



LEARNING EDUCATION ARTS PARTNERSHIP



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 POINTS	Class	Points	TOP ATTENDANCE
Phase 1 (EYFS)	Owl	85	River 98.5% Venus 98.3%
Phase 2	Ocean	294	
Phase 3	Mercury	312	



WEEKLY CLASS AWARDS

Rabbit class (2-3 Nur) Josiah
Hedgehog class (3-4 Nur) Evander
Squirrel class (Rec) Mya
Owl class (Rec) Jamaal
Ocean class (Yr 1) Rafferty & Rihanna

River class (Yr 2) Paddy & Quban
Jupiter class (Yr 3) Taylor & Phoebe
Mercury class (Yr 4) Maelle & Kamari
Mars class (Yr 5) Jameyi & Farrah
Venus class (Yr 6) Elliott & Jaedon

NURSERY NEWS

Rabbit Class (2-3-year-old's) have enjoyed learning all about the farm this term. Through stories, songs, sensory activities and small-world play, the children have developed their

communication and language skills by learning new vocabulary and animal sounds. Fine and gross motor activities have supported **physical development**, while turn-taking, sharing and playing alongside their peers have strengthened **personal, social and emotional development**. The children have shown growing confidence, curiosity and independence.



Hedgehog Class (3-4-year-old's) have had a fantastic term exploring Traditional Tales, including Little Red Riding Hood, The Three Billy Goats Gruff and The Gingerbread Man. Through storytelling, role play and small-world play, the children have developed their listening,



NURSERY NEWS CONTINUED.....

attention and understanding, confidently retelling stories and using story language in their play. Creative and mark-making activities have supported early writing skills, while group tasks have encouraged turn-taking, co-operation and confidence when sharing ideas. Throughout the term, the children have become increasingly confident at expressing their ideas, asking questions and engaging deeply with familiar stories, and we are so proud of the progress they have made.

JUNIOR ROAD SAFETY OFFICERS ON THE MOVE!

Our Junior Road Safety Officers — **River-Amoy, Farrah and Ameerah** — have been working incredibly hard this week as they carried out a detailed road safety audit in and around the school. Equipped with their high-visibility clothing, they carefully inspected zebra crossings, looked out for trip hazards, checked the School Street status and investigated many other important safety features in our local area.

Their positive attitude, brilliant teamwork and thorough approach were clear to see throughout the audit. The team will be following up on their findings over the coming weeks, so look out — you'll be hearing from them soon! We're very proud of their effort and commitment to keeping everyone safe.





YEAR 4 SWIMMING

Year 4 have been really enjoying their weekly swimming sessions at the London Aquatics Centre, in Stratford.

"I love swimming so much." - **Taynara.**

Each week, they have had a one-hour swimming session to either learn to swim or develop their existing skills. *"I can swim now!"* - **Ashley.**

The adults in their team are all extremely impressed with Year 4's determination and enthusiasm. As their class teacher, I feel super proud of each of them and it's wonderful to see the class feeling proud too.

"Next time I go to the beach, I'll be ready." - **Jayon.**



DR BIKE

Dr Bike is visiting Mandeville on **Friday 13th February** from **8.20am** and will be in the KS2 playground ready to check children's bikes and make any adjustments needed. There will also be a special Biker's breakfast – first come, first served!!



MANDEVILLE HEADTEACHER FROM 1970s: MR GRIFFITHS

This is to share with the Mandeville and local community the sad news the Mr Griffiths who was the headteacher at Mandeville from 1977 to the early 1990s has died. Stories are starting to come into Mandeville of this amazing pioneering headteacher, who worked tirelessly for the Mandeville community throughout his career.

Some ex pupils have shared these photographs with us and ex Mandeville pupil and current staff member Michelle Miller (who is circled in blue in the photo in next column) said

'Mr Griffiths was one of the kindest men you could meet, as a headteacher he was dedicated to every child in his care and their families. I will



MR GRIFFITHS CONTINUED....

never forget that when my son was born he came to my house with a card and gift for us. It was this kind attention to detail that made him stand out as an amazing local leader and much valued Headteacher"



The school are thinking about how best to commemorate Mr Griffiths memory and would be glad to hear from anyone with any stories to share or ideas. Please email mdvoffice@mandeville.hackney.sch.uk



KEY DATES FOR THIS TERM

- w/c **Mon 9 Feb** Creativity Week
- Fri 13 Feb** Dr Bike at Mandeville from 8.20am
- 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