

# LEAP NEWS

**Friday 11th September 2026**

## SPANISH PHRASE of the week

Estamos felices con nuestros amigos.... We are happy with our friends....

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

## LEAP PUPIL IS A WATERWAYS DESIGN CHALLENGE WINNER!

Last term children were invited to take part in the Mayor of London's Clean and Healthy Waterways Design Challenge.

This creative competition encouraged young people to think about the future of our environment. London's waterways are part of what makes our city special. From the Thames to canals, wetlands and smaller rivers, these spaces connect communities, support wildlife, and help people enjoy nature close to home. The design challenge encouraged children to explore what rivers and waterways mean to them—from wildlife and adventure to wellbeing, community, and the future of our city. The theme was 'River of Life', and winning designs would be painted onto picnic benches and placed in four London boroughs, including Hackney.

We are incredibly proud to celebrate the fantastic achievement of Kingsmead's former Year 6 pupil, **Ali Ulger**, who created one of the winning designs in the Mayor of London's Clean and Healthy Waterways Design Challenge!

Ali's creative entry impressed the judges, who particularly loved his vision of nature and people coexisting together and imagining a thriving future for London's waterways.

Even more excitingly, Ali's winning design is now being transferred onto a bench, bringing his artwork to life and allowing others to enjoy his creative vision.

We are so proud of Ali's creativity and imagination and look forward to seeing his winning design on the finished bench.



Ali's design

## YEAR 6 SECONDARY SCHOOL OPEN EVENTS

A reminder to all Year 6 parents and carers to make sure you visit as many secondary schools as possible, before making your secondary school choices. You can find a list of Hackney's Secondary school open events and their dates [here](#).

Please note **City Academy** have just released two additional open morning dates due to high demand:

**Thursday 22nd & Friday 23rd October, 2026**

Both from 9:00am to 10:30am

## HACKNEY FOODBANK OPEN DAY

Ever wondered about the logistics of feeding hundreds of people every week?

For the first time, Hackney Foodbank is opening the doors to its Homerton HQ with warehouse tours, a chance to meet the team, games, a bouncy castle, crafts and a cake sale. The Open Day (on **Saturday September 26th** between **10am and 3pm**) is free, with any donations of **long-life food gratefully received!**

Guests can also book to take part in the food bank's legendary Supermarket Sweep Challenge, which sets off at 10am.

Jenna Fansa, Head of Fundraising at Hackney Foodbank, said: "Feeding hundreds of people every week takes a lot of organising and we'd love the chance to show people around. Our caseworkers will be there talking about the work they do and the difference that makes and we'll have some lovely activities for children."

"The Open Day is free, but we'd welcome any donations of long-life food. We're also inviting guests to sign up for our Supermarket Sweep challenge. Working in teams of up to six people, they'll head to the Supermarket with trolleys and shopping lists and will compete to bring back the most food with a £100 budget. There are other challenges along the way and bonus points on our fun inflatables at the end. The winner will walk away with our coveted supermarket trolley trophy!"

Places for the Sweep are limited and can be purchased by clicking on this link.

The Open Day takes place at the **Wally Foster Community Centre, Homerton Road, Hackney, E9 5QB.**





1st half of term: 03.09.26 - 23.10.26

Half term: 26 - 30 October 2026

2nd half of term: 02.11.26 - 18.12.26

INSET day - Weds 2 Sept 26

| Class           | Tokens |
|-----------------|--------|
| Rec, Year 1 & 2 | RH 118 |
| Year 3 & 4      | 4R 258 |
| Year 5 & 6      | 5L 44  |



## GOLDEN AWARDS

NC - **ARIE & ZELLA**  
RH - **LEONE**  
RS - **TEO**

1A - **MAX**  
1G - **OSMAN**  
2L - **STEVIE N**  
2S - **ABIBOULAYE**

3J - **KAYLA**  
3K - **FELIX**  
4E - **SHOSHANA**  
4R - **EDITH**

5D - **PABLO**  
5L - **REINE**  
5/6R - **VIKTORS**  
6J - **TYANA**  
6C - **NORA**

## NURSERY & RECEPTION NEWS

Nursery children have made a fantastic start to the new school year! They have settled in so well and are becoming increasingly confident as they explore their new environment and discover all the exciting opportunities it has to offer.

The children are beginning to become familiar with our daily routines, from choosing activities to getting ready for snack time and coming together as a group. It has been wonderful to see them developing friendships, building relationships with adults and growing in confidence each day.

We are so proud of how well they have settled and look forward to seeing them continue to learn and explore throughout the year!

The children in Reception have settled in brilliantly and are showing lots of enthusiasm, curiosity and smiles.

It has been lovely to see them exploring their new learning environment, making new friends and becoming more confident with each day. From building, creating and investigating to enjoying stories and outdoor play, the children have thrown themselves into every opportunity.

We have loved hearing about their learning and listening to their imaginative ideas this week. A huge thank you to all our families for supporting your children through this important transition.

'I love Reception! I love school!' - **Gabriel**

'I am making a tunnel for the ants to go through' - **Zuri**

'I made a house with a bed' - **Oliver**

'I have lots of colours' - **Marcos**



## NURSERY & RECEPTION NEWS CONTINUED.....



## YEAR 6 VISIT BRITISH MUSEUM

This week, 6J visited the British Museum to launch our new History topic on the Vikings and Anglo-Saxons. As we are just beginning this subject, the trip was a fantastic opportunity to explore real historical artefacts and develop our curiosity about this interesting period of history.

We took part in many activities designed to help us investigate the objects on display. Using an activity sheet, we worked in pairs and in small groups to look carefully at artefacts and discuss what they might tell us about the people who lived during Viking and Anglo-Saxon times. We searched the cases to find specific objects and used our observation skills to make inferences about their purpose and significance. The activities encouraged us to think like historians by using evidence to make informed conclusions. They also helped us to come up with plenty of questions that we are excited to find the answers to. We came away feeling inspired and eager to begin our study of the Vikings and Anglo-Saxons!



PTO

### HOME READING & BOOK BAGS

Reading every day helps children build confidence, improve their fluency, develop vocabulary and strengthen their understanding across all areas of learning. We ask all families to support their child by reading at home daily and discussing books together.

#### Year 1

Children will bring home reading books on Monday and Friday each week. On these days, they will receive two reading books plus a weekly phonics home reader, giving them a total of five books each week.

We encourage children to read little and often, revisiting books several times during the week to help build confidence, accuracy and fluency.

#### Year 2

Children will change their reading books daily (or when they have finished reading a longer text). Children who are part of a Destination Reader group will also take home a weekly Accelerated Reader book.

Please encourage your child to read their book twice (unless it is a longer text), as re-reading helps improve pace, fluency and understanding. Talking about books is just as important as reading them, so please ask your child questions about what they have read and encourage them to share their thoughts and opinions.

#### Book Bags

Children's book bags should be brought into school EVERY DAY to ensure books can be changed when needed and reading records can be checked & updated. Thank you for your continued support with reading at home. Just 10 to 15 minutes of reading each day can make a significant difference to a child's progress and help foster a lifelong love of books. Please remember to update your child's reading record regularly so that we can celebrate their reading achievements together.

#### Year 3, 4, 5 and 6

Children should bring in their book each day and should record their own record of reading, which will be checked by the end of the week. Please ensure that your child is reading every day.



### SPECIALIST ACTIVITY CLUBS

Our specialist activity clubs for the Autumn term will go on sale **Wednesday 16th September @ 7pm** via Arbor.

Below is a list of the clubs we will be offering.

| Club                        | Year Group | Adult              |
|-----------------------------|------------|--------------------|
| <b>Mon 3.45-4.45</b>        |            |                    |
| Forest School               | Rec        | Roderick           |
| Ballet                      | 1 & 2      | Moving Wave        |
| Tennis                      | 1/2/3      | TGI                |
| Sewing                      | 3 & 4      | Pat                |
| Dance                       | 3/4/5/6    | Moving Wave        |
| Girls football              | 3/4/5/6    | TGI                |
| <b>Tues 3.45-4.45</b>       |            |                    |
| Lego                        | 1 & 2      | Luiza              |
| Fencing                     | 1 & 2      | Little Musketeers  |
| Fencing                     | 3/4/5/6    | Little Musketeers  |
| Netball                     | 3/4/5/6    | TGI                |
| Rugby                       | 3/4/5/6    | Hackney RFC & Toki |
| Gymnastics                  | 3/4/5/6    | Autumn             |
| Tailoring & Embroidery x 2h | 3/4/5/6    | Melissa            |
| <b>Weds 3.45-4.45</b>       |            |                    |
| Yoga & Breath               | Rec & Yr1  | Moving Wave        |
| Sporting Club               | 1 & 2      | TGI                |
| Photography                 | 3/4/5/6    | KC                 |
| Dodgeball                   | 3/4/5/6    | TGI                |
| Boys football               | 4/5/6      | TGI                |
| <b>Thurs 3.45-4.45</b>      |            |                    |
| Forest School               | 1 & 2      | Roderick           |
| Singing                     | Rec/1/2    | Ben                |
| Art/Pottery                 | 1/2/3      | Moving Waves       |
| Chess                       | 3/4/5/6    | Ben                |
| Drama                       | 3/4/5/6    | Boo Theatre        |
| Table Tennis                | 3/4/5/6    | TGI                |
| <b>Fri 3.45-4.45</b>        |            |                    |
| Multi Sports                | Rec        | TGI                |
| Football (mixed)            | 1/2/3      | TGI                |
| Drama                       | 1 & 2      | Boo Theatre        |

### WELCOME NEW STARTERS TO COGS!



CoGS (Community of Gayhurst School) is a group of parents and carers who raise funds to support the extra-curricular sports, arts, and enrichment activities enjoyed by every Gayhurst child. We have a small organising committee and a wider network of volunteers who help run our Summer

and Winter Fairs each year.

#### Summer Fair Success:

We're delighted to share that the Summer Fair raised over £7,700 profit — a huge thank you to everyone who volunteered, donated, or attended. This is a big step towards our annual fundraising target of £20,000. Our fundraising total for the year to date is £10,000.

#### Winter Fair – Save the Date:

This year's Winter Fair will take place on **Saturday 28 November**. We'll soon be looking for lots of helpers to make it happen, so please keep an eye out for more details.

#### Volunteer Treasurer Needed- approx. 2 hours per month:

CoGS is looking for a volunteer Treasurer to help manage our charity finances. A full handover will be provided. You don't need to be an accountant, just organised, reliable, and comfortable with basic financial admin.

#### Tasks include:

- Handling event cash & the COGS card
- Reimbursing expenses
- Keeping simple financial records
- Filing annual accounts

The Treasurer plays a vital role in ensuring every pound raised is properly managed and put to good use for Gayhurst children.

If you're interested, please contact **Julia** (CoGS Co-Chair) on 07729 322979.

### BIKES THAT NEED CLAIMING

There are a number of bikes that have been left in the shed for a number of months now. If you recognise your bike, please could collect it as we have a lot of bikes being brought in to school each day and space is of a premium.



### KEY DATES THIS TERM

|                          |                                                                                                |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Mon 21 Sept</b>       | Specialist Clubs begin                                                                         |
| <b>Wed 7 Oct</b>         | <b>4E</b> class assembly at 3pm                                                                |
| <b>Thurs 8 Oct</b>       | International Evening 4.30 - 6.30pm                                                            |
| <b>Fri 9 Oct</b>         | World Mental Health Day - Hello Yellow - option to wear something yellow to school             |
| <b>Thurs 15 Oct</b>      | <b>3J</b> class assembly at 3pm                                                                |
| <b>Wed 21 Oct</b>        | <b>2S</b> class assembly at 3pm                                                                |
| <b>Mon 26—Fri 30 Oct</b> | Half term break                                                                                |
| <b>Thurs 12 Nov</b>      | <b>6C</b> class assembly at 3pm                                                                |
| <b>Fri 13 Nov</b>        | Children in need day—option to wear PJs                                                        |
| <b>Mon 16 Nov</b>        | Anti-Bullying Week starts—option to wear odd socks to celebrate difference                     |
| <b>Thurs 19 Nov</b>      | <b>5L</b> class assembly at 3pm                                                                |
| <b>Thurs 26 Nov</b>      | Parent & Carer Consultation 1.50 - 7pm                                                         |
|                          | <b>School closed at 1.3p for all children</b><br><b>No clubs or Extended Day</b>               |
| <b>Sat 28 Nov</b>        | CoGS Winter Fair                                                                               |
| <b>Thurs 10 Dec</b>      | <b>5/6R</b> class assembly at 3pm                                                              |
| <b>Fri 11 Dec</b>        | Drumming & Dance performances<br>1.45pm for <b>1G &amp; 2L</b> , 2.45pm for <b>3J &amp; 3K</b> |
| <b>Tues 15 Dec</b>       | Gymnastics performances:<br>2.30pm for <b>2S &amp; 1A</b> , 3pm for <b>4R &amp; 4E</b>         |
| <b>Fri 18 Dec</b>        | Last day of term                                                                               |
|                          | <b>School closed at 1.3p for all children</b><br><b>No clubs or Extended Day</b>               |