

# LEAP NEWS

## Friday 20th October 2023

**SPANISH PHRASE** of the week  
las hojas caen de los árboles.... *The leaves fall from the trees...*

**Kingsmead, Gayhurst and Mandeville Primary Schools working in partnership**

### SCHOOL OF FOOD AUTUMN TRAIL

Don't forget to [buy your tickets](#) for the School of Food's amazing Autumn Trail on **Thursday 2nd Nov.** **All LEAP families registered for Free School Meals are being offered FREE tickets** to this event. Please get these from your school's office. Free pumpkin soup & bread on entry.

**HACKNEY SCHOOL OF FOOD** OSWALD STREET E5 0BT

*Autumn Trail*  
*Thursday 2nd November*

🎃 430-7pm 🎃

WANDER OUR PUMPKIN-LIT GARDENS,  
ENJOY FAMILY FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES,  
FILL UP ON DELICIOUS HOMEMADE FOOD,  
KEEP WARM BY OUR FIREPITS

**£8 Adult | £4 Child**  
*including pumpkin soup & bread*

TICKETS AVAILABLE VIA OUR WEBSITE  
[WWW.HACKNEYSCHOOLOFFOOD.COM](http://WWW.HACKNEYSCHOOLOFFOOD.COM)  
OR SCAN THE QR CODE

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### COLDER WEATHER

Please make sure your child brings a coat to school to wear during playtime and lunch times and for their journey too and from school, now that it is colder.

We all need to keep warm - just like Cinnamon's new chicks tucked under her downy feathers in this photo!



### NEW CHICKS NAMED

After reading through lots of the different suggestions, the school councillors in each school came together to vote on the best name for their school's chicks. We are delighted to announce below the winning chick names for each school's chick.

**Sunflower** (name of Kingsmead's chick), put forward by **Finley** in Year 1

**Pumpkin** (name of Mandeville's chick) put forward by **Amirah** in Year 5

**Chickpea** (name of Gayhurst's chick) put forward by **Aphra** in class 3E

They join Poppy (the Hackney School of Food's chick), and the hens **Cinnamon, Pepper** and **Berry** to form the Hackney School of Food brood!

Thank you to all the children you put forward suggestions for the names. Aphra, Finley and Amirah who suggested the winning names will each receive a free family ticket for two adults and two children to the Hackney School of Food's Autumn Trial on Thursday 2nd November.



**Poppy**



**Pumpkin**



**Chickpea**



**Sunflower**

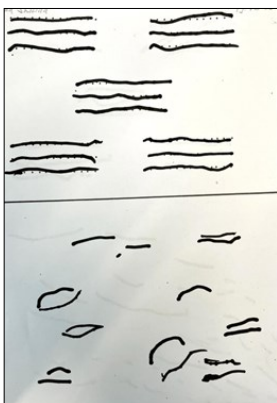
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### EARLY WRITING AT LEAP

From the time our children join Nursery, they are laying the foundations of strong literacy skills at LEAP. Writing is a complex process relying on many skills which often develop at different paces.

Children firstly need to be able to distinguish between sounds in the world and in speaking and our Nursery, teachers plan for this through stories. At the same time, children practise writing and drawing many of the shapes which form parts of our letters.

Spirals (winding clockwise and anticlockwise) are common shapes that children practise in Nursery.



This writing shows how a child has been guided at first, then has written independently. Independently written shapes and letters are a good indicator of understanding so we always encourage this. When we see

writing like this, teachers can assess development and plan for the next stage of teaching. Through Nursery, children gradually learn how to control letter shapes and write their names.

Our Reception teachers make the links between what children hear (sounds) and what they see written (letter shapes). They carefully plan learning activities so children have opportunities to practise reading and writing every day, multiple times a day. In this way, our children become confident, fluent readers and writers.

Here are some of the activities we teach and what children are learning from the activity.

#### Phonics



In phonics, children learn how to say a sound correctly, how to read and how to write it. In Reception, children learn usually one or two sounds a week and the teacher gradually adds more as the group learns.

### EARLY WRITING AT LEAP CONTINUED.....

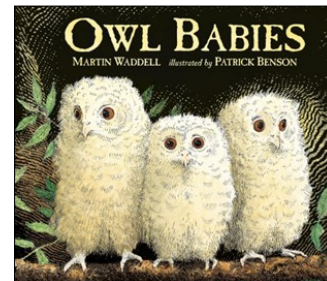
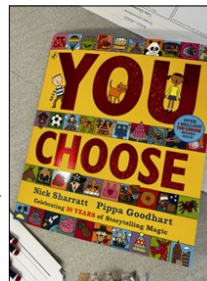
We teach phonics in groups so the adult can pay close attention to each child's learning. It is in these smaller groups that children also learn general skills like turn-taking and repetition in order to memorise and many of the behavioural skills needed through primary school and beyond.

Look how the children here are enjoying their learning!



During activities like this, children say the sounds aloud and group the letters that match. It develops a child's pace and accuracy at reading and applying visual skills, which support both reading and writing.

The books in our Early Years curriculum are a great way to initiate conversation and generate inspiration to write.



Developing a bank of known phonics alongside speed and confidence in recalling letter shapes, writing them with control and building sentences are just some of the complex set of skills we are developing when learning how to write! We aim that by the end of Reception, our children are writing with a mixture of known spellings and phonic spellings and have the confidence to record some of their thoughts and understanding independently.







### AUTUMN TERM 2023

1st half of term: **04.09.23 - 20.10.23**  
 Half term: **23 - 27 Oct 2023**  
 2nd half of term: **30.10.23 - 19.12.23**  
 INSET days: Fri 1 Sept 23  
 Wed 20 Dec 23

| GREEN POINTS   | Class       | Points | TOP ATTENDANCE               |
|----------------|-------------|--------|------------------------------|
| Phase 1 (EYFS) | Lion/Jaguar | 75     | Ocean 98.4%<br>Mercury 97.8% |
| Phase 2        | Ocean       | 196    |                              |
| Phase 3        | Venus       | 410    |                              |



### WEEKLY CLASS AWARDS

Last week's

**Jaguar class** Joel  
**Lion class** Nemar & Violetta  
**Panther class** Marlowe & Jesse  
**Ocean class** Jonathan & Soren

**River class** Josiah & Suri  
**Forest class** Daragh & Jaspreet  
**Mercury class** Aymira & Swafaa  
**Mars class** Amirah & Catherina  
**Venus class** David Akinwamide & Isla

## EMPOWERMENT CURRICULUM COFFEE MORNING: AFRICAN DRUMMING & DANCE

At LEAP, we work hard to ensure that your children receive a rich, relevant and representative curriculum and it is important to us that you get a deeper insight into what that can look and feel like. So, this week we invited families in for an African Drumming & Dance taster lesson! We had a great turnout and the families that attended were fantastic students. They learnt about the West African origins of the Djembe Drums in the Mali Empire and the Pan Logo dance from Ghana and literally danced and played for the duration of the coffee morning. We are not sure that that everyone realised what a workout they were letting themselves in for but the energy from the group was amazing (although many coffee breaks were required to help maintain the stamina). Our families had such a great time that a unanimous request for at least one Drumming and Dance session per term was requested, so look out for the next one in the Spring Term. Many thanks to Ms Harley & Aaron, our African drumming and dance teachers, for leading such a wonderful session.



## NEW SCHOOL COUNCIL

This week the **polling stations** were opened, our **nominees** were **campaigning** and we all had our **democracy** hats on as we carefully thought about who we would like to represent us in our new school council. Well done to all children who were involved! We were very impressed with the speeches and the passion to make a difference in our school. The votes are in! We are delighted to announce that our new school councillors are:

Year 6 – **Michael and Phoebe**  
 Year 5 – **Esther and Mohsen**  
 Year 4 – **Alvin and Amirah**  
 Year 3 – **Zayd and Emily-Rose**  
 Year 2 – **Huseyin and Malu**  
 Year 1 – **Jayden and Phoebe**

Congratulations to our new school council. We look forward to seeing what they do!



## KEY DATES THIS TERM

**Mon 23 - Fri 27 Oct** Half term break  
**Mon 31 Oct** Deadline for secondary school applications  
**Thurs 2 Nov** HSoF Autumn Trail 4.30–7pm  
**Thurs 9 Nov** Coffee Morning: Early Language & Play (Nur, Rec, Year 1 & 2 parents & carers) 9.10am  
**Wed 15 Nov** Teddy Bear's Picnic tour of Nursery & Reception classes 9.30am  
**Fri 17 Nov** Children in Need day  
**Mon 20 Nov** Be Bold Be Bright (Road Safety Awareness)  
**Tues 28 Nov** Coffee Morning: Colourful Semantics (Nur, Rec, Year 1 & 2 parents & carers) 9.10am  
**Thurs 30 Nov** Yr 4 class assembly 3pm  
**Tues 5 Dec** Christmas Panto for all children  
**Wed 6 Dec** Gymnastics performances yrs 5 & 6 at 9.15am + Parent & Carer consultation evening - **school closes early for children at 1.30pm**  
**Thurs 7 Dec** Wear a Festive Jumper day  
**Fri 8 Dec** Yr 1 & 2 Nativity performance  
**Mon 18 Dec** Drumming & Dance performances  
**Tues 19 Dec** Last day of Autumn Term - **early close for children at 1.30pm**