



LEARNING EDUCATION ARTS PARTNERSHIP



# LEAP NEWS

## Friday 10th October 2025

### SPANISH PHRASE of the week

El otoño es muy bonito..... *Autumn is very pretty .....*

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

## MANDEVILLE CHOIR AT THE LANG LANG GALA

The Mandeville Primary School choir took to the stage on Wednesday, 8th October, performing at an exclusive gala concert-dinner in Park Lane, central London, at a fundraising event for the Lang Lang International Music Foundation UK.

'Music Heals' was a celebration of the power of music to connect, engage and inspire children from all cultures and backgrounds to the transformative power of music, and celebrate the work of the Lang Lang Foundation in the United Kingdom. Alongside Mandeville Choir there were performances from the world-famous pianist and foundation founder, Lang Lang, plus renowned musician Jools Holland and rising scholars from the foundation's Young Scholars Programme.

The Mandeville choir opened the show with a stirring rendition of Adele's hit, Rolling in the Deep, which was received with rapturous applause by the guests assembled for the evening's entertainment.

The opportunity for Mandeville's choir to perform at the gala arose from the school's partnership with the Lang Lang International Music Foundation's 'Keys of Inspiration' initiative; an innovative project using a state-of-the-art piano lab and digital learning platform, donated by the Foundation, to enable the school to deliver to whole-class piano lessons.

Music is central to the LEAP Federation's offer to children across all our schools. Mandeville's school choir, formed in 2024, provides an opportunity for pupils aged between 7 and 11, who have a passion for singing, to develop their skills and perform together. Participating children, chosen through auditions, meet for weekly rehearsals to learn repertoire from a range of musical traditions and cultures.

**James Moriarty**, Music Lead for Mandeville, said: *"This has been a real game-changer for us in terms of boosting the profile of music, and singing in particular, at Mandeville.*

*Opportunities to perform alongside musical luminaries such as these are something to be treasured."*



### MANDEVILLE CHOIR AT LANG LANG GALA CONTINUED....

Mandeville's Headteacher, **Marc Thompson**, added: *"Mandeville's curriculum is founded on ambition and empowerment, and the Lang Lang Foundation's partnership is adding an incredible new dimension to that. While we already provide an outstanding education, the 'Keys of Inspiration' programme has made whole-class piano lessons a reality, deepening the musical fluency of all our students and offering an excellent opportunity to develop our fantastic choir as well as our talented young pianists. Seeing our choir rise to the occasion last night was such a proud moment for all involved. Our students didn't just sing; they embodied our school's vision of a 'Rich, Relevant and Representative' curriculum."*



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### MANDEVILLE CHOIR AT LANG LANG GALA CONTINUED....

*"It was the best day of my life. I felt like a celebrity, all eyes were on us as we performed on the stage and the hotel was so nice."*

**Ariam**, year 5

*"Everything was amazing, the fact that I experienced it with my friends was the best part."*

**Courage**, year 6

*"I will never forget this day, we sang really well together, and then we enjoyed a fancy nugget meal."*

**Esila**, year 3



## NEW LEAP PARENT GOVERNORS

Following our call out for nominations for parent governors a couple of weeks ago, we are pleased to announce that two parents have put themselves forward and as there are two vacancies, they will both go forward to the next governing body meeting as full governors without the need of a full election; Sarah Fox is a parent from Kingsmead and Erin Borham s a Gayhurst parent. The governing board now has good representation of parents on it overall, with two governors who are parents from Grasmere, two from Gayhurst, one from Mandeville and one from Kingsmead. Parents who are governors are not parent representatives but bring a parent's perspective to decisions and discussions, all governors work for the good of the children and staff in all four schools.

We are very grateful to our governors who give their time freely and provide a wide range of perspectives, expertise and additional skills that they bring to the board. For more details on the governing board please go to the LEAP Governing Body page in the About Us Section of your school's website. Our two new governors have written their own introductions below.



*I'm **Sarah**, originally from Ireland, and I have two kids in Kingsmead. I am an economist with 20 years of experience working in international development with a focus on expanding access to essential health services in Africa and South Asia. A major focus of my career has been working with national and local governments*

### LEAP PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION UPDATE CONTINUED..

*to design and secure funding secure funding for policies and strategies that promote access to and uptake of health services, particularly among marginalised groups. As part of my company's senior leadership team, I understand the challenges of operating in a very resource constrained environment, where difficult decisions need to be made about how to prioritise spending while keeping a focus on quality and equity.*

*I love living in Hackney and I have huge appreciation for Kingsmead and the important role it plays in our community. I am really looking forward to bringing my skills and perspectives to support the ongoing success of the LEAP federation.*



*I'm **Erin**, mum to two children at Gayhurst school. Prior to having my daughters, I had a career in Fashion Marketing but have since traded in shoes and handbags for hard hats and drills, as I now help run our family business in construction. I hope my energy, skills and experience in building relationships, communicating and balancing resources will enable me to help bring to life the vision and values of the LEAP Federation.*

*I am passionate about education and believe every child deserves the opportunity to thrive. I look forward to supporting the federation in its continued success*

*When I'm not working or with the children, I enjoy visiting galleries and exhibitions and walking our dachshund, Goose.*

## HACKNEY SCHOOL OF FOOD HALF TERM CLUB

This October half term, kids can cook up a seasonal feast and get hands-on in the garden at Hackney School of Food's Kitchen Garden Chef Club (27– 31 Oct, 10am-3pm).

£40 per day, with a limited number of reduced-cost places at £12.50 for families on free school meals [Click here to book your child's place.](#)



**KITCHEN GARDEN CHEF  
OCTOBER HALF TERM CLUB**

### WHY WE TEACH BLACK HISTORY 365 @ LEAP

At LEAP we believe that Black history and culture should be taught beyond Black History Month. We advocate for the continuous celebration and learning of Black and Global Majority history and culture beyond the confines of Black History Month. As Hackney based schools, we see the richness and diversity within our communities and saw the need to develop a framework that ensured that our schools had a rich, relevant, representative, responsive and critically thoughtful curriculum. We created the LEAP Empowerment Curriculum, weaving Black and Global Majority history and culture across the subjects and throughout the year.

We are deeply committed to ensuring that every child feels seen, valued, and represented in what they learn.

While Black History Month offers a valuable opportunity to celebrate and spotlight the contributions of Black and Global Majority individuals and communities, our approach extends well beyond a single month. Black history is an integral part of British history and world history. The achievements, experiences, and influences of Black people have shaped every aspect of our society; from science, medicine, literature, and politics to art, sport, and culture. It is therefore essential that these stories and perspectives are woven meaningfully into our curriculum all year round.

By embedding Black history across subjects and throughout the year, we:

- Promote inclusion and belonging. Every child should see themselves and others represented in the stories we share and the history we teach.
- Develop a fuller understanding of our shared past. Learning about the contributions and struggles of Black people helps children appreciate the complexity and richness of our collective history.
- Challenge stereotypes and promote equality. By exploring diverse experiences and voices, we encourage pupils to think critically, question unfairness, and develop empathy for others.
- Inspire and empower. Learning about Black role models and change-makers helps children see the power of perseverance, creativity, and courage in shaping a better future.

A move away from the "edited" version of the past

By embedding black and global majority history into the curriculum, we ensure that difficult but essential chapters of British are not only acknowledged but become a core part of the national story.

### WHY WE TEACH BLACK HISTORY 365 @ LEAP CONTINUED....

Our curriculum reflects the belief that Black and Global Majority history is not separate from "mainstream" history, it is mainstream history. From early years through to upper Key Stage 2, we include a diverse range of books, topics, and classroom discussions that highlight contributions from people of African, Caribbean and Global Majority heritage, as well as broader stories of migration, identity, and community. Our goal is for the values of Black History Month, **respect, understanding, equality, and pride in diversity**, to be reflected in our everyday teaching and school culture.

By teaching Black and Global Majority history all year round, we are helping our children to develop a more accurate, inclusive, and inspiring world view, one in which every story is valued and every voice matters.

### IMPACT

**Ongoing Recognition:** To move beyond a single month of celebration and acknowledge the continuous presence and impact of Black and Global Majority people and cultures.

**Broader Education:** To provide a platform for learning about Black and Global Majority history, culture, and narratives that are often overlooked or excluded from mainstream education.

**Community Engagement:** To connect residents, children, and staff with their local cultural heritage and with the diverse histories of their communities.

**Challenging Narratives:** To address historical inaccuracies and to "reclaim" and highlight untold stories and achievements of Black and Global Majority communities.





# GRASMERE NEWS



## GOLDEN AWARDS

Nur: **Wynne**    Yr 3: **Marissa**  
 Rec: **Eyla**    Yr 4: **Bruno I**  
 Yr 1: **Nina**    Yr 5: **Ricki-Leigh**  
 Yr 2: **Bryson**    Yr 6: **Daniel**

## 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

## EMPOWERMENT FRAMEWORK MEETING

Thank you to all the parents who attended our presentation and discussion on the LEAP Empowerment Framework, and to all those who contributed throughout the session - it was really valuable for school leaders to hear your thoughts. We understand parents are keen that school is responsive to world issues and that children are given tools to discuss news as it arises. This presentation shared our dedication to diversity, equity and actively promoting belonging in our school. All the materials from the meeting can be found on our school website here: [Parent Workshops & Meetings.](#)

Information around our Empowerment Framework and Curriculum can also be found on our school website here: [LEAP Empowerment Framework](#)  
[LEAP Empowerment Curriculum](#)



## YEARS 3 & 4 ENJOY PADDINGTON EXPERIENCE

On Thursday 2nd October we went to the Paddington Bear Experience, the tickets were kindly donated to the Federation and Year 3 and Year 4 were delighted to be able to have the opportunity to go on this usually very expensive experience. The children pretended to travel on a train into the immersive world of Paddington. The children then travelled through various Paddington bear rooms following a story and search for oranges to make Paddington's famous marmalade. The children loved the experience and the actors that brought the experience alive they totally engaged with the experience and believed they were in



## YEAR 3 & 4 PADDINGTON EXPERIENCE CONTINUED.....

Paddington's world. We all really loved meeting Paddington at the end of the experience.

**Adam** "I liked it so much and the actors played it so well"

**Jewel** "I liked it when we were in the Peru jungle looking for bits for the amazing marmalade machine"

**Felix** "I just felt I was actually in Paddington Bear world"



## KEY DATES THIS TERM

- Sat 11 Oct** FROGS Jumble Sale 10.30 - 12.30
- Tues 14 Oct** Drop in Secondary School application support session 9—10am
- Thurs 16 Oct** **Yr 6** class assembly 3pm
- Fri 17 Oct** **Yr 5** cake sale
- Mon 20 Oct** Drumming & Dance parent workshop 3.30—4.30pm
- Mon 27—Fri 31 Oct** Half term break
- Fri 14 Nov** FROGS Autumn Disco
- Thurs 20 Nov** **Yr 3** class assembly 3pm
- Fri 21 Nov** Coffee Morning: Supporting Emotional Regulation 9.10-10am + **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** Yr 1 Nativity performance 9.30am + FROGS Winter Fair
- Mon 15 Dec** Drumming and Dance Performances Year 1 and 4 at 9.30am  
Year 2, 5 and 6 at 10:30am
- Wed 17 Dec** Last day of Autumn term -  
**school closes early at 1.30pm for children**

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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.

### YEAR 5 ENJOY MATLIDA SHOW

Year 5 had a real treat booked this Wednesday. All this term, we have been counting down to our trip to see Matilda at the Cambridge Theatre. We travelled in to the West End to see the matinee performance and it did not disappoint. The set design, music, singing, acting and special effects were out of this world. We all gasped as Miss Trunchbull grabbed a cast member by



the pigtails, swung her around and launched her into the seats above - only to have her drop down from the rafters and walk away unscathed. We spent most of the bus journey back trying to figure out how they had done it. Lots of us could identify with Matilda's love of reading and escaping into a story. Some of our creative writers could give the main character a run for her money in terms of



imagination! To top it all off, we even got to have ice-cream in the interval!

A huge thank you to Edith's parents for sourcing the tickets. It was a day all of us (adults included) won't forget!



**Sianna** - "I loved the songs - I learned them before we came!"

**Leo** - "The characters walked right by us up the middle - Miss Trunchbull was huge"

**Eliyah** - "It was really great, I loved being at the theatre with my friends".

### FROGS JUMBLE SALE

We look forward to seeing lots of Grasmere families and friends at our October jumble sale, tomorrow, **Saturday 11th October from 10.30—12.30.** This is one of our biggest fundraisers. Thanks in advance to everyone who volunteers, donates their jumble, or comes along to shop and support!



### KAPLA WORKSHOP

What an exciting week we've had! Every class, from our tiniest Nursery builders right up to Year 6, took part in an amazing KAPLA workshop.

The sessions were led by Jennifer, who showed us just what's possible with a little imagination, teamwork, and thousands of KAPLA planks! The children worked together to build the most incredible structures, from towering castles and bridges to intricate patterns and creative creatures made entirely out of wooden blocks.

It was wonderful to see every child so engaged, problem-solving, sharing ideas, and supporting one another. The excitement built (literally!) throughout the day, and the grand moment when everyone got to knock down their creations was a real highlight!

A huge thank you to Jennifer and FROGS for such a fun and inspiring experience. The children absolutely loved it!



*'I was ready good and it looked really cool at the end!'* - **Sonny**

(Year 4)  
*'I like building!'* - **Junaid**  
(Reception)



### YR 6 SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATION SUPPORT

If you would like support in applying for your child's secondary school space, please attend this drop-in session on **Tuesday 14th October between 9-10am.** This will be a session where laptops are set up and we can support with making secondary school applications.