



Issue number: 17

Our school values: **R**espect. **H**onesty. **R**esponsibility. **E**quality. **R**esilience.



## Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers,

What an amazing year it has been at James Cambell!

I have to start by congratulating the year 6 children on achieving the **school's best ever SATs results** and being way above the national average!

- **Maths 84%** of children achieved expected (national 71%)
- **Reading 84%** of children achieved expected (national 74%)
- **Writing 79%** of children achieved expected (national 69%)

But it hasn't only been year 6 who have made amazing progress this year. Across the whole school, the children have bounced back successfully from the disruption caused by Covid and we can expect great things from the children in the years to come.

Academic success is clearly important, but it is only one part of the overall picture. Over the year, we have worked to provide children with a whole range of opportunities, whether it is improving our playgrounds, arranging exciting trips out of school and visitors into school or performing in assemblies for you, our parents. You can read about some of these great opportunities in this newsletter.

None of this would have been possible without the incredible support of parents and

carers, and the skill and commitment of the staff at the school. The summer fair was a real highlight and showed James Cambell at its absolute best. I would like to thank the whole school community for making this such a great year for our children.

Finally, we would all like to say goodbye to the children of year 6 and wish them all the best in the next stage of their education at secondary school. We know you will all be great in your new schools, and we hope you will come back and visit us in the future!

I wish you all a very happy summer holiday – and look forward to seeing you back at school, refreshed and ready, on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September.

With very best wishes,

Mr Wilson

## Sport at James Cambell

We are delighted to announce that James Cambell has achieved a silver games mark award for the high quality of our PE and school sports provision this year 🏆

The school provides a wide range of sports and physical activities, and we are grateful to everyone who came to support and enjoy our recent Sports Days.

Thank you all for your continued support - next year we will be going for gold!



## PE Enrichment Afternoons

At James Cambell we pride ourselves on providing the children with unique and unforgettable experiences, some of which they may have not had an opportunity to try before. With this in mind, we arranged for all of KS2 to have a PE enrichment afternoon where they were able to try Fencing & Archery. The children absolutely loved the activities and most said that they would love to try it again! We will continue to provide these experiences for the children at James Cambell and hopefully next year they will have more opportunities to try some new sports.



## OUR JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS



### Year 1 Jubilee Assembly

This year we were very proud to create and deliver an assembly, celebrating the Queen's platinum Jubilee. The children in year 1 learned lots about the royal family and specifically about Queen Elizabeth. We all enjoyed the celebrations and hopefully we will get to see another milestone!



### Jubilee Picnic

The children had a fantastic day marking the 70th year of the Queen's reign. They learned about the Royal Family and Her Majesty's family tree. The children enjoyed the Royal Garden Party on the lawn and enjoyed a

strawberry cream tea. Each child received a special book about Queen Elizabeth to keep.



### Nursery holds a Royal Party to Celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

To celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of the Queen the Nursery children listened to the story 'Peppa's Royal Party', made flags to wave at the royal parade, rode royal horses and made crowns to wear in preparation for the royal tea party which was to take place at the end of the Jubilee week.

On the Friday the children adorned their best outfits to attend the royal tea party where they stood whilst 'God Save the Queen' was played and then sat down to a delicious royal feast. A right royal time was had by all!

### Road Safety Magic Assembly

James Cambell enjoyed a special visit from a Magician, who taught the children about how to keep safe on the road.



### Our trip to Shoeburyness

On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June, Year 1 went to Shoeburyness! We were very excited as we got on the coaches and treated the coach driver to our wonderful rendition of 'The Wheels on the Bus'.

When we got to the beach, we looked at the beach huts as we have been learning all about the seaside this term and will be making our own beach huts as part of our D&T lessons.

Once we had completed our work on beach huts, there was only one thing left to do...have

fun! We made pictures using pebbles we found on the beach, and we paddled in the water! It was freezing! We particularly enjoyed jumping over the waves.

The day went by too quickly, and soon it was time to get back on the coaches to come back to school. Sadly, the driver didn't hear us singing on the way home as many of us were fast asleep after being by the sea all day.



### Reception visit Barking Theatre

This term, the Reception teamed up with 'Music in the Round' and retold the story of 'Izzy Gizmo' at Barking Theatre. The story is all about a little girl who loved to invent gadgets. However, Izzy's inventions did not always go to plan. So, she had to dig deep and work on her determination and persistence to keep trying with her inventions, to make sure they were successful.

The children worked very hard in the weeks running up to the show; learning the story, the songs, actions and even all about the instruments that would accompany them. The children enjoyed travelling to the theatre by train and showed excellent behaviour throughout. When we arrived at the theatre, the children got to see a live orchestra play the songs they had been working on. They listened to a live cello, flute, clarinet, violin, and piano. The children listened to the story being retold on stage and then they performed each of their songs alongside the orchestra to an impeccably high standard.



### Your Views Matter!

#### Feedback from the Parent survey

Thank you so much to everyone who responded to the recent parent survey. It was great to have over 150 responses and to hear your views on the school.

Overall, you were very positive about the school:

- 97% of you said that your child felt happy at school
- 93% that the school had high expectations for your child
- 96% agreed their child does well at school
- 96% thought that there were a good range of subjects available at the school
- 89% would recommend the school to another parent
- 91% agreed that the school makes sure that their child is well-behaved

The percentages are all improvements on the survey results in May 2021 and reflects the great progress the school is making.

Here are a few of your comments:

- ✓ *I like how the staff are all so friendly and approachable and that my child is very happy and learning well.*
- ✓ *The environment and all the staff are very good.*
- ✓ *The teachers are very good and friendly. My child feels safe there.*
- ✓ *Good communication between parents and teachers both in person and online.*
- ✓ *Absolutely amazing school. I moved my children from another Barking and Dagenham school and it's the best decision. The staff are great and attentive to their needs.*
- ✓ *The school is making a conscious effort to include parents within daily school life.*
- ✓ *The staff are very supportive and listen to the children. They manage behaviour very well. My children's teachers are very friendly and have high expectations for them. They are extremely good teachers.*

- ✓ *I like that my children feel safe at the school and have good relations with all the teachers not just the class.*
- ✓ *The teachers are friendly and approachable and supportive. They have high expectations. The school involves parents and carers very well ... The school tries to organise events which are fun for my son.*
- ✓ *Child-centred e.g., playground, trips*
- ✓ *I like the mixture of different backgrounds among the pupils and the teachers.*
- ✓ *All staff are very supportive and understanding to us and children. Our daughter settled in very well and both children love going into school. Also, the communication of the school with parents is excellent.*

It was really helpful to have your suggestions on how we can improve the school even further. We have set out some of your main points in the questions and answers below:

#### **What are the plans for clubs next year?**

We will continue to run a range of after-school clubs next year and will be writing to you in early September about what clubs will be available. There will be a small charge for these clubs to be able to cover our costs; however, they will be free if your child is eligible for Pupil Premium (please speak to the office if you think this might apply to you - we would be happy to help).

#### **Can children have more homework?**

It is always a difficult balance to set the right amount of homework. Our policy is to provide sufficient homework to support the child's essential learning in reading, writing and maths. We also aim to set homework that it is relatively easy for parents/carers to help with at home - for example reading, spellings and times tables. It really helps your child if you can support them with their homework and ensure that they always complete it.

We appreciate that some of you who would like us to set more homework. If this applies to you, then please speak to your class teacher about other activities and websites that you could use to support your child at home.

#### **What are the school's plans for SEN (special educational needs)?**

In September, Ms Thompson (who many of you will know already) will become the school's full-time SENCo. This will provide much greater capacity for the school to support children with SEN. If you have a child with SEN and/or would like to find out more about how the school can help meet your child's needs, please arrange to speak to Ms Thompson in September.

#### **Can the school gates be opened earlier to avoid overcrowding?**

We are aware that the pavement outside the school gates can become very busy in the mornings. We have considered whether to open the gates five minutes earlier; however, our concern is that this would simply bring forward the time at which the gates became suggested.

We would therefore kindly request that, if you arrive before the gates open, that you respect the space of others (for example, you could wait further down the pavement or on the other side of the road until the gates open) and that you leave promptly after dropping off your child. The gates stay open for ten minutes so, if you have particular concerns about overcrowding, then you can arrive shortly after opening time. However, please do remember that arriving too late will impact on your child's learning time.

#### **Some parents are using inappropriate language at the school gate.**

At James Cambell, we have high expectations of the behaviour of everyone within the school community - children, staff, and parents/carers. We would strongly encourage everyone to behave respectfully towards each other and avoid using bad language. As adults, we need to make sure that we are role models for the children.

Inappropriate language and behaviour will not be tolerated. If the school becomes aware of a parent/carer using bad language or displaying inappropriate behaviour, then we will issue them with a letter setting out our expectations and warning them that they could potentially be barred from entering the school's premises.



Please feel free to speak to us about any inappropriate behaviour that you witness, and we will seek to address it.

### **Can parents in juniors attend Sports Day?**

As many of you will know from our really fun and successful Sports Days, parents from Reception to year 6 are welcome to attend Sports Days. We want to provide as many opportunities as possible for parents/carers to visit the school - for example, through the year group assemblies that many of you have enjoyed this year.

### **Some reading books are very old-fashioned. Will the school be looking to get more books that promote equality and avoid gender/sex/racial stereotypes?**

Yes, definitely. The school is committed to promoting equality and diversity (as well as the love of reading) and we have recently invested in new sets of books for each year group which help achieve this and avoid stereotyping. We will continue to do this.

### **How do I find out what the children are learning each term?**

You can find out about what your child will be learning on the curriculum pages of the school website. If you would like more detail or are unable to access the website, please contact your class teacher who would be happy to discuss with you.

**If you would like to discuss a point that you raised in the survey further, then please contact the school office. We would love to hear from you.**



### **Year 6 Careers Week**

In late June, the children of year 6 had an amazing time listening to different speakers talk about their careers. We had an engineer from Ford, a psychiatric nurse, actuaries from Zurich Insurance and business executives visit the school and we are very grateful to them for giving up their time to speak to the children.

The aim of the week is not about providing the children with careers advice (after all they are still in primary!), but about raising their aspirations and making the connection between what they do at school and how that

can provide them with so many different opportunities in future life.

The highlight of the week was the school hosting the Teach First Business Leaders Council. We had Chief Executives and Directors from major companies, including McKinsey, Accenture, PWC, Deloitte, Goldman Sachs, Temasek and Clifford Chance being grilled by the children here.



*June Felix, CEO of IG Group; Rob Williams, partner at Deloitte; and Rob Williams, Managing Director of Temasek, answer questions from the children*

We look forward to our year 6 children coming back to James Cambell in the future to tell us about their successful careers!

### **Author visits James Cambell**



We were very lucky to have a new author, Puneet Bhandal, come to our school to tell us all about her new book, Starlet Rivals.

She told us all about Bollywood and how she came about the idea of writing her book. She also showed us how to dance, Bollywood Style. We had lots of fun!

This is the first book in her series. Every class in KS2 received a copy of her book to read. They are thoroughly enjoying it.



### Year 4 Rainham Marshes

Year 4 had a superb trip to Rainham Marshes this term. We were able to complete some map work using grid references:



We then went and completed a river study at two different sites. We looked at the flow of the river, the amount and type of plants around the river as well as the steepness of the banks. We also looked at the pollution in the river and if there were any flood defences.



On our way to our last activity, we looked at what the around the river was used for, whether they were human or physical features. Our last activity was pond dipping. We were able to use a key to identify any creatures that we found.



We had a superb day and the staff at Rainham Marshes commented on how well the children behaved and that they were impressed by their knowledge of rivers.

### Summer Fair

A huge thank you to the Parents' Association and all the members of our community who made the Summer Fair such a success.

We were delighted to be able to gather as a community, with parents, children and staff enjoying the stalls and entertainment.

There were a wide variety of stalls: beat the goalie, hook a duck, tombola, guess what's in the cup, splat the teacher and many, many more.

Huge fun was had on all the stalls running games and the food stalls offered the usual incredible quality.

The result of everyone's efforts was an impressive £2,100 of funds raised (and a few sunburned faces - something we haven't had for a number of years!).

Planning has already started for next year, which promises to be even bigger - watch this space!



### Year 6 Valence House

Year 6 children visited Valence House, where they took part in a variety of activities. Children learnt about World War 2 propaganda and created posters based on key World War 2 themes and sayings. As well as this, children took part in WW2 cooking, baking bread, making soup with fresh ingredients from the garden, and finishing off creating coconut ice

for dessert! Finally, the children acted as evacuees from Dagenham. The children thoroughly enjoyed their trip!



### Timings for next year

In response to the recent Education White Paper request that children should have a minimum of 32.5 hours in school each week, we are making some changes to the start and end times in Reception and Key Stage 1. These are set out below:

- Nursery 9.00am – 12.00pm
- Reception 8.55am – 3.25pm
- Key Stage 1 (years 1 and 2) 8.45am – 3.15pm
- Key Stage 2 (years 3 – 6) 8.40am – 3.20pm

As currently, the gates will be open for ten minutes after the start time. Please ensure that you arrive within that time. Any late arrivals will need to go to the main school office.

### Term dates for next year



Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	Start of the School Year
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2022- Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2022	Half Term
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December 2022	Last Day of the Autumn Term
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2023	First Day of the Spring Term
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	Half Term
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023	Last Day of the Spring Term
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	First Day of the Summer Term
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2023	May Day Holiday
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> May 2023-Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2023	Half Term
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Last Day of the School Year

### New classes list

All the children have had the opportunity to meet their new teachers for September and are looking forward to being in their new year groups.

Below is a list of all the classes for 2022/23:

Current class	New class	New teacher
RC	1A	Mr Konis
RB	1B	Miss Mulenga
RA	1C	Mrs Storrie (formerly Miss Seth)
1B	2A	Miss Hazell
1A	2B	Miss Dada
1C	2C	Mrs Pooley Mrs Crome
2C	3A	Mr Cheung
2B	3B	Mr Rahman
2A	3C	Miss Uddin
Year 3 classes are being mixed up.	4C	Mrs Macleod Miss Maguire
	4B	Mrs Joyce
	4A	Miss Osei
4A	5A	Mrs McCullagh
4C	5B	Mrs Nyoni
4B	5C	Mrs Maddox
5C	6C	Miss Higginson
5A	6A	Miss Ahmad
5B	6B	Miss Sula

### Cambell Primary Centre (CPC)

As part of our transport project, we visited River Road bus garage. The CPC children were very sensible and asked good questions. We learnt about the different jobs people do at the garage, as well as how i-bus tracks bus activity remotely and why there are new types of buses being made.



Cambell  
Primary Centre