



LEARNING EDUCATION ARTS PARTNERSHIP



# LEAP NEWS

## Friday 30th January 2026

### SPANISH PHRASE of the week

Me propongo beber más agua..... *I intend to drink more water ...*

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

## SCIENCE AT LEAP

This half term, science across the LEAP Federation is bursting with hands-on exploration and exciting new learning. **Year 6** pupils are investigating light, exploring how it travels, how shadows form, and how we see the world through reflection and refraction. **Year 5** are journeying through space, discovering planets, gravity, and the vast scale of the solar system. **Year 4** are experimenting with sound and electricity, building circuits and exploring how vibrations help us hear. **Year 3** are delving into rocks, comparing rock types, studying fossils, and learning how rocks are formed. Our **Year 2** children are observing seasonal changes, focusing on the characteristics of winter. Meanwhile, **EYFS** children are exploring materials and their properties, investigating how objects look, feel, and change when handled.

*"My favourite part was discovering that we can only see objects when light reaches our eyes. It's like the world needs light to show itself!"* - **Nylah** yr 6 Kingsmead



*"I really enjoyed creating a class mnemonic to remember the planets (My Very Enjoyable Mother Just Sipped Up Nesquik)"* - **Marley** yr 5 Mandeville

*"I loved being the Earth in our class reinactment of exploring how the earth rotates around the sun. Did you know it takes a whole year for the Earth to get all the way around?!"* - **Labelle** yr 5 Mandeville



*"I have learnt so much about all the different planets like Mercury, Saturn and of course the largest of them all...JUPITER!!"* - **Martin** yr 5 Mandeville



## SCIENCE AT LEAP CONTINUED....

*"I liked learning about shadows because it felt like doing magic with a torch!"* - **Jahziah** 5/6D Gayhurst

*"I didn't know light travels in straight lines. Now I keep spotting it everywhere."* - **Jax** 5/6D Gayhurst



*"The sound was way louder when we used our animal ears."* - **Rei**, yr 4 Grasmere

*"I really enjoyed making the animal ears"* - **Jesse**, yr 4 Grasmere



## HALF TERM COOKING CLUB

This February Half Term, Hackney School of Food is opening its kitchen for a week of hands-on cooking fun!

From **Monday 16th to Friday 20th**

**February 2026**, children aged 7+ can spend the day chopping, stirring, and baking seasonal dishes, then sit down together to enjoy the lunch they've made. The club runs **10am-3pm** each day. Places are £40 per day, with free spots available for children eligible for Free School Meals - email

[hello@hackneyschooloffood.com](mailto:hello@hackneyschooloffood.com) or click [here](#).

### SPRING AFTER SCHOOL COOKING CLUB

If your child wants to keep cooking beyond the holidays, they can join our Spring After School Cooking Club **every Tuesday, 3:45-5:15pm**, until 24th March 2026. Each week explores new global flavors and seasonal produce. A half term costs £80, with reduced-cost places available.

For bookings or more info, visit our website or email us at [hello@hackneyschooloffood.com](mailto:hello@hackneyschooloffood.com) - we'd love to hear from 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 POINTS	Class	Points	TOP ATTENDANCE
Phase 1 (EYFS)	Lion/Jaguar	58	River 98.7 % Venus 98.1%
Phase 2	River	292	
Phase 3	Mars	324	



## WEEKLY CLASS AWARDS

**Rabbit class** (2-3 Nur) Liyana Chair  
**Hedgehog class** (3-4 Nur) Riley  
**Squirrel class** (Rec) Thomas  
**Owl class** (Rec) Reuben  
**Ocean class** (Yr 1) Laila & Elif

**River class** (Yr 2) Jordan & Mason  
**Jupiter class** (Yr 3) Sidney & Amelia  
**Mercury class** (Yr 4) Huseyin & Kassain  
**Mars class** (Yr 5) Darragh & Kara  
**Venus class** (Yr 6) Armani & Guilhermo

## POETRY WORKSHOPS

This week we were excited to welcome **Zohab**, a poet, who led engaging and interactive poetry workshops with children from Year 1 to Year 6. The sessions encouraged children to write poems about themselves, express their ideas creatively, and build confidence in sharing their work. Zohab inspired children to be brave and proud, reminding them that all poems are different, just like them. Children thoroughly enjoyed performing their poems to others, and it was wonderful to see so many children come out of their shells, continuing the sessions in the playground. We can't wait to share the final poems the children have been creating.

*"Zohab's assembly was very interactive and the children really enjoyed it."* - **Chloe**, Year 2 Teacher

*"This was the best day ever. I performed in front of all my friends and teachers."* - **Helen-Marie**, Year 3

*"I wrote a funny poem and a serious poem. I liked expressing myself."* - **Sidney**, Year 3

*"I liked how Zohab made us use personification and metaphors in the poems."* - **Christopher**, Year 6



## RECEPTION CLASS NEWS

Reception have thoroughly enjoyed their 'Traditional Tales' topic this term. They have listened to a range of traditional stories, taken part in a fashion show inspired by the tales, explored how to create a simple stitch, explored a range of materials by building houses for the pigs and beanstalks for the giant, and experimented with colour mixing.





### ROOTED IN FRIENDSHIP: A FLOURISHING START TO OUR JOURNEY

We are now a few weeks into this term's Plant-Grow-Cook programme, an after school club that a number of Year 2 children from Mandeville & Kingsmead are taking part in, and the energy at the Hackney School of Food is electric. Our latest cohort have jumped head-first into garden life, proving that great things happen when we work together.

The foundation of this programme is learning about food through growing, cooking and eating as a community, and we began our journey gathered around the fire pit with Nicola and Michelle. This wasn't just about warmth; it was a space for the children from both schools to get to know one another and discuss our vital role as guardians of the environment. Sitting together in the fresh air, they have learned that looking after our plants goes hand-in-hand with looking after each other.

The kitchen has also been a hive of activity as the children explore the transformation of raw ingredients. To understand where our pantry staples actually come from, the children rolled up their sleeves to grind raw wheat seeds, witnessing the transition from hard grain to soft flour, which they then turned into deliciously tasty flatbreads. To accompany their bread, they harvested beautiful, in-season, vitamin-packed greens straight from the garden beds to create a zesty pesto. There is nothing quite like the pride on a child's face when they realise they have made their entire snack from scratch.

As we move further into the term, the garden is calling. With the weather finally warming up, we are looking forward to getting out into the garden more often, spending more time in the soil and less time by the fire. The coming weeks are all about the future of our beds as we start sowing the seeds that will become our summer harvest. Watching the Mandeville and Kingsmead children bond over shared harvests has been a joy, and we are only just getting started.



### GIRLS MULTI SKILLS SPORTS SESSION

On Wednesday 28th February a number of Mandeville and Kingsmead girls participated in a Multi skill event hosted by Clapton Girls Secondary School. The event aimed to promote physical fitness, teamwork and enjoyment of sport among young learners. There was a range of different activities designed to test the children's agility, coordination, balance and speed. The children showed excellent team work and enthusiasm throughout the event and it was a great success.

*'I'm so proud of all the children who attended, well done to Kingsmead and Mandeville.'* - **Freddy** - Specialist PE teacher

*"I was nervous at first but then everyone helped me feel comfortable and I enjoyed all the games."* - **Mischa**, yr 4



### KEY DATES FOR THIS TERM

- Thurs 12 Feb** Rec class (Owl & Squirrel) Lunar New Year production 9.30am
- w/c **Mon 9 Feb** Creativity Week
- Mon 16—Fri 20 Feb** Half term break
- Thurs 5 March** World Book Day
- Wed 18 March** Parent & Carer consultations — **school closes early at 1.30pm for children**
- Wed 25 March** Mandeville's International Evening 4.30 - 7pm
- Fri 27 March** Last day of Spring term - **school closes early at 1.30pm for children**
- Mon 30 March to Thurs 2 April** - Mandeville & Kingsmead Spring Holiday camp 10 - 2pm daily