

**SPANISH PHRASE** of the week  
Me gusta el otoño.....I like Autumn .....

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

### LEAP'S YEAR 2 TOWER OF LONDON TRIPS

This week Year 2 children from **Gayhurst, Kingsmead** and **Mandeville** had their learning brought to life by visiting the incredible Tower of London! A time-travelling candle-maker and maid from 1666 showed them around the tower and shared lots of facts about the Great Fire of London. They saw a portrait of Samuel Pepys and acted out the fire starting in Thomas Farriner's bakery and then spreading through the narrow streets of wooden houses. They saw some real wooden buildings that existed in 1666 but were not burnt. They also saw the famous ravens, Tower of London guards and even the crown jewels! What an adventure for Year 2 historians! **Grasmere's** Year 2 class will be having their Tower of London visit next week.

**Uma 2S** - *'I really loved listening to the ravens. They were loud!'*

**Rafi 2S** - *'When the guards marched, they made me laugh. It was so funny.'*

**Rosa TJ: 2L** *"My favourite part was getting to see the biggest diamond in the world!"*

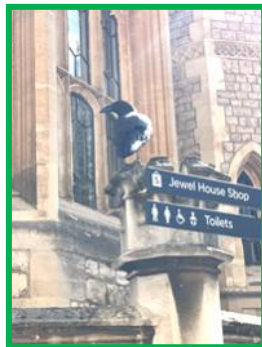
**Nate 2L:** *"I enjoyed the whole day because I love history!"*

### TOWER OF LONDON TRIP CONTINUED...

*'It was really fun acting out different parts of the story'.—*  
**Salma**

*'We saw wooden buildings that survived the fire because they were inside the Tower of London'*  
**- Jesse**

*'I liked pretending to be the maid, even though she didn't survive the fire!'* - **Dejhari**



**Lako** - *'I thought the tower was going to be scary but I enjoyed it.'*

**Angelusia** - *'The tower looked so big, there are guards everywhere.'*

**Hayden** - *'I liked it. Best trip ever!'*



### JUSTIN THOMPSON PROJECT

We are happy to announce that as a federation we have successfully applied for funds to run a project across all four schools in the federation. This project aims to increase the sense of belonging for all members of our school communities. We aim to do this through story telling. We will collect, celebrate, and share the stories of parents across our school communities, shining a light on the importance of parental involvement in the raising of our children.

We made a bid for a share of money allocated for Hackney schools to raise achievement in our schools. We looked at a common theme to increase engagement which is parental involvement by those who don't usually engage with school life. By hosting events in schools and classroom projects that include everyone and share our stories that brought us to where we are today, we hope to promote a shared understanding and pride in our shared experiences that lead to a greater understanding across differing groups and promote community cohesion. The project will be called the **Justin Thompson Project** named after one parent who enabled his son among many others. It will be the **JTP** for short.

More will be announced shortly, this term we will be working on the theme of the 'story of my name' through the project called simply 'my name'.

Our names are unique and help to shape our personal identities. How we got our names, who named us and why forms a rich narrative that contribute to our story. This will lead into next term and the theme of My Story My Story is a creative and therapeutic storytelling project designed to uplift underrepresented voices by capturing lived experiences from across Hackney. Through oral shorts, photography, video workshops, and community storytelling, the project provides a space for pupils, parents, and local role models to share their journeys with their own community and beyond.

Through the Justin Thompson Project, we will:

- Break down barriers between parents and schools.
- Inspire parents to champion their children's futures.
- Celebrate diversity, representation, and visibility in leadership.
- Create a lasting, living archive of real, local stories to inspire future generations

This is part of our approach and ethos and commitment to equality, diversity and actively promoting belonging, which we will sharing with you over the coming term so look here for updates and in your individual school announcements for workshops and activities linked to this project which will be shared in innovative and creative new ways!

### POLITICAL IMPARTIALITY IN SCHOOLS

We would like to remind families that staff working in our schools, are bound by a legal and professional duty to remain politically impartial. This means that teachers and school staff cannot promote or display partisan political views while at work.

For example, staff are not permitted to wear badges, t-shirts or jewellery that express a political position (such as openly supporting one side in an international conflict). While there is no law that explicitly bans such displays, they risk conflicting with:

- The legal duty schools have to avoid promoting partisan political views.
- The professional standards requiring staff to remain neutral and avoid influencing children with personal views.

This does not mean that important or challenging issues cannot be discussed in school. On the contrary, children are encouraged to learn about current affairs, history, and political ideas. What matters is that these topics are presented in a balanced way, with different perspectives explained fairly. Staff are not permitted to share or promote their own personal opinions with the children. While schools may support humanitarian principles and have a zero tolerance of racism or 'hate speak' of any sort, they cannot engage in political advocacy. This is a very fine line to tread.

It's also important to note that school events such as International Evening are not political occasions. They are a chance for children and staff to celebrate and share their individual heritages, cultures and traditions in a positive, inclusive and non-political way.

Although we can ask that children and staff do not express partisan views in school, it is less clear cut when it comes to parents. We respectfully request that parents remain sensitive to others in our community who may hold different views, and support us in promoting harmony, mutual respect, and inclusion for all members of our school community especially whilst on school premises.

We hope this helps explain why we are all required to uphold neutrality in the classroom and across the school. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch through the usual channels.

### BAGS OF TASTE FREE COOKING SESSIONS

This course of FREE cooking sessions is open to anyone receiving benefits to apply for and is particularly aimed at those needing support around food and/or cooking.

All skill levels welcome.

**Save money and cook better than the takeaway**

**JOIN OUR FREE FUN COOKING COURSES**

...all you need is a kitchen and a phone!

Free, fun cooking courses **AT HOME**  
Cook great food in just two weeks!  
Impress friends and family

Exciting meals can be quick, fun, easy and cheap to cook with our **FREE** (ingredients included), flexible, home-based short courses

**To register**  
Phone or text/Whatsapp 07701 304 555  
or email: [hackney@bagssoftaste.org](mailto:hackney@bagssoftaste.org)  
or you can sign up online:  
<https://bagssoftaste.org/students>

personal charities  
**HPC**

Are you worried about the rising cost of food and how to eat healthily on a tight budget?

Then join one of our free, fun cooking courses. Learn how to make delicious, healthy meals from all over the world whilst saving money.

All you need is a kitchen and a phone!

**About the course**

- **FREE**, ingredients included\*
- Cook tasty, healthy meals, cheaply
- Get tips on how to budget and save money when you're shopping
- Learn how to waste less

**How does it work?**

- We deliver three step-by-step recipes and all the ingredients you need, straight to your door
- Your personal mentor will support you by phone or WhatsApp with lots of tips and advice along the way
- At the end you'll get a free gift of wallet-friendly recipes

**What do I need to do?**

- All we ask is that you cook the three recipes and send us photos of your lovely food!

**How long does it take?**

- About two weeks but you can work at your own pace

**How do I join?**

- Register online: <https://bagssoftaste.org/students>
- Call/WhatsApp 07701 304 555
- Email [hackney@bagssoftaste.org](mailto:hackney@bagssoftaste.org)

Once we've confirmed your registration we'll contact you to arrange your delivery

\*For qualifying participants only

### HACKNEY YOUTH CHOIR FOR YEAR 4-6 CHILDREN

**Do you love to sing?**

We are recruiting young singers to join the Hackney Borough Youth Choir (Yr4-6) & Senior Vocal Ensemble (Yr7+)

HBYC is an inclusive musical community that brings together singers from Hackney schools to regularly perform joyful, uplifting and diverse repertoire.

Join us for a free of charge taster session on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September. For venue details & times, please call 020 3076 1535 or email [xanthe.sarr@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:xanthe.sarr@hackney.gov.uk), or scan the QR code for info & registration

Supported using public funding by

### VOLUNTEERS FOR ADULT READING PROGRAMME

Readeasy Hackney teach Hackney adults with low literacy to read, on a one-to-one basis. They are urgently looking for volunteers.

@ReadEasyHackney

**Can you read this?**

1 in 14 adults in the UK struggle to read. Volunteer in Hackney and be part of the change.

We are looking for **Coordinators** to ensure our Readers and Coaches have the day-to-day support they need on their reading journey.

**Time commitment:**  
3+ hrs p/w (working hours)

To find out more call 07936 116 903 or email [hackneyrecruiter@readeasy.org.uk](mailto:hackneyrecruiter@readeasy.org.uk)



## AUTUMN TERM 2025

1st half of term: **02.09.25 - 24.10.25**

Half term: **27 — 31 Oct 2025**

2nd half of term: **03.11.25 - 17.12 25**

**INSET days:** Mon 1 Sept 2025,  
Thurs 18 & Fri 19 Dec 2025

GREEN POINTS	Class	Points	TOP ATTENDANCE
Phase 1 (EYFS)	Owl	115	River 98% Mars 98.2%
Phase 2	Ocean	352	
Phase 3	Forest	206	



## WEEKLY CLASS AWARDS

**Rabbit class** (2-3 Nur) Saint  
**Hedgehog class**(3-4 Nur) Tulisa  
**Squirrel class** (Rec) Dion  
**Owl class** (Rec) John Christopher  
**Ocean class** (Yr 1) Anaya & Zineb

**River class** (Yr 2) Whole Class  
**Jupiter class** (Yr 3) Esila & Taylor  
**Mercury class** (Yr 4) Shiloh & Raha  
**Mars class** (Yr 5) Amoy & Jahvari  
**Venus class** (Yr 6) Adam & Armani

## YEAR 6 VISIT HACKNEY MUSEUM

This week, year 6 had a special trip to the Hackney Museum to take part in a workshop that looked at the history of migration in Hackney.

First, we were tasked with finding a range of objects around the museum that told stories of the different cultures that have influenced Hackney over time.

Next, we went back to the time of the Anglo Saxons and learned how their descriptions of Hackney gave rise to the modern place names – such as Clapton, Dalston and Shacklewell – that we have today.

Our main activity involved us working in groups to interpret clues about a range of individuals who migrated to Hackney from different periods of history. These ranged from a Victorian maid who arrived from Yorkshire, a Jewish child from Austria who arrived on the Kindertransport, and a Trinidadian woman who came to work as a bus conductor.

Looking at objects related to these individuals' lives helped us to think carefully about why they migrated, allowing us to empathise with the complicated emotions this would have engendered, as well as uncovering the ways that Hackney has been shaped by these waves of migration.

*"I found it interesting to learn about a boy named Mohamed, who migrated to Hackney in 1999 due to the civil war in Sierra Leone."* **Jesse**

*"It was great that we were able to work in groups to discuss the different objects and work out what we could learn from them."* **Mary-Theresa**

*"I particularly enjoyed reading some of the individuals' diaries as it helped me to understand what they were thinking and feeling at the time."* **Humaira.**

## YEAR 6 VISIT HACKNEY MUSEUM CONTINUED.....





### YEAR 5's CYCLE TRAINING

Year 5 have had a very exciting fortnight as they have taken part in Bikeability cycle training. They overcame cycle challenges and built confidence, working their way through the different levels. They learnt about how to maintain a good condition for their own bikes and found out about mastering basic skills.

Once learnt, never forgotten.

- **Check.** Perform an "ABCD" safety check of your air, brakes, chain and direction before every ride.
- **Look.** Be aware of your surroundings at all times.
- **Move.** Take the most suitable riding positions and own your space on the road. Keep out of the gutter and use the middle of your lane at junction.
- **Communicate.** Riding position, arm signals and eye contact are all useful ways to show your intentions.
- **Ride!** Stick to the rules of road, remember who has priority at each stage of your journey and enjoy your ride!

Some children even made it out to the local streets to practise safe road cycling. Well done to the year 5 pupils for their hard work and thank you to the brilliant cycle instructors who supported the children.

*'We learnt how to ride a bike and even went out onto the local streets, we learnt all about checking the bike. I loved it because riding a bike is so fun'.—Yususf.*

*'I loved it because I learnt how to ride a bike and it only took two and half days and we learnt so much!' - Merita.*

*'The thing that I learnt that was new was to keep one bicycle distance between you and the person in front of you, also riding a bike.'—Mohammed.*

*'Learning about what position to be in on the road was really useful and I hadn't done that before.' - Jahvari.*

*'I learnt about checking the bikes using the ABCD system. It was helpful because I learnt about how to fix the bike if something wasn't working.'—Jaspreet.*

#### YEAR 5 CYCLE TRAINING CONTINUED.....



### KEY DATES THIS TERM

- Thurs 25th Sept** MDV HH Open meeting 3.45 - 5pm  
**Mon 6th Oct** School photographer in for individual & sibling photos  
**Thurs 2nd Oct** Yr 6 assembly 3pm  
**Tues 7th Oct** Coffee Morning: Phonics & Early Reading (Nurs, Rec, Yr 1 & Yr 2 parents)  
**Thurs 23rd Oct** Yr 5 assembly 3pm  
**Mon 27 -Fri 31 Oct** Half term break  
**Thurs 20th Nov** Yr 4 assembly 3pm  
**Wed 17 Dec** Last day of Autumn term -  
**school closes early at 1.30pm for children**