

SPANISH PHRASE of the week
Me gusta el otoño.....I like Autumn

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

LEAP'S YEAR 2 TOWER OF LONDON TRIPS

This week Year 2 children from **Gayhurst, Kingsmead** and **Mandeville** had their learning brought to life by visiting the incredible Tower of London! A time-travelling candle-maker and maid from 1666 showed them around the tower and shared lots of facts about the Great Fire of London. They saw a portrait of Samuel Pepys and acted out the fire starting in Thomas Farriner's bakery and then spreading through the narrow streets of wooden houses. They saw some real wooden buildings that existed in 1666 but were not burnt. They also saw the famous ravens, Tower of London guards and even the crown jewels! What an adventure for Year 2 historians! **Grasmere's** Year 2 class will be having their Tower of London visit next week.

Uma 2S - *'I really loved listening to the ravens. They were loud!'*

Rafi 2S - *'When the guards marched, they made me laugh. It was so funny.'*

Rosa TJ: 2L *"My favourite part was getting to see the biggest diamond in the world!"*

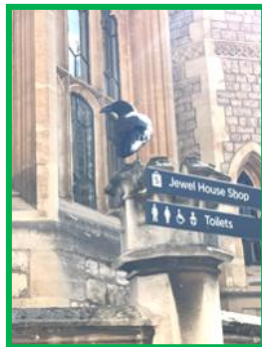
Nate 2L: *"I enjoyed the whole day because I love history!"*

TOWER OF LONDON TRIP CONTINUED...

'It was really fun acting out different parts of the story'.—
Salma

'We saw wooden buildings that survived the fire because they were inside the Tower of London'
- Jesse

'I liked pretending to be the maid, even though she didn't survive the fire!' - **Dejhari**



Lako - *'I thought the tower was going to be scary but I enjoyed it.'*

Angelusia - *'The tower looked so big, there are guards everywhere.'*

Hayden - *'I liked it. Best trip ever!'*



JUSTIN THOMPSON PROJECT

We are happy to announce that as a federation we have successfully applied for funds to run a project across all four schools in the federation. This project aims to increase the sense of belonging for all members of our school communities. We aim to do this through story telling. We will collect, celebrate, and share the stories of parents across our school communities, shining a light on the importance of parental involvement in the raising of our children.

We made a bid for a share of money allocated for Hackney schools to raise achievement in our schools. We looked at a common theme to increase engagement which is parental involvement by those who don't usually engage with school life. By hosting events in schools and classroom projects that include everyone and share our stories that brought us to where we are today, we hope to promote a shared understanding and pride in our shared experiences that lead to a greater understanding across differing groups and promote community cohesion. The project will be called the **Justin Thompson Project** named after one parent who enabled his son among many others. It will be the **JTP** for short.

More will be announced shortly, this term we will be working on the theme of the 'story of my name' through the project called simply 'my name'.

Our names are unique and help to shape our personal identities. How we got our names, who named us and why forms a rich narrative that contribute to our story. This will lead into next term and the theme of My Story My Story is a creative and therapeutic storytelling project designed to uplift underrepresented voices by capturing lived experiences from across Hackney. Through oral shorts, photography, video workshops, and community storytelling, the project provides a space for pupils, parents, and local role models to share their journeys with their own community and beyond.

Through the Justin Thompson Project, we will:

- Break down barriers between parents and schools.
- Inspire parents to champion their children's futures.
- Celebrate diversity, representation, and visibility in leadership.
- Create a lasting, living archive of real, local stories to inspire future generations

This is part of our approach and ethos and commitment to equality, diversity and actively promoting belonging, which we will sharing with you over the coming term so look here for updates and in your individual school announcements for workshops and activities linked to this project which will be shared in innovative and creative new ways!

POLITICAL IMPARTIALITY IN SCHOOLS

We would like to remind families that staff working in our schools, are bound by a legal and professional duty to remain politically impartial. This means that teachers and school staff cannot promote or display partisan political views while at work.

For example, staff are not permitted to wear badges, t-shirts or jewellery that express a political position (such as openly supporting one side in an international conflict). While there is no law that explicitly bans such displays, they risk conflicting with:

- The legal duty schools have to avoid promoting partisan political views.
- The professional standards requiring staff to remain neutral and avoid influencing children with personal views.

This does not mean that important or challenging issues cannot be discussed in school. On the contrary, children are encouraged to learn about current affairs, history, and political ideas. What matters is that these topics are presented in a balanced way, with different perspectives explained fairly. Staff are not permitted to share or promote their own personal opinions with the children. While schools may support humanitarian principles and have a zero tolerance of racism or 'hate speak' of any sort, they cannot engage in political advocacy. This is a very fine line to tread.

It's also important to note that school events such as International Evening are not political occasions. They are a chance for children and staff to celebrate and share their individual heritages, cultures and traditions in a positive, inclusive and non-political way.

Although we can ask that children and staff do not express partisan views in school, it is less clear cut when it comes to parents. We respectfully request that parents remain sensitive to others in our community who may hold different views, and support us in promoting harmony, mutual respect, and inclusion for all members of our school community especially whilst on school premises.

We hope this helps explain why we are all required to uphold neutrality in the classroom and across the school. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch through the usual channels.

BAGS OF TASTE FREE COOKING SESSIONS

This course of FREE cooking sessions is open to anyone receiving benefits to apply for and is particularly aimed at those needing support around food and/or cooking.

All skill levels welcome.

Save money and cook better than the takeaway

JOIN OUR FREE FUN COOKING COURSES
...all you need is a kitchen and a phone!

Free, fun cooking courses **AT HOME**
Cook great food in just two weeks!
Impress friends and family

Exciting meals can be quick, fun, easy and cheap to cook with our **FREE** (ingredients included), flexible, home-based short courses

To register
Phone or text/Whatsapp 07701 304 555
or email: hackney@bagssoftaste.org
or you can sign up online:
<https://bagssoftaste.org/students>

personal charities
HPC

Are you worried about the rising cost of food and how to eat healthily on a tight budget?

Then join one of our free, fun cooking courses. Learn how to make delicious, healthy meals from all over the world whilst saving money.

All you need is a kitchen and a phone!

About the course

- **FREE**, ingredients included*
- Cook tasty, healthy meals, cheaply
- Get tips on how to budget and save money when you're shopping
- Learn how to waste less

How does it work?

- We deliver three step-by-step recipes and all the ingredients you need, straight to your door
- Your personal mentor will support you by phone or WhatsApp with lots of tips and advice along the way
- At the end you'll get a free gift of wallet-friendly recipes

What do I need to do?

- All we ask is that you cook the three recipes and send us photos of your lovely food!

How long does it take?

- About two weeks but you can work at your own pace

How do I join?

- Register online: <https://bagssoftaste.org/students>
- Call/WhatsApp **07701 304 555**
- Email hackney@bagssoftaste.org

Once we've confirmed your registration we'll contact you to arrange your delivery

*For qualifying participants only

HACKNEY YOUTH CHOIR FOR YEAR 4-6 CHILDREN

Do you love to sing?

We are recruiting young singers to join the Hackney Borough Youth Choir (Yr4-6) & Senior Vocal Ensemble (Yr7+)

HBYC is an inclusive musical community that brings together singers from Hackney schools to regularly perform joyful, uplifting and diverse repertoire.

Join us for a free of charge taster session on Wednesday 24th September. For venue details & times, please call 020 3076 1535 or email xanthe.sarr@hackney.gov.uk, or scan the QR code for info & registration

Supported using public funding by

VOLUNTEERS FOR ADULT READING PROGRAMME

Readeasy Hackney teach Hackney adults with low literacy to read, on a one-to-one basis. They are urgently looking for volunteers.

@ReadEasyHackney

Can you read this?

1 in 14 adults in the UK struggle to read.
Volunteer in Hackney and be part of the change.

We are looking for **Coordinators** to ensure our Readers and Coaches have the day-to-day support they need on their reading journey.

Time commitment:
3+ hrs p/w (working hours)

To find out more call 07936 116 903 or email hackneyrecruiter@readeasy.org.uk



GRASMERE NEWS



GOLDEN AWARDS

Nur: **George** Yr 3: **Daya**
 Rec: **Ines** Yr 4: **Malique**
 Yr 1: **Lordiscy** Yr 5: **Jennifer**
 Yr 2: **Florence** Yr 6: **Michael**

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

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTION

Congratulations to our newly elected school councillors. We were so proud of all the children who prepared and presented their speeches in class this week – we have some very convincing children!

On Thursday, all classes took to the **ballot box** and voted for their representatives.

This year, our school council will meet with Jacqueline every two weeks to discuss issues that may arise, make suggestions and support with our school priorities. They can't wait to get to work!

School Council 2025-2026	
Year 1	Rory and Bailey
Year 2	Gerard and Lottie
Year 3	Adam and Frida
Year 4	Bruno and Sienna
Year 5	Gabriel and Gisele
Year 6	Malachi and Lara



PHONICS WORKSHOP REMINDER

We are hosting a Phonic Workshop for Year 1 parents on **Monday 22nd September at 9:15am**. This session will give you the chance to see how phonics is taught in school and learn ways of supporting your child with reading at home. We look forward to seeing you there!

GOLD TOKENS

At Grasmere, we always want to celebrate positive choices children make. Gold Tokens are given to children when they make good choices, this might be showing kindness to others, working hard in class, or making thoughtful choices around the school. Every token given is a way of showing children that their efforts are valued.

The tokens are collected weekly and go towards and the two classes with the highest amount of tokens at the end of a term will receive a prize, this is usually an additional school trip. Previous trips have included exciting activities like ice skating and visits to the cinema, giving children a memorable way to celebrate their success together.

KEY DATES THIS TERM

- Mon 22 Sept** Phonics workshop for Yr 1 parents 9.15am
- Thurs 25 Sept** Yr 5 class assembly 3pm
- Fr 26 Sept** Yr 6 cake sale
- Mon 29 Sept** Phonics workshop for Rec parents 9.15am
- Tues 7 Oct** Year 6 residential meeting 5:30pm
- Fri 10th Oct** Introduction to Mental Health coffee morning
- Sat 11 Oct** FROGS Jumble Sale
- 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 21st Nov-** Supporting Emotional Regulation coffee morning
- Fri 21 Nov** Yr 4 cake sale
- Thurs 27 Nov** International Evening & FROGS 40th Anniversary Event 4.30—6.30pm
- Wed 3 Dec** Parent & Carer consultation evening
school closes early at 1.30pm for children
(Hoppers still available)
- Fri 5 Dec** FROGS Winter Fair
- Mon 15 Dec** Drumming and Dance Performances
Year 1 and 4 at 2pm
Year 2, 5 and 6 at 2:30pm
- Wed 17 Dec** Last day of Autumn term -
school closes early at 1.30pm for children

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 NEWS

Frogs has a busy schedule of events this term. Take a look at the poster below to see what's planned and when. We are always looking for volunteers so please get in touch. More information

AUTUMN TERM 2025

FROGS event calendar

For more on our Parent Teacher Association, see friendsofgrasmere.com

about FROGS and our events and how to contact us can be found [here](#).

GARDEN DEVELOPMENT CONTINUED...



GARDEN DEVELOPMENT

This week Nina Lovelace and a team of volunteers came in and worked tirelessly to clear out, weed and sort through our garden. Our garden is a priority to develop further and thanks to the volunteers, we have made huge progress! We all want to thank Nina and her team for taking time out of their day to dedicate to clearing out this space. Below are some of the areas that have been worked on:



- Cutting back and weed planter/ gardening zone – reusing the cuttings for a deadhedge.
- Setting up the new loose parts zone - moving storage boxes, removing excess tyres and logs.
- Setting up mud and water play zone in the corner - moving the mud kitchens across.
- Setting up a mini habitat zone - creating a small deadhedge and a log pile for minibeast in the corner.

PE KITS

Reminder that all children must bring in a P.E kit on the days they have P.E. This information is shared on curriculum letters.

P.E kits include:

- T-shirt
- Trousers or shorts
- Trainers (not cros or sandals)



MUSIC TUITION

We still have space for in school music tuition on Wednesday and Thursdays. If you are interested, please contact the main office by emailing info@grasmere.hackney.sch.uk.

Below are the instruments for which tuition is available:

- Flute
- Clarinet
- Saxophone
- Trumpet
- Trombone



MOBILE PHONES & SMART DEVICES

At Grasmere, we are not allowing children smartphones or any smart devices in school. Although there are many benefits, there is plenty of evidence that smartphone use has negative effects on the wellbeing and mental health of children and can also lead to safeguarding concerns. We hope you all will support us with this decision.

