

Issue number: 12

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

### Message from the Headteacher

As we reach the end of the first half of the autumn term, this newsletter shows there is much to celebrate in what the children have achieved and the opportunities that they have had.

It has been great to be able to restart many of the things that have not been possible for the last 18 months, including external visits and being able to invite parents into school again. The year 5 Black History Assembly, attended by the Mayor of Barking and Dagenham Councillor Edna Fergus, was a particular highlight.

We are looking forward to being able to run many more exciting events over the course of the year, including – in the next half-term – the year 3 Diwali Assembly, the Christmas nativity and carol concerts and the Christmas Fair which will be organised by the newly formed PTA.

However, we need to continue to be careful. Coronavirus cases are rising again and there is the risk that restrictions could return. I would therefore strongly encourage you to follow the Director of Public Health's advice and arrange a test for your child before they return to school after the holiday (please see page 4 for details).

I look forward to seeing you all on our return to school on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. In the meantime, I wish you all a good half-term week.

With very best wishes,

Mr Wilson



### Year 5 Black History Assembly



On Friday 15th October, the year 5 children at James Cambell Primary School in Dagenham presented a Black History Month Assembly for their parents and for the Mayor of Barking and Dagenham Councillor Edna Fergus.

The assembly was about how attitudes to race in sport have changed over time. The children told the story of how taking the knee had become a powerful symbol, and of the discrimination that black footballers and tennis players have faced, as well as their great achievements. The children finished with a heart-warming performance of how athletes Barshim and Tamperi had shared the high jump gold medal at this year's Olympics in a display of harmony and equality.

The Mayor and the parents loved the children's clear narration of these powerful stories, their acting, their dancing and their renditions of Bob Marley's 'Redemption Song' and of Stevie Wonder and Paul McCartney's 'Ebony and Ivory'.

Mr Wilson said "the children of year 5 have really made us all proud and reminded us that equality is something we cannot take for granted."

In her closing speech, the Mayor thanked the children and said how much she had enjoyed the assembly. She said that the assembly was one of many events across Barking and Dagenham celebrating Black History Month. "It is really important that we do this," she explained, "so that we can learn about one another, understand the past much better, tell the stories that have been hidden and hear how together we can build a more equal and fair future."





## Parent Teacher Association

On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October parents came to the first meeting of the Parent Teacher Association organised by Mrs Masters. There was a real enthusiasm at the meeting for parents and the school to work closely together to organise some exciting community events and to raise money for children's education.

The next meeting will be at 9.15am on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November. At this meeting, we will elect a committee for the PTA and discuss the organisation of the Christmas Fair.



## Race and Social Justice

At James Cambell Primary, we are proud to live in Barking and Dagenham, one of London's most diverse boroughs. We are determined that all our young people, particularly the most disadvantaged, should have the best possible start in life.

Schools across Barking and Dagenham have launched an important new race and social justice project to ensure:

- that pupils' experience of school and life chances is not adversely affected by ethnic background or racial group;
- that the curriculum of schools reflects and celebrates the diversity of the borough;
- that the staff and leadership of schools in the borough fully reflect its diversity; and
- that the views of the children in our schools informs our approach.

Mrs Thompson is James Cambell's lead facilitator for race and social justice. She has already introduced new reading books for each year group which promote race and social justice. Going forward, she will be engaging the wider community in the development of the schools' approach to the project.

If you would like to be involved in this important project, please let Mrs Thompson know through the school office.

## 'Rainbow Fish' story teller visits Reception



This half term Reception were lucky enough to get a visit from a very special story teller. Dressed as a pirate, the story teller, helped the children learn all about The Rainbow Fish and how it is great to share with others. A range of beautiful puppets and props were used to bring the story alive. All of the children behaved impeccably during the performance and many even had the confidence to stand up and be part of this lovely show.



## Providing children with more fun and opportunities at playtimes

These are exciting times at James Cambell Primary School. A fantastic new climbing frame has just been built in the year 1 and 2 playground. The climbing frame, which was installed by Educational Play Environments, is proving a huge hit with the children.

The climbing frame isn't the end of the planned improvements to the school playground. A gigantic sand pit is being installed later in the year. Meanwhile different zones in the playground are being designed to stimulate children's creativity and imagination, as well as their physical development. There will be role-play and art zones, opportunities for den-building and quiet reading areas. There will also still be space for classic ball games, like football and basketball.

Mrs Macleod will be arranging some information sessions for parents to let you know all about the playground improvements.



## Year 2 visit to Parsloes Park

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October, the year 2 children went on a visit to Parsloes Park. This half term, as part of year 2's "Mapping Mayhem" topic we have been investigating our school and local area. We have been discussing the human and physical features of our area, as well as what an aerial view looks like and how to read maps.

The children had a lovely time walking around the park and making their aerial maps. We plotted the human and physical features and also made a key to identify important places in the park. We even had time to play in the playground once our hard work was done! Well done to all the year 2 children for being so sensible and well behaved on their visit. We are very proud of you all.



## Year 5 explore 2000 years of Dagenham's history

Year 5 visited Valence House as part of their history study: *How has Dagenham changed and why?* The children learnt about what life was like in Dagenham in the past – going back on a journey of nearly 2000 years!

Evidence of the Romans has been found across Dagenham. Here are a few highlights...

In 1066, Dagenham celebrated the coronation of King William 'the Conqueror'.



During the Middle Ages, Barking Abbey was an important religious centre.



When the children looked in the archives, they learnt about James Cambell, a significant person from the local area, who our school is named after. They studied past documents to find out about people's lives in the past.



The children learnt about the development of Ford in Dagenham and its impact on the area from the archives. They looked at the docks and how they have changed.



They also looked for clues about the past from old photographs of Dagenham. They learnt the Becontree Estate was built to provide new housing for families following the war.



## January 2022 Nursery Intake



We are delighted to announce that there are a limited number of spaces in our Nursery which we are able to offer to children who have had their third birthday since the start of the academic year (i.e. between 1<sup>st</sup> September and 31<sup>st</sup> December).

The 'Rising 3' spaces will be offered on the basis of age so the children who turn 3 first in the autumn term will be offered the spaces first and so on.

All children in nursery will be guaranteed a place at the school next year.

If you would be interested in more information, to arrange a visit or register your child for a 'Rising 3' Nursery place please contact Mrs C Stevens at [office@jamescambellprimary.org.uk](mailto:office@jamescambellprimary.org.uk)

**Applying for a Reception school place for September 2021**



## Update from the Cambell Primary Centre (CPC)

The children of the CPC have had a very successful half term. We really enjoyed having the Chain Reaction theatre company in to see us. The children learnt to improve their focus through the 'Focus Pocus' workshops for six weeks. They used games and role play to decide how to resolve conflict.

The CPC also had a visit from the Borough's education inclusion partner, Bal Gill, who said, 'May I say how pleased and rewarding it was for me to see the children engaging. The atmosphere at the centre was so calm. The staff and pupils were so welcoming.'

We've also used apparatus in PE, made characters from the Tin Forest in DT and, of course, enjoyed our nurture work and cooking.



**Half-term football club**



James Cambell Primary School are pleased to be able to provide a half-term football club. Coach Callum from Mavericks IQ will be hosting the five day football camp from 10am-1:30pm daily for 5-11 year old pupils. Each individual day will cost £10, or £40 per week should you wish your child to participate in the programme for the whole week.

Please ensure you provide your child with food and plenty to drink for the sessions.



For further details or to book please contact Coach Callum, Mavericks IQ – 07723090987



**Fortnite**

At school we have had to address a number of disputes and playground arguments because of pupils coming into school having played 'Fortnite' with their friends while at home.

Fortnite has a PEGI (Pan European Game Information) rating of 12. PEGI have said this is due to the: *'frequent scenes of mild violence. It is not suitable for persons under 12 years of age'*.

This PEGI rating only takes into account the content in the game and not the contact element, where players may be exposed to swearing and offensive language from strangers in voice or on-screen text chat.

We hope this information will help parents to make an informed decision about their children's use of this game. For further advice, please go to [www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk)



**Staying Safe: COVID-19**

Unfortunately, COVID-19 (coronavirus) is still with us and we need to remain careful. The Director of Public Health has therefore written to all primary school parents to encourage you to have your child tested before returning to school at the end of the half-term holiday. A copy of this letter is on the home page of the school website at <http://www.jamescambell.com/>

You can arrange for either a PCR test or a lateral flow test for your child. You can pick up a lateral flow test for free from most pharmacies. The letter provides other options for how you can arrange these tests.

Please note that home tests are not for children in Nursery or Reception – they need to be taken to a test centre.

**Key dates for next Half Term**



10 <sup>th</sup> & 11 <sup>th</sup> November- Parents Evening	
10 <sup>th</sup> November-15 <sup>th</sup> November-Scholastic Book Fair	
12 <sup>th</sup> November- Diwali Assembly	
15 <sup>th</sup> November-Anti-Bullying Week	
19 <sup>th</sup> November- Police Talks for years 1-3	
26 <sup>th</sup> November- Police Talks for years 4-6	
7 <sup>th</sup> December- Nativity (Reception and Key Stage 1) – A classes: 9:30 - 10:30 / B classes: 10:45-11:30	
8 <sup>th</sup> December - Nativity (Reception and Key Stage 1) – C classes: 9:30-10:30	
9 <sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Carol Concert – Years 3 and 4 - 9:15-10:15 / Years 5 and 6 - 10:45 -11:45	
17 <sup>th</sup> December-last day of Autumn Term	( normal time finishing)



From the 2<sup>nd</sup> November, the menu will be week 1 again. Then from the 8<sup>th</sup> November we will be using menu 2. And then rotate as usual.

There has been change to menu 2. The Mexican Chilli Beef has been swapped for Beef Lasagne. There is also Halal Beef Lasagne available- please see school website for more details.

