

Issue number: 7

Our school values: **Respect. Honesty. Responsibility. Equality. Resilience.**

Message from the Headteacher



I would like to start by congratulating the children at James Cambell. Despite everything that has been going on in the wider world, they have shown amazing resilience and commitment to their learning, whether at school or at home, and remained so positive. It is the children that make this school such a special place to be. Well done!

Your support as parents and families has been essential to the children's well-being and progress and I thank you for that. This, combined with the hard work and dedication of our staff, gives me every reason to be optimistic about the coming year.

However, we will all need to be patient. It is great news that the coronavirus mass vaccination programme has now started, but it will be a long time until it fully rolls out and, in the meantime, all of us remain at risk. The next term is likely to be very difficult and we therefore need to remember to follow the guidelines, which we remind you of in this newsletter.

While it is sad that we have not been able to invite families to any Christmas events this year, we have tried to make the run-up to Christmas an exciting time for the children. The children have enjoyed their Christmas dinner, raised money for Save the Children through Christmas Jumper Day and performed Christmas carols and songs for each other. Today they are enjoying their class parties.

Now it's time for everyone to have an extremely well-deserved rest. We would like to wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a very happy New Year.

We look forward to seeing you back at school on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

Stay safe,

Joe Wilson



Keeping Safe from COVID-19

A few reminders to help you and your family to keep safe over the Christmas holidays and into next term.

Hands Face Space

To help avoid spreading the coronavirus always remember 'hands, face, space':

- ✓ **Hands** – wash your hands regularly and for 20 seconds
- ✓ **Face** – wear a face covering where social distancing may be difficult, and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet
- ✓ **Space** – stay 2 metres apart from people you do not live with where possible, or 1 metre with extra precautions in place (such as wearing face coverings or increasing ventilation indoors)

If you have symptoms...

If anyone in your household has any one of the four coronavirus symptoms, then they need to self-isolate and book a test.

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

To order a test, please call NHS119 or book online at <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. The self-isolation needs to be for 10 days.

Other members of the household, including any children at the school, should also start isolating for 10 days (this changed on Monday from 14 days). This self-isolation can end if there is a negative test result and no one in the household is displaying symptoms.

If in doubt, do not bring your child to school!

If your child tests positive during the holiday

In the unfortunate event that your child tests positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus) during the holiday **and** they developed symptoms less than 48 hours after being at school, we would kindly ask that you email the school at covidresults@jamescambellprimary.org.uk. You will need to provide your child's name, class and the date that they developed symptoms in the email.

This is so the school can contact anyone who was likely to have been in close contact with your child and advise them to self-isolate.

There is **no** need to contact the school if your child developed symptoms more than 48 hours after last being at school. If your child is still unwell or self-isolating when school returns on 5th January 2021, then you should report your child's absence in the normal way.

At the School Gates

At the school gates, we would kindly request that all parents and carers:

- ✓ ensure that you do not arrive too early because it adds to congestion outside
- ✓ each child should only be brought to school and collected by **one adult** or older sibling
- ✓ ensure any younger siblings do not run around the playground while you are waiting
- ✓ leave as soon as you have dropped off or collected your child
- ✓ wear a face covering unless you are exempt (if you are exempt, please wear a badge or lanyard)
- ✓ keep conversations with staff as short as possible (if you need a longer discussion, then please send your teacher a message via Class Dojo or telephone the school office).



Keeping you in touch with the school

We want to keep parents and carers in touch with the school and have made improvements to the way in which we communicate with you.

As well as the school website, you can now find out key information from **MySchoolApp**. In addition, you can keep in touch with your class teacher through **Class Dojo**.

If you are not already signed up for MySchoolApp and Class Dojo, please contact the school office at the start of next term and we can help you to get connected.



Anti-bullying week

The theme for this year's Anti Bullying Week was 'United Against Bullying'. The children found out about what bullying is and how to report it. As a school we are united to stand up to bullying and make a change!

We were joined by the Metropolitan Police and they gave a talk on Cyberbullying and how to stay safe online. The younger children had lots of fun trying on the police uniforms too!

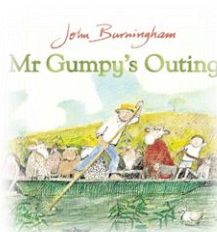


Children in Need Day

Thank you to everyone for your great support for Children in Need Day on Friday 13th November. You helped the school to raise an amazing £475.91.

Reception

The children in Reception have been reading *Mr Gumpy's Outing* by John Burningham. Here they are acting out the story.



Love reading!

Please encourage your children to read every day – and take the opportunity to read with them over the Christmas holidays.

Reading is so important for children:

- It expands their vocabulary and improves their grammar
- It helps them to understand the world around them
- It enhances their imagination
- It leads to their future academic success
- It improves their writing
- It's fun!

So switch off the television and games consoles this Christmas – and enjoy a good book instead!

Parking



Please could we remind parents **not** to park or to drop off children in front of the school gates, on zig-zag lines, on corners or in driveways. We have received a few comments from parents about cars blocking the road and pavement and we would ask all parents to be considerate and help ensure the safety of all our children.

Christmas Jumper Day



The children had great fun on Friday 11th December showing off their fabulous Christmas jumpers and helping to raise money for Save the Children.

Children from Reception as well as years 2, 4 and 6 also enjoyed tucking into their delicious Christmas dinner that day (children from other year groups had their dinner the previous week).

Mulally's Christmas tree



Christmas Carol Concerts

Even Covid can't dampen our singing souls this week at James Cambell. Despite current restrictions that meant the children were unable to visit Saint Alban's Church this year, Christmas Carol concerts were organised in-house, in our school hall. Each class had the opportunity to perform to the other classes in their year group bubbles. Having practiced since November, the children performed classic songs such as *Joy To The World*, *On A Starry Night*, and of course, *We Wish You A Merry Christmas*. Big smiles all round accompanied the enthusiastic singing from the children, demonstrating the strong school spirit that makes us all proud. Well done, Cambell Carollers and a very Merry Christmas to you all!

Miss Collier - Music Lead

New start and end times

We are making a few changes to the start and end times for some year groups after Christmas. The times are as follows:

Year Group	Start time	End time
Nursery	9.00am	12.00pm
Reception	8.45am	2.50pm
Year 1	8.55am	3.10pm
Year 2	8.45am	3.00pm
Year 3	8.55am	3.15pm
Year 4	8.45am	3.15pm
Year 5	8.40am	3.10pm
Year 6	8.50am	3.20pm

There will be no change in the location of entry and exit gates for different year groups. The gates will be closed five minutes after the start and end times – this should allow time for parents with a child in more than one year group to be able to walk to the different gates. Please try to arrive promptly. If you arrive after the gate has closed, you will need to go to the main school reception.

Cambell Primary Centre

The Cambell Primary Centre (CPC) helps a small number of children from across the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham to build emotional resilience, improve their behaviour and become confident in their social skills.

The CPC has welcomed six new children this term. Here are some of them enjoying making some wintery art.



Votes for Schools



Every week children discuss a 'Votes for Schools' topic, which helps boost their oracy skills, as well as increasing their knowledge and understanding of current affairs. It is also great for families to discuss these topics with their children at home.

Welcome to Ms Lallmahmood

We are delighted to welcome Ms Lallmahmood to James Cambell Primary. She will be providing cover to classes across the school.

Term dates for spring and summer

Tuesday 5 th January 2021	First Day of the Spring Term
Monday 15 th February – Friday 19 th February 2021	Half Term
Thursday 1 st April 2021	Last Day of the Spring Term
Monday 19 th April 2021	First Day of the Summer Term
Monday 3 rd May 2021	May Day Holiday
Monday 31 st May 2021-Friday 4 th June 2021	Half Term
Friday 16 th July 2021	Last Day of the School Year