

LEAP NEWS

Friday 5th December 2025

SPANISH PHRASE of the week

Veo a mi familia en navidad..... I see my family at *Christmas*

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

KINGSMEAD'S YEAR 1 AT DAUBENEY FIELDS GREEN FLAG CELEBRATION

Year 1 children from Kingsmead and Daubeneby Primary Schools came together last Friday to celebrate the Green Flag Award which Daubeneby Fields, (the park that sits right next to Kingsmead school), was awarded in the summer. The Award recognises over 10 years of hard work by the Hackney Council Parks team and the local community to improve the park for local residents - with a new natural play area, renovated skate park, improved paths and entrances, outdoor gym, wildflower meadows, cherry blossom trees and other habitat enhancements. Kingsmead school children have played their part in winning this award by helping to sow wildflower meadows in the park. The Park Green Flag complements the eco-schools Green Flag also won by Kingsmead School this summer.

The Green flag was raised up the flagpole for the first time by Hackney's Mayor, **Caroline Woodley**, joined by the Deputy Mayor, **Anntoinette Bramble**, our three local councillors and the council's parks team.

Children from the two schools marked the occasion by sowing Hackney's first 'chalk wildflower meadow' next to the Flag. A chalk meadow provides a special kind of pollinator habitat.

Caroline Woodley, Hackney's Mayor said: *"My Deputy Mayor and I were so impressed when we met with the schoolchildren! We asked them lots of questions about why it's important to make our parks accessible, beautiful and exciting places where they can enjoy nature and play. They knew all about planting seeds and showed us how it's done – we had a lot of fun! Thank you to everyone for making the day so cheerful, sunny and bright!"*

Gerry Tissier, Community Ecologist at EcoACTIVE and project lead for the Hackney Buzzline said: *"Did you know that Kingsmead is short for King's Meadow? Who knows whether a king really had a meadow here but there were certainly meadows buzzing*



DAUBENEY FIELDS GREEN FLAG CELEBRATION CONTINUED..

with bees and butterflies. The Hackney Buzzline wants to bring these beautiful and important pollinators back to Daubeneby Fields and children from Kingsmead School are helping make the magic happen! Big thanks to the Year 1 classes who were out on Daubeneby Fields last week sowing a wildflower meadow fit for a king!



PTO



Follow us on Instagram: @leapfederation

HACKNEY SCHOOL OF FOOD IS RECRUITING NEW DIRECTORS

Hackney School of Food is looking for [three New Board Directors](#) to help guide and strengthen their community food education work. This is an exciting opportunity to support Hackney School of Food, a Community Interest Company, that is making a real difference to children, families, and communities across Hackney.

As a Board Director, you'll play a key role in:

- Shaping our strategic direction
- Supporting fundraising and partnerships
- Championing our mission locally
- Ensuring our long-term financial sustainability

The team at School of Food are particularly keen to hear from people with experience in fundraising or income generation, business development or social enterprise, or those with strong networks in Hackney and East London.

If you bring relevant skills or expertise, or if you're passionate about food, community, and creating positive change, this could be the role for you! Find out more about [applying here](#)



HACKNEY'S FAMILY COACH SERVICE

At the start of Spring Term, Hackney's Family Coach service are offering a range of different support for families with children with special educational needs and disabilities (no formal diagnosis or EHCP necessary to access this support). Take a look at what is on offer.

The Family Coach Service's 5 week
Building a Behaviour Toolbox Parent Empowerment Group
Wednesdays 1pm -2.30pm @ Hackney Service Centre
STARTING WEDNESDAY 14TH JANUARY

All families with a child that has a need within **any of the 4 areas of SEND** are welcome
We are a needs based service. **No EHCP or formal diagnosis** is needed.

4 Areas of SEND		14TH JANUARY	21ST JANUARY	28TH JANUARY
Communication & Interaction	Cognition and learning	What's already in your behaviour toolbox?	Understanding your child's behaviour	Responding to your child's behaviour
Social, Emotional & Mental Health	Sensory and Physical	4TH FEBRUARY	11TH FEBRUARY	<i>"Coming to the group helped me realise I'm not alone in this"</i>
		Repairing after challenging moments	Preventing parental burnout	

There are **10 spaces available**. We ask that families are able to attend **all 5 sessions**.
To sign up send an email to familycoach@hackney.gov.uk

FAMILY COACH SERVICE OFFERS CONTINUED...

Understanding Autism Training

Are you waiting for assessment or does your child already have an Autism Diagnosis?

Are you curious and would you like to know more about Autism?

"Helping to develop good autism practice"

Understanding Autism Training for Parents

Wednesday 21st January 10am - 12pm @ Hackney Service Centre, 1 Hillman Street, London, E8 1DY

Tuesday 10th February 11.30am - 1.30pm ONLINE

Thursday 19th March 6pm - 8pm ONLINE

Sign me up!

familycoach@hackney.gov.uk
Let us know which session you'd like to attend. We look forward to working with you!

Family Coach Service

Winter Wellbeing Walks 2026

For parents of children with **special educational needs and disabilities**.
No formal diagnosis or Educational Health Care Plan necessary.

All walks will meet at [Hackney Service Center](#)

<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Friday 16th January 12pm-1pm</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: blue;">A walk for focus</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">Take notice to your surroundings whilst focusing on your own choices</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Friday 30th January 12pm-1pm</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: blue;">A walk to change</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">An opportunity to view the changing seasons and reflect on how you might change.</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Friday 13th February 12pm-1pm</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: blue;">A walk to appreciate</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">Take a moment to notice all the beauty and excellence around you</p>
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To sign up please email: familycoach@hackney.gov.uk

Can't make the walks but still want to be part of the community?
Please email us to be sent the walks to complete in your own time.

NEXT NEWSLETTER OF AUTUM TERM

There will be no newsletter next week on Friday 12th December. Instead we will be issuing a final newsletter for this Autumn Term on the last day of school - **Wednesday 17th December**.



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

GREEN TOKEN	Class	Tokens
Rec, Year 1 & 2	2S	105
Year 3 & 4	3J	278
Year 5 & 6	5/6D	114



GOLDEN AWARDS

NH - **CHLOE**
 RPG - **ENZO**
 RS - **OSMAN**

1A - **LEO**
 1M - **MAIA**
 2L - **BELLA**
 2S - **GALIA**

3J - **AVA**
 3E - **LUNA**
 4A - **CIAN**
 4RA - **SHAVELL**
 4RT - **HIRA**

5E - **ADELAIDE**
 5F - **ZIGGY**
 5/6D - **GENE**
 6J - **LAND**
 6C - **LAITH**

CHESS TOURNAMENT AT THE EMIRATES STADIUM

On Thursday a team of 10 Gayhurst children attended a chess tournament at the Emirates stadium. The children all attend after-school chess club at school each week. When they arrived, they had some coaching from a CSC (Chess in Schools and Communities) tutor before the tournament started. They also had a tour of the Emirates Stadium. The children performed brilliantly and came second in the whole tournament- what a fantastic achievement! Well done to all of the children involved.

'I found it enjoyable, it was hard but I loved it!' – River (year 3)

'I did better than I thought' – Rami (year 4)



RECEPTION & YEAR 1 VISIT A CHURCH

This week, our Reception and Year 1 children enjoyed a wonderful visit to St Michael's and All Angels Church as part of their learning about special places and celebrations. The children were warmly welcomed by the church community and had the opportunity to explore the beautiful building, noticing features such as the stained-glass windows, the altar and the font.

They listened carefully as Reverend Lisa explained the significance of these features and shared stories

REC & YR 1 VISIT A CHURCH CONTINUED...

about why the church is an important place for Christians. The children asked thoughtful questions and showed great curiosity throughout the visit. A highlight of the trip was joining in a short reflection time, where the children learned about kindness and caring for others.

We are so proud of how respectful and engaged the children were during the visit. Thank you to the staff and volunteers at St Michael's and All Angels Church for making us feel so welcome.



EXTENDED DAY & BREAKFAST CLUB - JANUARY UPDATES

We have seen an increase in demand in our wraparound care at both ends of the school day and in order to continue offering the extensive range of specialist clubs and childcare, we need to make the following changes from January:

Booking: You will need to make all bookings for the upcoming week by 8am on Monday mornings – this is for Breakfast Club, Short Extended Day and Long Extended Day. There will no longer be an option to book on the day. We will accommodate emergency situations wherever possible. If you request the admin staff to book for you, a charge will be applied. A late collection charge of £1 per minute will be applied to all children collected late from both Extended Day and Specialists clubs at 5:45pm & 6pm.

On Fridays, due to the lack of demand and to support staff wellbeing, there will be Short Extended Day only. All children must be collected by **4:45pm**. This will start on **Friday 10th January**.

PTO

PANTO FUN AT GAYHURST

What an amazing time we had at this year's pantomime! The whole school gathered in the hall for a spectacular performance of **Dick Whittington** and it was full of laughter, singing, and plenty of "He's behind you!" moments.

The children were absolutely captivated by the colourful costumes, catchy songs, and hilarious jokes. There were cheers, giggles, and even some very loud boos for the baddies! It was wonderful to see everyone joining in and enjoying the magic of live theatre.

A huge thank you to the performers for bringing so much joy to our school, and to all the staff who helped make the event run smoothly. Experiences like these create lasting memories for our pupils and remind us how special it is to come together as a school community. We can't wait for next year's pantomime – oh yes we can!

A big thanks to COGs and everyone of you who has donated money over the year that pays for special events and visits like this for the school. We couldn't do it without you!



POTTERY ENTHUSIASTS WANTED!

We are looking for someone who would like to run after-school pottery clubs for our children. We're lucky to have our very own kiln, so this is a fantastic opportunity to share your expertise and inspire young artists.

If you're interested or know someone who might be, please contact clubs@gayhurst.hackney.sch.uk for more details.

SPORTS NEWS

Well done to our **boys and girls football teams** who took part in the Queensbridge 5-a-side tournament this week. Both teams showed great teamwork, skill, and determination throughout their matches, representing the school brilliantly. We're proud to share that both teams have qualified for the play-off round in the New Year. Well done, everyone!

Over the past few weeks, several members of our Year 5 and Year 6 **Cross Country team** have been taking part in a series of local cross country runs held at Hackney Downs, proudly representing Gayhurst. The pupils have shown fantastic determination, resilience, and team spirit in every event. Their hard work has been paying off, and we are incredibly proud of their efforts and achievements. Well done to all who have taken part!



WINTER FAIR 2025

This Saturday (tomorrow) is the CoGS Winter Fair! Come any time between 12 and 4pm for fun including: arts and crafts, K-pop

Karaoke, sports activities, games and tombola, wreath-making, face painting and much, much more!

It's £1 for adults; children go free and get 2 Gayhurst Pounds to spend at the fair.



START OF SCHOOL DAY

The start of the school day has been challenging over the last few weeks, due to the increasing numbers of children arriving late to school. The gates will be open from **08:50am** so that there is time for children to drop bikes and scooters and still be on time to school. The bell will ring at **08:55am** each morning so that children are in classrooms to start their day at **9am**. At **09:05am** the gates will be locked and children will then have to sign in at the office as late.

Please support us in making the start of the day run smoothly for everyone.

KEY DATES FOR THIS TERM

- Sat 6 Dec** COGs Winter Fair 12—4pm
- Mon 8 Dec** Yr 1 Nativity performances:
1M at 11am and 1A at 2pm in middle hall
- Tues 9 Dec** Gymnastics performances
2pm - 2S, 3J & 4RT, and 3pm - 4A & 6C
- Fri 12 Dec** **Drumming & Dance performances**
2pm - 4RA, 5/6D & 5F, and 3pm - 1M & 3E +
Last day of specialist clubs
- Mon 15 Dec** Christmas Lunch & Festive jumper day
- Tues 16 Dec** Class parties in afternoon
- Wed 17 Dec** Last day of Autumn term -
school closes early at 1.30pm for children