



LEARNING EDUCATION ARTS PARTNERSHIP



LEAP NEWS

Friday 27th March 2026

SPANISH PHRASE of the week
Es un día hermoso..... *It's a beautiful day.....*

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

JTP: PARENT & CHILD COOKING SESSIONS

As part of our ongoing Justin Thompson Project (JTP) we have been really fortunate to have been able to run some parent and child cooking sessions at the Hackney School of Food, over the last month. These have focused on Caribbean and Turkish/Kurdish dishes and have been a lovely opportunity for mums, dads, grandparents and carers to enjoy cooking with their child, in a mixed group of families from across all four of our schools. A few more sessions will run at the start of the summer term, which will include two sessions with Irish inspired dishes, to which we're hoping to welcome some of the Irish and Irish Traveller families from our LEAP schools.

Thanks to the team at the Hackney School of Food for hosting these lovely sessions. We've had some really nice feedback from parents & carers who've taken part so far.

We very much hope to be able to continue to offer these parent and child cooking sessions next year.



"I enjoyed the communal spirit. It was lovely to be cooking with others. It was a nice skill to share with the children." - **Annieth- Gayhurst parent**

"It was great cooking with my son and others because this is not the norm. I learned how to cook fish differently." - **Jamel - Gayhurst parent**

"I really enjoyed spending time with my son and cooking one of my favourite dishes- Jollof. This experience was a great bonding time." - **Alvan, Grasmere parent**

"I had a wonderful experience with my son. This helped to build confidence and learn a new skill." - **Zariyan's dad, Grasmere**

PARENT & CHILD COOKING SESSIONS CONTINUED....

"I couldn't believe how delicious the food we made was. I had a fun time with my grandson." - **Irene, Mandeville**

"I really liked spending time with my daughter and creating a core memory. I learned how to dice properly and loved cooking with my mum." - **Taeyah-Mae and mum, Mandeville**

"It was really exciting for my daughter and gave her lots of confidence. She enjoyed chopping all the ingredients." - **Elizabeth and Rebecca, Kingsmead**

"I learned how to be careful when cutting and also flavouring the food. It's a lovely bonding experience between parent and child." - **Malachi and mum, Kingsmead**



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PARENT & CHILD COOKING SESSIONS CONTINUED...



END OF TERM MESSAGE FROM LEAP GOVERNORS

As the Spring Term draws to a close, we've been blown away by the achievements across all four schools. It has been a term where the shared vision of our schools has truly come to life, and as Co-Chairs, we are incredibly proud of the progress we have witnessed.

A highlight of this term has been seeing the ongoing success of the Justin Thompson project. It's been truly inspiring seeing the contributions from the children, families, staff and even the wonderful community from local poets to Hackney School of Food stepping in to share cultures, upbringings and identities that has fuelled meaningful connections.

Through governors recent school visits, we have had the opportunity to find out more about the project's impact firsthand, and it has been heartening to see such a high level of engagement and spirit. Alongside this, Creativity Week provided a spectacular showcase of talent. It was a privilege for the governing board to tour the schools and see such meaningful displays of self and belonging.

At governor visits across the curriculum this term, we've been incredibly pleased with the passions fuelling a rich and diverse education. Governors have also enjoyed meeting parents at the Parent consultation evenings which has been a great opportunity to directly engage with the school community. We'll keep attending these, so do pop along and visit us next time.

END OF TERM MESSAGE FROM GOVERNORS CONTINUED...

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributes to our school life. To our families, for your unwavering support; to our staff, for your energy and inspiration; and to our leadership teams, for your clarity of vision and pivotal direction that guide our schools daily, thank you.

We are immensely proud of our Federation. There is a unique strength in our partnership that allows us to share expertise, resources, and successes. As we look toward a strong and exciting Summer Term, we do so with great anticipation for the final months of the academic year. We wish you all a restful and joyful Spring break.

Shanielle Shrouder & Gill Brady
Co-Chairs of the Governing Board

FREE BOOKS FOR UNDER FIVES

Do you have a child under 5? If you do—did you know you can sign up to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, which is open to any Hackney family with a child under five. You will

then receive free, age-appropriate books delivered straight to your home every month!

Registration is easy—click on this link:

<https://imaginationlibrary.com/uk/affiliate/HACKNEY/>



LEAP SPRING HOLIDAY CAMPS

MAKE SURE YOU REGISTER YOUR CHILD!

A four day Spring Holiday camp will be running at Gayhurst, for **Gayhurst** and **Grasmere** children and at Kingsmead for **Kingsmead** and **Mandeville** children on **Monday 30th March through to Thursday 2nd April**. The camps will run from 10– 2pm and will be staffed by school staff running a range of fun activities including sports and games, art activities, gardening sessions and more. The holiday camps will be for children from Reception class to Year 6.

If you haven't already booked, come along to the camp just before 10am and a member of staff will show you how to register....

HACKNEY SCHOOL OF FOOD HOLIDAY CAMP DATES

Hackney School of Food are running a cooking holiday camp for children aged 7+ on the following dates:

Mon 30th March, Thurs 2nd April, Tues 7th April, Wed 8th April from 10am - 3pm

Cost is £40 per day (with a limited number of free tickets for families on low income)

You can find out more and links on how to book [here](#).



SUMMER TERM 2026

1st half of term: 13.04.26 - 22.05.26

Half term: 25 - 29 May 2026

2nd half of term: 02.06.26 - 17.07.26

INSET days - Mon 1 June &
Mon 20 July

GREEN TOKEN RESULTS	Class	Tokens
Rec, Year 1 & 2		
Year 3 & 4		
Year 5 & 6		



GOLDEN AWARDS

Look out for the first Golden Award names for Summer Term, in the first newsletter of next term.

RHYTHM, ENERGY & SMILES

Our Drumming & Dance Performance

This week, the school hall filled to bursting and alive with rhythm and excitement as children from across the primary phase took part in an energetic Drumming and Dance Workshop. The session brought together music, movement, and creative expression, offering pupils a joyful opportunity to explore new skills and work together as a team.

Led by our wonderful Ms Harley and Victor, the workshop introduced pupils to a variety of percussion instruments and rhythmic patterns. The children learned how to keep a steady beat, experiment with tempo, and layer rhythms together to create a vibrant group performance.

Alongside drumming, pupils embraced the dance element with equal enthusiasm. They learned short choreographed sequences that encouraged coordination, confidence, and creative movement. The room was filled with smiles as children showcased their routines, supporting one another and celebrating each small success.

Teachers were especially proud of how pupils demonstrated teamwork, listening skills, and resilience, essential qualities that shine not only in the arts but across the curriculum. The workshop ended with a mini-performance, showcasing everything the children had learned.

A big thank you to Ms Harley and Victor, to all pupils, staff and parents for participating with such energy and positivity.

RHYTHM, ENERGY & SMILES CONTINUED....



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TRIPS TO VIETNAMESE & CARIBBEAN CENTRES

Lunch Clubs
Hackney

This week, some of our children enjoyed very special visits to two of Hackney's Lunch Clubs. The children visited both the Hackney Caribbean Elderly Organisation (HCEO) and the

Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia Community Centre, (VLC) as part of the JTP project: Story Exchange: Connecting Cultures Connecting Generations. The afternoon was filled with smiles, chatter, and lots of shared stories as the children spent time with the residents.

The children sang songs, read poems, and proudly shared some of their recent classwork. In return, the residents told wonderful stories about their own school days and what life was like when they were young. It was lovely to see how quickly friendships formed across the generations.

We are incredibly proud of how polite, kind, and thoughtful our pupils were. They showed great maturity, listened carefully, and made every resident feel included and valued. The staff at the home commented on how much joy the visit brought, and our children returned to school with big smiles and warm hearts.

We look forward to more opportunities to continue building this special connection with our community.

It was really nice to read to the members. One of the was from St Lucia
- **Kayode**

They really liked looking at my work
- **Kaedon**



TRIPS TO VIETNAMESE & CARIBBEAN CENTRES CONTINUED....



At the VLC children were able to participate in a Tai Chi session and later tried delicious homemade pho.

The pho was really nice and the spice gave it a kick - **Anouk**
The pho was fantastic—**Luca**

I have never used chopsticks before. It was amazing -**Arron**
The Tai Chi was fun and a bit tiring - **Isla**



CREATIVE MUSIC LAB

On First Sunday of the Easter holidays

Sunday 29th April 2-4pm - A one-day, creative orchestra workshop for children aged around 8-11 who are learning an instrument.

We are excited to be located at Gascoyne One Community Centre, which corners Well Street Common and Victoria Park, perfect for outdoor breaks. This relaxed Sunday afternoon workshop offers children a chance to:

- ✦ Build confidence through collaborative music-making.
- ✦ Develop a stronger relationship with their instrument.
- ✦ Create original music together in a supportive 'orchestra' setting.

Children should bring their own instruments and have some basic ability to play. (Beginners welcome) There will be one piano and a drumkit in the set-up.

Led by Sylvia Saunders, Guildhall School trained Music Therapist and music educator with over 13 year's experience. Sylvia currently works across 5 schools in London and Essex, and has run school holiday music workshops at Hoxton Hall since 2016. She will be supported by a skilled assisting musician/educator/performer.

Instagram: @creativemusiclabhackney

Please let us know if you are planning to attend, by emailing sylvms@hotmail.com or messaging @creativemusiclabhackney on Instagram. There will be video and photo recording at this session, footage will be used to promote future events.



COGS SPARKLING SPRING - WINE TASTING EVENT!

Join CoGS on **Thursday 30 April** between 7 and 8:30pm for a Sparkling Spring wine tasting event led by James Lockett, a wine buyer and educator.. and Gayhurst parent. We'll explore sparkling wines from Prosecco to Champagne, learning how different grape varieties shape flavour, texture and style in the glass. Discover fun and affordable wine ideas to elevate any occasion while learning the art of smelling, tasting, and fully appreciating wine. Sip, savor, and enjoy a delightful evening, all while contributing to a great cause. All profits from the ticket sales will go to Gayhurst via CoGS and we'll run a raffle on the night to raise some extra funds.

Tickets are £25 each and there are 40 spaces available. Buy tickets via this link: <https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/event/cogs-sparkling-wine-tasting>



FOOTBALL NEWS

Our boy's football team put in an excellent performance on Tuesday against the team from William Patten. The match went to penalties and Gayhurst's team did brilliantly but unfortunately, we didn't make it through. Well done to the team for putting in such a great performance and supporting each other so well. We are really proud of you all.



KEY DATES

- Mon 30 March to Thurs 2 April** - Gayhurst & Grasmere Spring Holiday camp 10 - 2pm daily
- Mon 13 April** Children return to school for start of Summer Term
- Thurs 30 April** COGS Wine Tasting Event 7—8.30pm
- Mon 25 - Fri 29 May** Half term break
- Mon 1 June** INSET day— school closed to children
- Tues 2 June** Children return to school for second half of Summer Term
- Fri 17 July** Last day of Summer Term—
school closes early for children at 1.30pm

HAPPY SPRING HOLIDAYS

Gayhurst staff wish all our children and their families a happy spring break and we look forward to seeing the children **back at school on Mon 13th April for the start of the Summer Term.**