

Issue number: 15

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

Message from the Headteacher

It has been another very busy half-term at James Cambell!

The children have worked really hard, as well as having had lots of exciting opportunities and experiences. As you can read in this newsletter, the children have explored places from Colchester Castle to Wales – and even outer space!

They have gone back in time to ancient Rome, Greece and Egypt to learn about the past. And they have really enjoyed the great improvements to play times and the arrival of the new sandpit.

The children have also made great progress in their learning. Reading is improving across the school and World Book Day provided a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the children's love of reading. Next term sees the re-introduction of year 2 and year 6 SATS (for the first time since 2019), the year 1 phonics check and also the new multiplication tables test for year 4. The staff at the school have been working hard to prepare the children and we are confident that they will do really well.

I am so grateful for all your support for the school and for your generosity. Thank you to everyone for raising well over £1000 for humanitarian aid for Ukraine, as well as supporting Children in Need Day. This week you have done an amazing job in sponsoring your child to complete a fun fitness circuit with athlete, Frederick Afrifa.

*Frederick Afrifa
and Chloe from
Sports for Schools
with Mr Konis*



On behalf of everyone at James Cambell, we wish you and your families a relaxing and enjoyable holiday. Happy Easter!

We look forward to seeing you back on Tuesday 19th April.

Joe Wilson
Headteacher



Year 5 go to Wales!



40 year 5 children had a superb week away at Trewern in Wales. They experienced many new activities and experiences. This included:

- a night walk where they saw the North Star and heard bats
- an orienteering experience and a nightline where they had to show great teamwork
- showing great resilience and facing their fears when completing caving, gorge walking, rock climbing and BMX biking (with more than ten children learning to ride a bike)
- experiencing life on a working farm and holding a day-old lamb.

Not only did the children experience many new activities, but they also developed their independence skills by making their own beds, completing duties such as laying the tables, washing up, sweeping the floor, hanging up wet clothes etc. By the end of the week, they completed all the chores and duties by themselves, and the staff could see a great difference in each child.





Reception Mother's Day Assembly

Last week Reception were pleased to welcome their parents and carers into the school to watch their Mother's Day assembly. With previous lockdown restrictions, this was the first time most of the children have been able to take part in any performance on this scale, and what an amazing performance it was!

The children showed off their artistic talents with their flower paintings, they sung a beautiful Mother's Day song and some were even brave enough to come to the front and share with all the parents why they loved their mummy so much.

We were all so proud of the confident performance the Reception children gave and look forward to planning our next assembly. Well done Reception!



Ancient Greece Day



Year 4 had a great time with their Ancient Greece day. Our day started with a short talk on Greek life and culture, and the battles of Thermopylae and Marathon. We then completed a quiz, Archimedes Stomachion, a Greek "jigsaw" puzzle for exercising the mind, and PETTEIA, a Greek strategy game played by Alexander the Great. Next we were transported to a Greek theatre where we took part in re-enacting some Greek myths and legends.

After lunch a Greek warrior fresh from battle demonstrated his weapons and armour. We explored the differences between the city states of Athens and Sparta and the children had a lesson in democracy. We were able to take part in our own mini-Olympic Games. We finished our day by taking part in a re-enactment of the great battle of Gaugamela between Alexander the Great and King Darius.



Ben Kinsella workshops

Year 6 visited The Ben Kinsella Trust, an organisation founded by Brooke Kinsella MBE following the murder of her brother Ben in 2008. The Ben Kinsella Trust is tackling youth crime through education and campaigning.

Here is what year 6 students had to say about their learning during the visit:

The Ben Kinsella Trust was very emotional to attend because of what happened to Ben and his family. Also, I think it was very beneficial for us to learn about what can happen in regards to knife crimes and what to do in certain situations. I felt very upset for Ben and his family, because he didn't deserve it. As well as this, his family and friends did not deserve to go through the pain of losing somebody – in fact nobody deserves too.

Kadie

Ben Kinsella was a young 16 year old from England. Whilst on a night out, in celebration of finishing his GCSEs, he was brutally murdered even though he rushed out of the premises with his friends because they did not want to get involved in a conflict. I have learnt to cherish your loved ones as there are cruel people on this earth.

Lal

We learnt when outside be sure not to trouble anybody else because they could possibly hurt you or be carrying a knife. It was beneficial to our class because we learnt about how to keep safe, ways to help people when they are hurt and what to do in certain situations. Although it was quite emotional, it was extremely interesting and helpful to us as we know what to do in certain situations

Kye

The Ben Kinsella Trust is a charity organisation that relies on donations in order to educate and campaign in regards to knife crime. If you would like to donate to this amazing organisation, please use the link provided below:

<https://benkinsella.org.uk/donate/>



The Ben Kinsella Trust

Crossing Continents Workshop

On Thursday the 4th of March, year 2 had a very special visitor in the Key Stage 1 hall - an explorer, who travels around the world! Our topic this half term is "Hot! Hot! Hot!" and we have been learning all about hot countries in the world, their climate and how people and animals survive there.

Children were taken on a journey across the continents and oceans of the world. They learnt facts about each continent and about amazing places like The Grand Canyon. Children travelled across the continents in many different ways: by plane, boat and even jet-ski! It was an amazing workshop and the children thoroughly enjoyed it.



Climate Change Summit



On 14th March 2022, five Year 5 and Year 6 children from the school attended the Borough of Barking and Dagenham's Young People's Climate Change Summit, the FIRST EVER Climate Change Summit to be held in the borough. It was held at Jo Richardson Community School and was attended by more than 20 schools.

The summit provided children with the opportunity to air their views on decarbonisation and sustainability. They discussed and input into the borough's six priorities or road map aimed at making Barking and Dagenham greener by 2030 - way ahead of the Government proposal of making the entire United Kingdom greener by 2050.

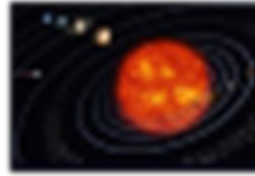
The priorities are buildings, energy, nature, transport, recycling and rewarding companies that are already taking the initiative to make the borough greener. Our children made fantastic contributions, asked very powerful questions, ordered the priorities according to practicability and finally voted to indicate the reasoning behind their chosen vote.

The summit was also attended by the Deputy Leader of the Council, Cllr Achilleos (Climate Change Champion) and Martin Offiah MBE, ex-professional rugby player (and top scoring player for England of all time), who is now ambassador for Connected Kerb. They gave speeches highlighting the steps they are already taking towards a greener borough like installing electrical charging points in areas where people will struggle to do so.

A trip into space

Our year 5 children have been reaching for the stars!

A fascinating, fun planetarium show has taken our pupils on a journey through space. The entire night sky was projected onto the inside of the 'Wonderdome' and the year 5 children could admire beautiful stars and constellations.



The children learnt amazing facts about our solar system and beyond, including taking a flying visit to and learning information about our incredible neighbouring planets. Is it possible to live on them? What makes Planet Earth so special that life thrives here?

The presentation also investigated the sun and revealed some incredible facts about our nearest star. The children learnt about The Moon, our nearest neighbour, and why it appears to change shape.

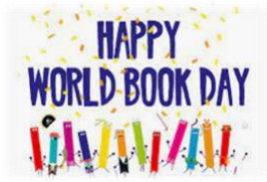
Ancient Egyptian Day

For the celebration of their Egyptian Day, year 5 came to school in amazing Ancient Egyptian outfits. During the day, they learnt to write their names using hieroglyphics; they found out about pyramids; they learnt the different stages in the process of mummification and the Egyptian beliefs in the afterlife.

Some children even acted out a play as Young Archaeologists on a mission to Egypt to take part in a discovery quest. As they solved their clues, they unveiled key facts about this extremely interesting ancient time. Everyone had a great time!



World Book Day



Children celebrated World Book Day on the 2nd March. Children dressed up as their favourite book character and also enjoyed reading with their reading buddies in another year group. It was a day filled with fun reading activities.

Please do encourage your child to read every day during the school holidays!



Story and Dance Workshop

On Tuesday 8th March we welcomed West End in Schools to James Cambell for a special Dance workshop – with the aim to inspire and improve the children’s writing in Key Stage 1.



The children loved exploring the story of Alice in Wonderland, and following the workshop, they produced some beautiful work. At James Cambell we continue to promote the love of reading and we have noticed a huge improvement in the writing in years 1 and 2 – well done all!

Year 3 visit Colchester Castle

Year 3 had a fantastic day at Colchester Castle. During our trip we completed a discovery trail with our classes. We constructed a roundhouse and a Roman villa. A guide took us through 2,000 years of history to the Roman Vaults and the foundations of the Temple of Claudius. We learnt about the history of Colchester Castle and discovered lots about Roman life.



Spring is here

Now that spring is here, we thought you would enjoy seeing nursery children’s beautiful daffodil paintings...





Foundation Stage Oral Dental

Health.

After hearing that one in four children suffer from tooth decay by the age of 5, Lucky Zinyengere from the Dental Health Outreach Team was invited to visit our school to help parents, staff and children learn about looking after teeth, so we can all work together to help improve the dental care of our children.

To start the day Lucky spoke to the parents of the Nursery and Reception children about how to help children look after their teeth, establish a healthy diet, and most importantly encourage children to brush their teeth twice a day. We were all surprised to hear that after you have brushed your teeth you must not rinse your mouth with water or mouth wash, as this washes away the fluoride that you have just put on your teeth with the toothpaste. The fluoride helps keep your teeth healthy.

Lucky then spoke to the children in the reception classes and Nursery to show them how to brush their teeth, which foods are good and bad for our teeth and about visiting the dentist. Lucky showed the children the mirror and pointer the dentist puts into the mouth to look at the teeth so the children will not be frightened of these tools when they visit the dentist.



After Easter, we are going to introduce brushing teeth in the Nursery and reception classes to help us have the healthiest teeth. After all, our teeth really are for life.

At the end of the day, we were awarded a bronze award by the Dental Outreach Team for showing commitment to help improve the teeth of our children!

Thank you and well done to all the staff, parents and children who attended these meetings to make this happen.

Update from Cambell Primary Centre (CPC)

Just like the rest of the school, the CPC have had a very busy half term!

We really enjoyed World Book Day where we read our favourite books and made characters and backgrounds to go with them. We even dressed a potato as our favourite character.



We used our skills in ICT and maths to make our own spreadsheets and sponsorship forms for our fun run. It was a great afternoon and the children enjoyed running in the sun with their families.

We have been very creative in both our nurture work and the foundation subjects. The children can play different tunes on the glockenspiel, as either a whole class or taking different parts. The children have also experimented with different recipes in cooking, adapting ideas to fit special occasions or to include particular food groups for a healthier diet. We continue to use art to explore our emotions. The different types of art we have experimented with also help the children to think creatively, overcome obstacles and work both individually and in groups.



We have really enjoyed getting to know our parents more this term! It was great to have so many attend the fun run and the coffee morning. This has a huge benefit for the children and helps us find the best ways to support the whole family. We will be running more events next term, starting with a coffee morning where Mrs Ball, our nurture lead, will share the principles of Thrive.

Outdoor Play and Learning

We have been working very hard to improve the break times at James Cambell and we have been supported by OPAL – Outdoor Play and Learning.



The aim is to encourage children to play with loose parts to build dens, invent games and have fun.

The children can choose which playground to play in. We are also making those playgrounds more interesting – for example, we have invested in a new climbing frame and a sandpit.



Teachers and visitors at the school have commented on the happiness of the children. Staff say the children return to class happy and fulfilled. There are fewer behaviour issues at break as the children are busy having fun.

Mrs Macleod has set up a Children's Committee where the children can lead the changes. She is also hosting weekly parent tours of the site for anyone who wants to get involved.

Thank you for the donations we have received. I will set up a page on our website with a wish list. Think of us if you are having a declutter!

This week we are having a 'play afternoon'. This will replace a PE lesson and the children will have play activities with their teacher.



Egg-cellent Eggs!

Thank you to all of our families who entered - we weren't egg-specting so many wonderful entries and are so pleased so see all the fantastic creative ideas - you are all very talented!

It has been incredibly hard to choose the winners for each class but after much consideration and thought they have been chosen. Well done to the winning families, we are egg-cited to deliver the prizes and hope you all have a wonderful Easter break.



The younger children took part in an amazing Easter bonnet parade.

Free breakfast available for children eligible for Pupil Premium



Have you registered your child for the free breakfast?

After all those Easter Eggs, we bring you a new start to the school day! A good breakfast can improve children's readiness to learn, their behaviour and their wellbeing.

Children will be provided with bagels on arrival at the lunch hall in the school.

We are starting at 8.15am on Tuesday 19th April 2022 (children must arrive before 8.30am for their breakfast).

For more information, including whether your child is eligible for Pupil Premium, please ask at Reception.



Improving School Communications with ParentMail



Communicating effectively with you is key to everything we do. Our staff work hard to make sure you get the correct information about school news, activities and things that really matter.

James Cambell are now using ParentMail, a service used by over 6,000 schools, nurseries and children's clubs to communicate to parents. ParentMail will be beneficial to you because you can:

- Use a free mobile app on Android and iOS to pick up school messages instantly.
- Have an account simply for school messages (away from your busy email inbox!)
- Highlight important messages or archive old messages to make life easier.
- Messages can be sent directly to mums, dads and carers – even grandparents!

Registering with ParentMail is very easy! Over the next few days you will be sent either an email and/or text message from ParentMail. When you receive this please just follow the instructions in the message.

Once registered, if you have an Android or Apple smartphone, we would highly recommend you download the ParentMail App

For further information please do not hesitate to contact the school office



Parking

Please could we remind you not to park on the zig-zag lines outside the school. This causes congestion and can also be dangerous for children crossing the road. Thank you for helping to keep our roads safe.



Key Dates for next term

First day of new term	Tuesday 19 th April
Half-term holiday	Monday 30 th May to Friday 3 rd June
Summer Fair	Friday 1 st July
Sports Days	Week commencing 4 th July
Annual reports sent home	Friday 8 th July
Year 6 Black and White Ball	Tuesday 19 th July
Last day of summer term	Wednesday 20 th July

