digital art app Procreate, the children explored how professional artists create digital designs. They experimented with a range of brush strokes, colours, textures, and settings to bring their emoji ideas to life.

The Apple team were fantastic at guiding the children through the process, encouraging them to try new techniques and express their creativity.

The trip was a wonderful opportunity for the children to develop their digital art skills, build confidence using technology, and learning how we can use an iPad to be creative.

**Miles:** *'I really enjoyed learning how to draw on an iPad'*

**Essa:** *'It really helped me be creative'*

**Harrison:** *'It was really fun getting to make our own emojis.'*



### YEAR 6 SATs NEXT WEEK

Next week, from **Monday 11th to Thursday 14th May**, Year 6 will be completing their SATs. Our Year 6 children have been working really hard in preparing for the upcoming statutory tests. To support their preparation, we are encouraging all Year 6 children to attend our free breakfast club next week from 8.00am Monday -Thursday.

It is very important that ALL YEAR 6 CHILDREN are in school by 8.50am at the latest. Please make sure Year 6 children get lots of sleep and go to bed early so they are rested and ready to reach their full potential.

We are all very proud of all their hard work and preparation and we are looking forward to many exciting reward trips and fun activities in the upcoming weeks.

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### REMINDER: JOINT SCHOOL & FROGS PROJECT DAY

If you can volunteer tomorrow at our Project Day please let FROGS know, we would greatly appreciate any support. Also, if you have any gardening tools (shovels, wheelbarrows, trowels, spades, etc) please do bring them along. We will have light refreshments available.



### GRASMERE'S STEM FAIR

All families are welcome to our STEM fair that will be taking place on Friday 15th May after school from 3.45—4.45pm. Come and see all the amazing learning and activities that your children took part in during our recent STEM week.



### FROGS NEWS

#### CHESS EVENT

A final reminder of next week's Chess Event. Children and adults from within and beyond the LEAP schools are all very welcome to come and enjoy the challenge of playing against our very own International Chess Master, Ruth Sheldon. We are also looking for volunteers to bake and make delicious goodies to sell at the event and help support with setting up and tidying away.



#### ENTERPRISE FAIR

Advance warning for keen crafters and budding entrepreneurs - Grasmere's Enterprise Fair will take place after school on 12th June. This is a very different

#### FROGS NEWS CONTINUED.....

Frogs-run event because it is not a fundraiser for Frogs—the children are in charge and the money they make is their own to keep! Please keep an eye on your class whatsapp group for more info or ask Firuze or Kathy



#### NEXT FROGS MEETING

Advance notice of the next Frogs meeting - **Friday 22 May, 9am**, at school - open to all Grasmere parents, carers and staff.

#### KEY DATES THIS TERM

- Sat 9 May FROGS & school team project day
- Mon 11 - Thurs 14 May Yr 6 SATs
- Fri 15 May FROGS Chess contest 3.45—6pm + STEM Fair for all families 3.45 - 4.45pm
- Fri 22 May FROGS meeting open to all 9am
- Mon 25 - Fri 29 May Half term break
- Mon 1 June **INSET day— school closed to children**
- Tues 2 June Children return to school
- Tues 9 June Understanding Behaviours Parent workshop at 9.10am
- Fri 12 June Supporting transitions to Secondary parent workshop at 9:10am + FROGS Enterprise Fair 3.30pm
- Fri 19 June FROGS Nursery & Reception cake sale
- Weds 24 June Sports day
- Fri 26 June Supporting transitions for neurodiversity parent workshop at 9:10am
- Fri 3 July FROGS Year 6 Ice lolly Sale + Grasmere Summer BBQ
- Wed 8 July FROGS meeting open to all 8pm (location tbc)
- Sat 11 July FROGS Summer Fair
- Mon 13 July Year 6 End of Year performance 14:30
- Tues 14 July Drumming and Dance Performances Years 1, 3 & 5 at 14:00 Years 2, 4 & 6 at 14:45
- Weds 15 July Year 6 Leavers assembly- 3pm + Year 6 disco – 5pm-7pm +
- Fri 17 July Last day of Summer Term - **school closes early for children at 1.30pm**