



LEAP NEWS

Friday 5th September 2025



SPANISH PHRASE of the week

Bien venidos a la escuela..... *Welcome to school*

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

LEAP SUMMER CAMPS

We were delighted to be able to offer another amazing 3 weeks of Summer Camps for LEAP children, during the summer holiday: one at Kingsmead for **Mandeville & Kingsmead** children, and one at Gayhurst for **Grasmere & Gayhurst** children. **A huge thank you** to all the school staff who worked at the camp and made them such enjoyable experiences for the children, to the staff at The Hackney School of Food, who ran the cooking sessions that children took part in, to the Cycle Confident cycling instructors who worked with children at the Kingsmead & Mandeville camp and last but not least, to the **Kingsmead kitchen team** who made delicious hot lunches for the children at both camps every day.



We are thrilled to have recently been informed by Hackney Council that a further three year's funding means we will be able to continue to offer Spring and Summer holiday camps for LEAP children for the next three years.



LETTER FROM SCHOOL ON VOLUNTARY DONATIONS

All LEAP families will be receiving letters from their schools about voluntary donations to support their school with the costs of extracurricular activities.

MAKING US ALL PROUD AT LEAP!

Evelyn, the headteacher of Kingsmead, had the pleasure of visiting the Royal Academy in August to see **Asmah Nassimbwa's** amazing self portrait at the Young Artists' Summer Show 2025. It is such an achievement that her work is on display in such a prodigious building known for its exhibitions of work by famous artists.



Making art enriches young people's lives by developing a sense of free, flexible and independent thinking – skills that make them resilient to the challenges of an ever-changing world. Creating art can help us make sense of our lives and the world around us, and in looking at art we have opportunities to understand the lived experiences of others.



We are also very proud of **Noah D'Alo** from **Gayhurst** & **Lara Warwick** from **Grasmere** who are also featured in the online exhibition and of all our children in LEAP schools who entered, the standard of work was excellent.



As always at LEAP we focus on developing children's means of expression through visual and performing arts to help them develop and take pride in their own achievements. We invest heavily in the arts through specialist teachers, projects, visits and workshops and look for every opportunity to link express our knowledge and understanding creatively.

If you would like to know more about the exhibition here is a link

[Young Artists' Summer Show 2025 | Royal Academy of Arts](#)



YEAR 6 SECONDARY SCHOOL OPEN EVENTS

A reminder to all Year 6 parents and carers to make sure you visit as many secondary schools as possible, before making your secondary school choices. [You can find a list of Hackney's Secondary school open events and their dates here](#)

PTO

MARGARET RECEIVES SCHOOL CHEF LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Margaret Blairy, who recently retired from her role as Mandeville Primary school's head chef, where she worked for over four decades, has been crowned the winner of Chefs in Schools' inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award.

Over her 42 years of service, it's estimated Margaret served up around 2 million school meals, serving on average 250 pupils every school day.

As well as her work in the kitchen, during Covid Margaret helped set up the free food shop giving away food to local families and free school meals to children who needed them.

She hung up her school chef apron last year but was lured from retirement to speak at the recent Chefs in Schools Sustainability Conference at the prestigious Fishmongers Hall. After the Q&A she was surprised with the award. Margaret said: *"I am lost for words. Thank you. I committed to the job because it was for the children. I loved to cook for them."*

The job was only intended to be a short-term role to fit around family commitments while Margaret raised her own children, but leaving became impossible.

Margaret said: *"I fell more and more in love with the job and the cooking and feeding the children. It was a highlight when the children would come to the kitchen and ask for a favourite recipe to take home for their parents to cook. That was inspiring. What's kept me going is I found I was committed to making sure that the children were well fed. School food has changed a lot in forty-two years. It's no longer custard and cake or sponge with jam. There's a lot more fruit and vegetables, less sugar and salt. It's healthier now. It's nice that things change and for the better. It's good for the children and there's always something new to learn. It's a very rewarding job. It's nice when the children walk in and appreciate the food or come in through the gates excited to ask what's for lunch?"*

Louise, LEAP's Executive Headteacher and co-founder of Chefs in Schools, presented the award to Margaret. Louise said: *"Margaret was so important to the community and she embraced every challenge. The food was always great but when I wanted to change the menus and brought Nicole Pisani (Executive Chef at*

MARGARET'S LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD CONTINUED.....

Chefs in School) in to help us make it all from scratch, Margaret took it in her stride and made the food even better. Margaret is the kind of person who takes every idea and runs with it. She is very missed at the school and we are so grateful for everything she's done."

When asked how she'd like to be remembered at the school and what her legacy is, Margaret told the conference: *"I would like to be remembered as the chef who loved her job, loved cooking, loved serving the clients – and I mean the children because without them we wouldn't have a job, so I called them my clients. For my legacy, it would be the jerk chicken with rice and peas and the jollof rice. We were all proud of those dishes. And I shouldn't forget my Christmas tree biscuits – the children will miss those!"*

HACKNEY SCHOOL OF FOOD

After School Club

Hackney School of Food After School Club starts next week and there's still time to sign up! Come and try making simple and seasonal recipes every **Tuesday 3:45-5:15pm**, with recipes sent home to try again afterwards! Book for the whole or half term with low cost options available. For children aged 7+ [You can book here.](#)

Hackney School of Food is looking for parent/carer advisors!

Hackney School of Food is creating a parent & carer advisory group to help shape its future programmes. There's no experience necessary - being a parent or carer is more than enough! There are a number of benefits to joining such as discounts and free children's club places and we're especially keen to hear from LEAP families.

Find out more here or call Emma at the Hackney School of Food on **07395747296**



H&F

JOIN OUR PARENT/CARER ADVISORY GROUP

If you'd like a chance to shape the future of Hackney School of Food - we want to hear from you!

We're looking for parents and carers to join our brand-new Parent/Carer Advisory Board at Hackney School of Food.

What's involved:

- 3 informal and friendly meetings per year
- A chance to give feedback and share ideas

What you get:

- Up to 3 free holiday club places for your child
- 10% off workshops at Hackney School of Food

FILL IN OUR FORM TO APPLY!

COMMUNITY FUND

COMMUNITY EVENT AT EAST LONDON WATERWORKS PARK

East London Waterworks Park is hosting special launch events for their community research report entitled, 'Community Voices: Shaping East London Waterworks Park'.

The events will honour the voices, ideas & energy of local residents and community groups who contributed to the report and is supported by The National Lottery Community Fund and the Mayor of London, as part of the Mayor's Community Weekend 2025. The interactive events are open to all and drop-in, so people can learn about their findings and where the project stands, enjoy nature and craft activities for all ages, connect with neighbours and celebrate community-led design and help shape what comes next.

See flyer for the events that will be taking place on:

Sat 13 Sept 2025, 11.00am to 1.00pm

Sun 14 Sept 2025, 1.00pm to 3.00pm

Venue: Leaside Trust, Spring Lane Clapton London E5 9HQ.



Shaping East London Waterworks Park

Community Voices

Join us to explore the proposed biodiverse park shaped by local voices, with creative activities for all, and an inclusive co-design exhibition.

13-14 September 2025

Leaside Trust, Clapton E5
Saturday 11-1 pm
Sunday 1-3 pm



This event is supported by The National Lottery Community Fund and the Mayor of London, as part of the Mayor's Community Weekend 2025.



LOCAL MOVEMENT & RUNNING CLUBS FOR OVER 8s

Free running club and movement activities are on offer from local running charity the Out Runners.

These sessions are for children aged 8 and over.

All abilities are welcome.

They will be operating from Pembury Estate and Hackney Bridge...

see contact details and more information on the poster below.

The Outrunners also offer running sessions for adults. You can find out more about them on their website.

<https://www.theoutrunners.co.uk/running>




SPORTS & ACTIVITIES

MOVEMENT & RUNNING CLUBS FOR 8-18 YEAR OLDS

FREE ACTIVITIES ALL ABILITIES WELCOME



- Improve physical fitness
- Incentives for participation
- Holiday and weekend trips and races
- Build teamwork and leadership skills
- Build confidence and self esteem
- Socialising
- Nike kit as rewards

When? MON, WEDS, THURS
WHO? 8-18 year olds across Hackney and Newham
WHERE? Hackney Bridge & Pembury Estate

Contact
Sangeeta:
sangeeta@theoutrunners.co.uk
07562517308






@theoutrunners



GRASMERE NEWS



GOLDEN AWARDS

Nur: **Sophie** Yr 3: **George**
 Rec: **Mia** Yr 4: **Laith**
 Yr 1: **Leo** Yr 5: **Nina**
 Yr 2: **Amaia** Yr 6: **Isaiah**

AUTUMN TERM 2025

1st half of term: **02.09.25 - 24.10.25**
 Half term: **27 — 31 Oct 2025**
 2nd half of term: **03.11.25 - 17.12.25**
INSET days: Mon 1 Sept 2025,
 Thurs 18 & Fri 19 Dec 2025

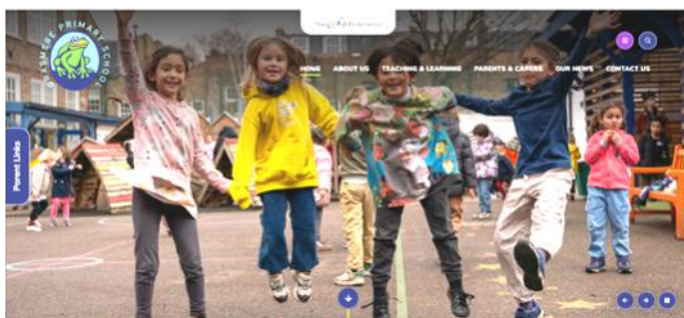
WELCOME BACK!

Welcome back to a new school year at Grasmere. We have had a fantastic start to the term, with children settling very well into their new classes, especially welcoming our new Nursery and Reception pupils, who are settling in so well. We are looking forward to continuing our enrichment offer and developing it further as the year progresses.

There has been lots happening over the summer to further develop our building and environment. We have installed a heat source pump which will help with lowering energy bills and reducing our carbon footprint. The ground floor toilets have been refurbished and are looking great!

New school website

We have also been building and developing our [new Grasmere school website](#) where you will find up to date information about the school, more information will be added as the term progresses.



Hello to some new faces

Grasmere are welcoming some new members of the staff team this term:

Danny Barrett is joining us as our Year 5 teacher alongside **Curtis Neesam, Jonah Mendel** is our new Year 4 class teacher and **Kashmir Gujra** is our new Reception teacher.



Danny



Curtis



Jonah



Kashmir

WELCOME BACK CONTINUED.....

Our 'Meet the Teacher' session will take place on **Wednesday 17th September** from **3:45 – 4:45pm**. This informal drop-in is a chance for parents to visit their child's classroom, meet the teacher, and see the learning environment.

Further down in this newsletter, you'll find key dates for the term, which are updated weekly with any new additions.

As always, members of the leadership team will be at the gates during drop-off and collection. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak with us directly or email info@grasmere.hackney.sch.uk to pass on messages to staff.

Thank you for your continued support as we begin another exciting year at Grasmere.

TRIPS CONSENT FORM

We are refining systems for gaining permission for school trips this year, to support parents and the environment. We are sending out an online trips consent form, where parents/carers give consent for children to attend all school trips from September 2025 - July 2026. This means you won't receive permission slips to sign for each school trip your child attends. We will email you a week in advance with the details of the trip so you are aware and give you the opportunity to support on the trip, if needed.

For trips which fall outside of school hours, are outside of London or involve extreme activities, we will still send home written individual consent forms. If your child is in Nursery, then we will still require written parental consent for all trips.

We are also looking at the best ways to manage packed lunches for trips. This year, we are asking parents to provide their children with a healthy packed lunch for any school trip that requires a lunch off site. If your child needs a packed lunch, this will be made clear in the email sent to parents the week before.

Please can you complete the trips consent form (click on the link below) by **Friday 12th September**.

[Grasmere Trip Consent Form 2025/2026](#)

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.

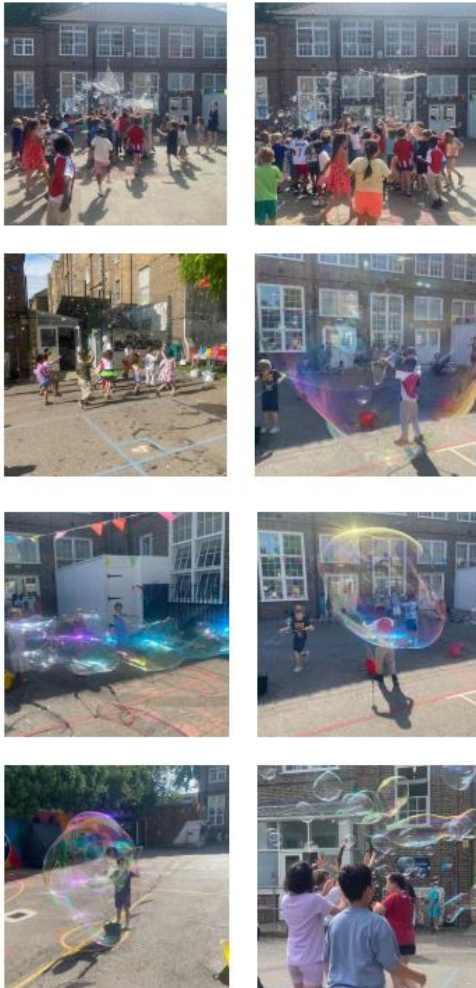


FROGS

MR BUBBLES EVENT

A huge thank you to FROGS, Grasmere's PTA group, for organising the great Mr Bubbles event for the last day of Summer Term.

As you can see from the photos, it was a lovely way for the children to end the school year and they all thoroughly enjoyed it. Special thanks to FROGS members **Mada & Darren** for their hard work, as well as helpers **Jay and Firuze!**



Watch this space for more information about FROGS activities this term, in the coming newsletters.

SCHOOL GATES

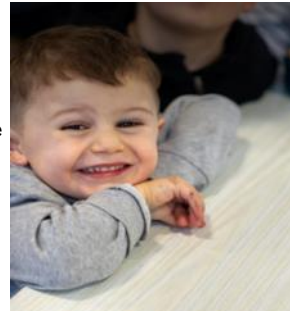
The school gates will be opened every morning for drop off at 08:50am. They will be opened for end of day collection at 03:30pm. We ask parents not to use the buzzer to gain access for drop off or collection earlier than the times above. The gate closes at 09:05am in the morning and at 03:40pm, after this time, you will need to enter via the school office. Drop off for Breakfast Club is from **8am. Last admission is 8.30am prompt.** There is no admission to this wrap-around provision after this time.

Reminder to all parents to please stay with your children until they have been handed over to the class teacher. Gates will not be opened any early, as we need to ensure school staff at present on the gates for safeguarding reasons.

JOIN US FOR LUNCH!

We'd love to invite **Reception parents** to come and enjoy lunch with their children on the days shown below. It's a lovely chance to share the lunchtime experience together and see a part of their school life!

If you'd like to join us, just pop into the school office to book your place.



Tuesday 16th September 12:00-12:30

Wednesday 17th September 12:00-12:30

Thursday 24th September 12:00-12:30



EMMY RESIGNATION

At the end of the summer term, Emmy resigned as an Assistant Headteacher at Grasmere. She has decided not to return to Grasmere after the birth of her second child. Emmy was a valued member of staff here at Grasmere and we wish her all the best in the future.

KEY DATES THIS TERM

- Mon 15 Sept** Specialist clubs start
- Wed 17 Sept** Meet the teacher 3.45—4.45pm
- Mon 22 Sept** Phonics workshop for Yr parents 9.15am
- Thurs 25 Sept** **Yr 5** class assembly 3pm
- Fr 26 Sept** **Yr 6** cake sale
- Mon 29 Sept** Phonics workshop for Reception parents 9.15
- Sat 4 Oct** FROGS Jumble Sale
- Tues 7 Oct** Year 6 residential meeting 5:30pm
- Thurs 16 Oct** **Yr 6** class assembly 3pm
- Fri 17 Oct** **Yr 5** cake sale
- Mon 27—Fri 31 Oct** Half term break
- Fri 7 Nov** FROGS Autumn Disco
- Thurs 20 Nov** **Yr 3** class assembly 3pm
- Fri 21 Nov** **Yr 4** cake sale
- Wed 3 Dec** Parent & Carer consultation evening
school closes early at 1.30pm for children
- Fri 5 Dec** FROGS Winter Fair
- Wed 17 Dec** Last day of Autumn term -
school closes early at 1.30pm for children