



LEARNING EDUCATION ARTS PARTNERSHIP



# LEAP NEWS

## Friday 27th February 2026

### SPANISH PHRASE of the week

¿Puedo usar el sacapuntas?.... *Can I use the pencil sharpener?.....*

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

## JTP SPRING 2026 UPDATE

# JTP

#We are LEAP

**Story ExchaNGE:**  
Connecting Cultures,  
Connecting Generations.

This second half of Spring Term sees the launch of the next Justin Thompson Project strand: Story ExchaNGE. Story ExchaNGE is a cross-community, cross-generational storytelling project designed to deepen connections between families, neighbours, and community groups. When we share our stories especially to those whose experiences differ from our own, we open a window into our world. Sharing a story is an act of generosity: it offers insight, builds empathy, and strengthens relationships. Sharing our personal stories breaks down barriers and builds trust, understanding, and belonging.

Through art, audio, music, food and, and workshops families and the local community are invited to share meaningful stories and anecdotes from their lives. Watch future newsletters for news and updates on Story ExchaNGE events.

### Story Boxes Family Workshop

1. Collect a box for each participant - a shoebox or an old picture frame (or any other box with a transparent lid) An A4 or A5-size box is ideal - though you can use square boxes, too.
2. Choose a background - you could use a piece of patterned wrapping paper, old photos, an old map, or a page from a magazine.
3. Gather items to tell your story

Now it's time to create your own personal story. Gather small objects that mean or symbolise something to you. You could include things like passport photos, puzzle pieces, scrabble letters, old stamps, photos, or clippings from magazines and newspapers.

Consider tools

Glue and scissors or a craft knife to cut out fine details. To raise things up in the box to create a sense of depth, use a layer of cardboard underneath the image or objects. To hang objects from the top of the box, use wire or string.



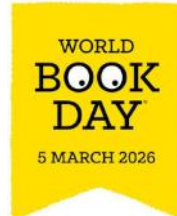
### Elder Life Timeline

- **Activity:** Children and elder family members create a timeline of key life events (birthdays, moves, achievements) and share stories about each.
- **Benefits:** Builds narrative structure, memory, and personal identity.



## WORLD BOOK DAY

**COME TO SCHOOL  
DRESSED AS A CHARACTER  
FROM A BOOK OR COMIC**



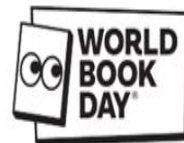
On **Thursday 5th March**, next week all four schools will be celebrating World Book Day. World Book Day is a special day when children and staff come to school dressed as a character from a favourite book or comic. So start planning your costume!

Please don't feel you have to buy a costume - we are hoping to see lots of homemade creations. You could make your costume using cardboard boxes, tin foil, an old sheet that you could draw on, face paints...whatever you have to hand at home! Get creative! Prizes will be given out at each school to the best home-made costumes.

If you need help with ideas [here's a link](#) to some ideas for how to make easy homemade costumes, and [another link](#) for a range of ideas linked to lovely children's books

## NATIONAL BOOK TOKEN COMPETITION

To celebrate World Book Day and the UK's National Year of Reading 2026, sponsors National Book Tokens are inviting children of all ages to DESIGN A NATIONAL BOOK TOKEN for their annual competition.



**DESIGN**  
A NATIONAL BOOK TOKEN  
**COMPETITION**



To celebrate World Book Day and the UK's National Year of Reading 2026, National Book Tokens are inviting children of all ages to DESIGN A NATIONAL BOOK TOKEN for their annual competition. This year's winners will be selected by three very special guest judges. Deadline is Friday 27th March. Find your template and all details on how to enter at [www.worldbookday.com](http://www.worldbookday.com)



Follow us on Instagram: **@leapfederation**

### KINGSMEAD'S READING CHAMPIONS JOIN TRIP TO TENERIFE!

Just before the half term brake, six of Kingsmead's Year 5 students were lucky enough to enjoy an exciting week long trip to Tenerife with their class teacher Jane. This was part of a Hackney Reading Champions visit which included children from five other Hackney primary schools, having an adventure on the Spanish island. Hackney's Music Service also had a group of Secondary School students who are part of their Classical Meets Jazz ensemble, take part in trip, making music links with older children on the island and representing Hackney's amazing musical talent.

The first days were spent in a local Spanish school, finding out more about school life there and trying out the children's Spanish language skills. There were new friends to be made in spite of the language differences and the students loved playtime with their Spanish classmates. They learned about the island's Carnival and took part in the school's marching band. They were so warmly welcomed by the staff and students of the school in Punta Brava, Puerto de la Cruz that it was quite emotional to say goodbye!

As well as experiencing school life, the children also got to venture into town, to splash in the sea pools, wander amongst the beautiful architecture, marvel at the musical skill of their fellow Hackney school students in the Classical Meets Jazz group's performance, visit the zoo, and spend a day at the beach swimming in the Atlantic.

All six children were wonderful ambassadors for Kingsmead and Hackney. They demonstrated open, curious minds and wholeheartedly threw themselves into every experience. We are very proud of them all! For many of the children attending it was their first ever trip away from home and their first trip abroad.

*"It was very enjoyable and we were so lucky to go"* -

**Kimarni**

*"It was amazing to have such a fun and interesting opportunity"* - **Anya**

A huge thank you to Jane for looking after all the children so well and her incredible dedication. We are truly grateful.



#### TENERIFE TRIP CONTINUED.....



### FAMILY COACH SCREENTIME PARENT WORKSHOPS

Hackney's Family Coach service are hosting 4 workshops this half term around screentime, which parents might find very helpful. You can attend these sessions if you have a child with an identified SEND need who accesses a Hackney educational setting and/or lives in Hackney. :

#### Family Expectations Around Screentime.

Wednesday 4 March, 11 am to 12 pm at Hackney Service Centre 1 Hillman St, London E8 1DY

#### Transitions Between Screentime & Different Activities.

Tuesday 10 March 6 pm to 7.30 pm. Online.

#### Using Screentime as a Reward or Consequence.

Thursday 19 March 12 pm to 1.30 pm. Online.

**Feeling Confident to Make a Change to our Family's Screentime.** Monday 23 March. 1 pm to 2.30 pm. Hackney Service Centre 1 Hillman St, London E8 1DY

To join any, please email us confirming your child's school on [familycoach@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:familycoach@hackney.gov.uk)



## 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)	Squirrel	87	Ocean 97.9% Mercury 98.1%
Phase 2	River	293	
Phase 3	Jupiter	125	



## WEEKLY CLASS AWARDS

**Rabbit class** (2-3 Nur) River  
**Hedgehog class** (3-4 Nur) Kubra  
**Squirrel class** (Rec) Dacre  
**Owl class** (Rec) Anaya  
**Ocean class** (Yr 1) Zineb & Findlay

**River class** (Yr 2) Evie & D'Zai  
**Jupiter class** (Yr 3) Lilly May & Starr  
**Mercury class** (Yr 4) Ellie May & Josiah  
**Mars class** (Yr 5) Kamara & Berat  
**Venus class** (Yr 6) Christopher & Mary Theresa

## YEAR 4 RE-IMAGINING LONDINIUM WORKSHOP

On Tuesday, Year 4 went on a trip to the Guildhall Gallery. They saw lots of paintings and the ruins of the Roman Amphitheatre. *"In the amphitheatre, there would be gladiators fighting and even chariot racing."* -Malu. *"We got to touch some of the artifacts that had been discovered by the archaeologists."* -Xia.

They learnt that the Romans existed 2,000 years ago (roughly). *"We acted out what the Romans did in the amphitheatre and even wore costumes."* -Opemipo. *"We even got to hold a traditional Roman helmet!"* -Iqra.



## SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

This Spring Term, our School Council representatives have been working incredibly hard to liaise with their classes and make sure every pupil's voice is heard. Each representative has shown great dedication by gathering ideas, sharing feedback, and contributing thoughtfully to every discussion. They have begun identifying key areas of the school where they can make a difference, from improving shared spaces to supporting whole-school events. The children have also produced fantastic posters to promote their ideas and are currently making arrangements to meet with the kitchen team to learn more about school meals. Sergio was particularly impressed by their artistic talents and loved hearing all about the dishes that children at Mandeville enjoy most. Ellie is extremely proud of how well-prepared the School Council is each week and how brilliantly they support one another. Their teamwork, maturity, and commitment to their roles have been truly inspiring. The School Council has many more exciting projects in the pipeline—so stay tuned for more updates soon!

## CROSS COUNTRY EVENT

Our pupils took part in another exciting cross-country race at Hackney Downs Park this week, joining children from a range of Hackney schools and competing against them. They worked incredibly hard, showing fantastic determination and positive attitudes—even when they were feeling tired! Their progress in running technique and stamina was clear to see, and we are immensely proud of each and every one of them. We look forward to cheering them on again at the next event.

*"No matter where they come in the race league table, the children are always positive and ready to push themselves at the next opportunity. I am so proud of them and how they've been building their slow and steady pacing but also their timing – when they need to go fast, they absolutely do!"* Ellie



## KEY DATES FOR THIS TERM

- Thurs 5 March** World Book Day
- Thurs 12 March** Yr 1 phonics screening meeting for parents 4-4.30pm
- 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

PTO



### DR BIKE & BIKERS BREAKFAST

Our school was delighted to welcome the local Dr Bike team on Friday 13th February for a brilliant morning of bike checks and safety support. Children, staff and families brought in an impressive range of bikes for three expert mechanics to look over. Many bikes were repaired, adjusted and given a fresh lease of life, leaving their owners feeling proud and ready to ride safely. The visit created a real buzz around active travel and encouraged everyone to think about how to keep their bikes in top condition.

As a special treat, children who brought in their bikes were invited to enjoy a warm and hearty Bikers' Breakfast. Sausages, beans, fresh rolls and a delicious homemade smoothie were on offer, making the morning feel extra special. Staff and pupils loved sharing such an unusual breakfast together, and breakfast club was full of fun cycle-safety themed activities to explore. A huge thank you goes to our wonderful kitchen team for preparing such a great breakfast, and to all the staff who helped make the event a success.



### HACKNEY SCHOOL OF FOOD

The Hackney School of Food has two new community groups starting up which might be of interest to friends and relatives in the local area:

#### Gardening for Wellbeing Club

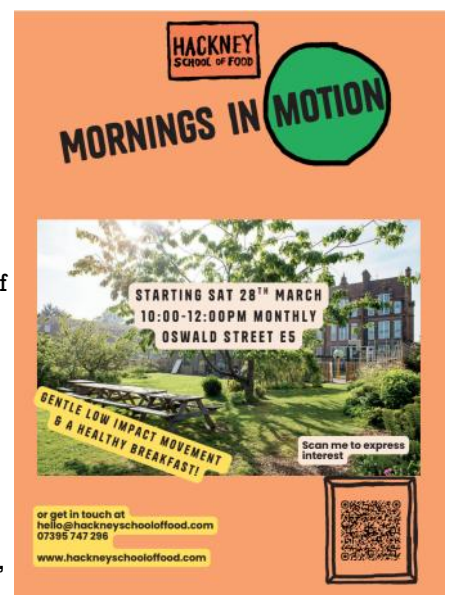
**Who it's for:** Adults aged 18+ in Hackney experiencing mental or physical health challenges or social isolation. No previous gardening experience is required—just enthusiasm and a willingness to get stuck in.

**What it offers:** 10 therapeutic gardening sessions led by an expert garden facilitator, involving food growing, garden maintenance, and skill-building.

**When & where:** Our productive garden at Hackney School of Food, Oswald Street, **third Wednesday of every month**, (first session Wed 18th of March) 10am–12.30pm.

**Cost:** Free for participants, with an expectation to attend at least the first 5 sessions.

To express interest, please ask interested participants to fill out [this form](#).



#### Mornings in Motion

Gentle, low-impact movement sessions aimed at older adults and people who have fewer opportunities to be active, paired with healthy breakfasts, aimed at improving physical wellbeing and social connection. These will take place on **Saturday mornings once a month, over ten months**.

Find out more [here](#) and please ask interested participants to express interest [here](#).

