

LEAP NEWS

Friday 6th February 2026

SPANISH PHRASE of the week

¿Te gusta jugar en la nieve?.....*Do you like to play in the snow? ...*

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

LEAP'S CREATIVITY WEEK

Next week all four LEAP schools will be taking part in our annual Creativity Week. Each year we use the National Gallery's Initiative, 'Take One Picture' to inspire our own unique LEAP project, 'Take Two Pictures', featuring a second artwork by a contemporary British artist from the global majority. Creativity is a special week at LEAP where all staff and children come away from the usual timetabled lessons and use their own art, drama and music to explore themes in paintings by famous artists. The teachers work with each other to create inspiring and fun sessions where children can explore aspects of the work to create a whole school and indeed federation of work that encourages expressive freedom and new ways of seeing.

This year the National Gallery has chosen Cosimo Tura's 'A Muse (Calliope?)', painted between 1455—1460 as their focus painting. This Renaissance painting is of one of the nine Muses from Greek mythology. The Muses were divine sisters who inspired the arts and sciences. Calliope is the Muse traditionally associated with poetry. If you would like to find out more about the painting, click on this [National Gallery link](#).



A Muse (Calliope?) by Cosimo Tura

LEAP'S CREATIVITY WEEK CONTINUED.....

Our second artwork, chosen by LEAP is Lina Iris Viktor's mixed media work 'Eleventh' created in 2017—18 and is part of a series that merges self-portraiture with historical narratives. Lina is a British-Liberian artist and Eleventh is part of a series exploring and reimagining the founding of Liberia. In this piece the artist uses herself as a figure of the Libyan Sibyl. A sibyl was an prophetic priestess from Greek mythology, who guarded her writings that foretold the future.



Eleventh by Lina Iris Viktor

Children will be investigating ideas of self portraiture, identity and power, exploring links between art and history as well as thinking about fabric, pattern and how symbols can be used to create narrative.

Whole class displays will be created from the children's artworks and we'll feature photos of the displays in a later newsletter after the half term break.

We're really looking forward to seeing all the creative work that is produced next week across LEAP.

LEAP SCHOOLS TAKE PART IN SPELLING BEE

For the second year running LEAP schools entered the Spanish Spelling Bee competition, held at Waterside Academy on Wednesday 4th February. The competition was fierce, with a total of 32 children competing in three heats to get to the final. In turn, children were read a Spanish word or phrase which they had to repeat and then spell out using the Spanish alphabet. Some were easy e.g. arroz while others were very tricky e.g. 'instalaciones' and 'sacar buenas notas'. It was a ruthless process, one mistake and you were out! Of the nine finalists there was one each from Grasmere, Gayhurst and Kingsmead. The children were so good that the organisers ran out of pre-learned Spanish words and had to start testing children on unseen words. Zoya from Kingsmead was one of the last standing and received a joint winners' trophy. We were so proud of all the children who took part.



Assiya (Kingsmead) - *'It was scary standing in front of everyone but I tried my best'*

Lara (Gayhurst) - *'When I got the microphone my heart started beating'*

Christopher (Grasmere) - *'I was complemented on my excellent pronunciation by a Spanish teacher at Waterside!'*

Jahvari (Mandeville) - *'I was excited to compete against other schools I didn't know'*

Zoya (Kingsmead) - *'I felt determined but quietly confident'*



JUNIOR BAKE OFF

Love Productions, the production company behind The Great British Bake Off, The Great British Sewing Bee and The Great Pottery Throw Down, have recently opened applications for the 12th series of **Junior Bake Off**, a Channel 4 competition series celebrating Britain's young baking talent!

They are looking for young budding bakers between **9-15 years old** and interested bakers can apply online at

www.applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.uk

Filming would take place from July 2026, but applications close on **Sunday 15th March 2026**



FELIX PROJECT: KITCHEN APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITY

The Felix Project who work with Kingsmead, Mandeville and Gayhurst to supply fresh produce for their free food shops, are recruiting for a Kitchen Apprenticeship training programme. This is an opportunity for **18—25yr olds** who are not in employment, education or training, and offers a valuable opportunity to gain hands-on culinary skills and real-life work experience, with the aim of supporting participants into permanent employment within the food sector. It is particularly suited to young people who may have struggled to find the right opportunity in their educational or professional journey.



- Full-time (37.5h a week), 14-month position paid at London Living Wage.
- Mainly based at the Felix Kitchen in Poplar, E14 7BN; occasional work experiences and events in other location in London.
- Apprenticeship contract combining training and paid work.
- Recruitment in February-March, program starting in April.

To find out more please contact Toto De'll Aringa, toto.dell-aringa@thefelixproject.org

JTP COMMUNITY COOKING PROJECT - CALL OUT FOR FAMILY RECIPES

Dear LEAP families,

As part of the Justin Thompson Project (JTP), we're excited to announce a series of fully funded cooking sessions for LEAP families, taking place over the next two months, at the Hackney School of Food.

We'd love to showcase family recipes and the stories behind them, cooking selected dishes together. For the first sessions, we're especially interested in recipes from **Caribbean, Turkish, Kurdish, and Irish** food cultures. To help us plan, please click here to complete this short questionnaire by **Friday 13th February**: Paper copies of the questionnaire are available at your school's office if you'd prefer to complete a paper version. Thank you!





SPRING TERM 2026

1st half of term: 05.01.26 - 13.02.26

Half term: 16 - 20 Feb 2026

2nd half of term: 23.02.26 - 27.03.26

GREEN TOKEN	Class	Tokens
Rec, Year 1 & 2	2L	94
Year 3 & 4	4RA	267
Year 5 & 6	5/6D	300



GOLDEN AWARDS

NH - **AYDIN**
RPG- **YASH**
RS - **OLIVER**

1A - **AVERY**
1M - **DUKE**
2L - **KALYA**
2S- **HEATH**

3J - **NOAH**
3E - **OTTO**
4V - **SAM**
4RA- **ALIA**
4RT- **WHOLE CLASS**

5E - **MILLIE-MAY**
5F - **NITISH**
5/6D - **RAFE**
6J- **KIT**
6C - **JACQUES**

CENTRE OF THE CELL TRIP

Year 5 and 6 enjoyed an exciting and educational trip to the Blizard Institute and the Centre of the Cell. In the morning, pupils tackled a simulated virus outbreak, identifying symptoms and running diagnostic tests on sample sets to determine the source of infection. They drew on a wide range of scientific skills—careful observation, analytical thinking, teamwork, and precise data handling—to solve the challenge like real researchers.

In the afternoon, children stepped into an immersive world of cell science, using interactive games and simulators to explore how cells function and keep our bodies healthy. It was a captivating, hands-on experience that brought real-world science to life for all involved.

"I really enjoyed the trip to the Centre of the Cell, it was absolutely incredible. It felt like we were real scientists!" – **Max** 5/6D

"I learnt so many new and interesting facts. IT felt like we were actual scientists tackling a pandemic!" –

Lana 5/6D



CENTRE OF THE CELL TRIP CONTINUED.....



YEAR 6 WORKSHOPS

On Wednesday, children in Year 6 had a visit from Hackney Museum. During their workshop, the children looked at the contents of different suitcases to learn about the people who have lived in Hackney, during different periods, over the past 200 years. There were lots of clues inside the suitcases, including artefacts, clothing and maps to help the children learn about people who lived Hackney. The suitcase from Victorian times, linked well to our book Street Child set in Victorian London. The children proved they were already very knowledgeable about living conditions for people during this time.

Kyrus (6C) " It was really enjoyable. We got to see how lives were for the past generations of people living in Hackney."

Gur (6C) "It was really fun. We got to touch and read things from the past. I learnt things about Hackney that I didn't know before."



NURSERY & RECEPTION CLASS NEWS

NURSERY - In the Nursery, we have been taking advantage of the cold weather to explore freezing and melting. The children love their Forest School sessions and really enjoyed making bird feeders, as well as taking part in the RSPB 'Big Garden Bird Watch'. The binoculars were very popular!

'We were looking for birds, I liked the binoculars. I saw some pigeons!' - **Hercules**



RECEPTION

This week Reception have been busy! We have been practicing our balances in gymnastics both on our own and independently. We have been exploring measurement in maths. We used scales to explore heavier, lighter and balance and used water and sand to explore capacity with different sized containers. Finally in Forest School we created art inspired by Andy Goldsworthy and we removed the bark from sticks with peelers. We have had so much fun!



6C's RAGGED SCHOOL MUSEUM TRIP

On Tuesday 3rd February 2026, Class 6C visited The Ragged School Museum. The museum was London's largest Victorian Ragged School, which was opened by Dr Barnardo in 1877. It was built with the poorest of children in mind; with the hope of providing them with a place of safety, breakfast and dinner, and a formal education. 6C were given the opportunity to step back in time and experience a strict lesson in a Victorian classroom.

"I enjoyed having to act in role and being treated like a Victorian child. This helped me to understand what life was really like at that time."

Mia

"I liked the fact that we were able to act and that I was able to learn more about Victorian

currency." **Rufus**

"The trip was amazing! I really enjoyed learning about the life of Victorian children in the Ragged School."

Laith



KEY DATES FOR THIS TERM

w/c **Mon 9 Feb** Creativity Week

Mon 16—Fri 20 Feb Half term break

Thurs 26 Feb 4V class assembly 3pm

Thurs 5 March World Book Day +
3E class assembly 3pm

Thurs 12 March 5/6D class assembly 3pm +
Y3 & 4 #TAG opening 4:30-6pm

Thurs 19 March Parent & Carer Consultations 1:50-7pm
School closes at 1:30pm for all children

No clubs or Extended Day

Fri 20 March Comic Relief Fundraising +
Additional Parent & Carer Consultations
for NH 1:30-3:30pm

Tues 24 March Gymnastics Performances:
2:40pm-1M & 2L and 3pm- 3E & 6J

Fri 27 March Drumming & Dance Performances:
10am- 4V, 2S & 6C and 11.30am-1A & 5E +
Last day of Spring term -

school closes early at 1.30pm for children

Mon 30 March to Thurs 2 April - Gayhurst Spring
Holiday camp 10 - 2pm daily