

Message from the Headteacher

It has been great to see so many of you in the run-up to Christmas, whether at the Christmas Fair or at the Nativities and Carol Concerts at St Alban's Church. These events, together with the recent snowy weather, have put us all in the Christmas spirit and I would like to thank the amazing PTA for all their hard work and dedication in organising the Fair.



Reception children enjoying the recent snow

The Christmas events have provided an exciting end to an incredibly busy term. Children across the school have had a wide variety of learning opportunities, experiences and visits – and you can read about some of them in this newsletter.

One of our top priorities for this term – and for next year - has been developing a love of reading amongst our children. This is so important, not only because reading is a source of enjoyment, but there is also a proven link between reading and future success in life. Thank you to all those parents who came to last week's snowy bedtime reading sessions. We are giving all the children in the school a book as a Christmas present, which we hope they will enjoy and encourage them to do lots of reading over the holidays.

Finally, I am delighted that we have a new provider, EM3 Kids Club, for our Breakfast and After-School Clubs. You can find out more about them in this newsletter.

On behalf of everyone at James Cambell Primary, I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you all back at school on Monday 9th January 2023.

Year 1 visits to Science museum



Year 1 went on an exciting trip to the Science Museum, where they were able to see a variety of different galleries and displays. They really enjoyed exploring the 'garden' workshop, where they were able to apply and relate their knowledge of everyday materials to many different tasks.

The photographs show the children looking at the floating planet in the 'space' gallery. This was one of the highlights of the trip for most children.

Anti-bullying week

James Cambell are proud members of the Anti-Bullying Alliance and the pupils took part in the annual Anti-Bullying Week activities.

The children learned about the various ways they can reach out to talk about bullying and behaviour at school. They also learned about how different people can have different roles in a bullying incident and how to identify the ringleader, defender, outsiders and so on. The children in year 6 went to see an Anti-Bullying performance at Jo Richardson Community School.

The children can report any bullying concerns or incidents via a class Worry Box, online through the Tootoot pilot in year 4 or by speaking to a trusted adult. All incidents are investigated quickly and thoroughly.

A student survey during the week confirmed the summer survey findings that nearly all children at James Cambell feel really happy and safe at school and that incidents of bullying were rare. We will continue to work hard to address any bullying.

You can read the updated Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policies on the school website.

Odd Socks Day took place on Monday 14th November to mark the start of Anti-bullying week. It's an opportunity to encourage people to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique! Have a look at some of our odd socks:



Nativity Performances

We ended the year in a fantastic way by putting on an absolutely amazing performance of the 'Sleepy Shepherd' at St Alban's Church. The Reception and year 1 children sang beautifully, while the year 2 children acted out their parts. They all worked so hard to learn their songs and their lines.

We really appreciated the super audience we had for these assemblies and are already



looking forward to next year's performance. Our thanks to Reverend Faye Bailey for hosting the nativities in the church.

Year 3 Diwali Assembly

On 10th November, the children of year 3 performed a Diwali Assembly for parents. They acted out the story of Rama and Sita, and also had fun performing a Bollywood dance.

The assembly was part of the children's RE topic learning about the symbolism of light in religion. As part of this, they made Diya lamps and Rangoli to decorate and welcome the Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth. Thank you to all the parents and families who came to our Diwali assembly.



Year 3 practising their acting and Bollywood dance for the Diwali Assembly



Thank you...

A huge thank you to Mulalley Construction Company for their donation of the Christmas tree, which is looking beautiful in the Key Stage 2 assembly hall.



Portals to the Stone Age workshop

Year 3 had an exciting Stone Age to Iron Age workshop. They travelled back in time to discover how man lived and evolved over time. They even hunted a woolly mammoth!



Bedtime Story Sessions



On Wednesday 14th December, children across the school put on their pyjamas, drank hot chocolate and enjoyed some wonderful bedtime stories.

Thank you to all the parents who attended the sessions. Your encouragement of reading at home is vital in developing your children's love of reading.

In these photographs, you can see children from 1A and 6B enjoying their story time.

The Barking and Dagenham Christmas Band

Friday 16th December was an exciting afternoon for our Key Stage 2 children as the professional music teachers of Barking and Dagenham came together as a twelve-piece orchestra to perform a range of songs. The children joined in enthusiastically with singing, rhythmic clapping, learning the names of instruments and musical vocabulary, and questions of their own. The children left the concert in high spirits, many with musical ambitions of their own.



'Fire, Fire' topic in Year 2

During this half term the children have been very busy learning through our 'Fire, Fire' topic. In History we have learnt about the Great Fire of London, sequencing events and creating diary entries as we imagined what it would be like to be there.

In Design and Technology, we worked as a year group to sort through a variety of materials and objects to test what would be the best things to make wheels, axles and a chassis for a fire engine prototype. After selecting different parts we worked in groups to create our fire engines. This took lots of discussion to decide how to attach the pieces together and how to use mechanisms to make a moving fire engine. The end results were outstanding!



CPC Update

The children from the Cambell Primary Centre (CPC) have had a busy half term



learning about chocolate, including decorating their own mugs and sharing their hot chocolate recipes with the nursery children. They also got into the festive spirit by making Christmas cake decorations, visiting the carol service at the church and going to the panto.

New After-School and Breakfast Clubs

We are delighted to announce that, from the beginning of next term, the school will have a new provider for our Breakfast and After-School Clubs. The provider is called EM3 Kids Club. EM3 already provide clubs for Thomas Arnold Primary, Marsh Green Primary, St Peter's RC school and Village Infants - you can find out more about them on their website at <https://www.em3kidsclub.com/breakfast-club>.

The Breakfast Club will open at 7.30am and costs £3 per session.

The After-School Club will run until the later time of 6.30pm. There are different costs depending on how long your child stays:

- if they are picked up before 4pm the cost is £5
- if they are picked up before 5pm the cost is £7.50
- after 5pm the cost is £13.50 (although this is slightly more expensive than the current cost, the club runs until 6.30pm and there is also the option of the reduced early pick-up rate)

If you would like to sign up for the new clubs, please contact:

em3kidsclub@gmail.com

Police talks

In November, the police visited the school to talk to the children about a variety of topics to help them keep safe and to make sensible choices as they grow older.

Year 1 - Stranger Danger

Year 2 - What do the police do for us?

Years 3 - Stranger Danger

Year 4 - Crime and Consequences

Year 5 - Gangs

Year 6 - Knife crime

Cambell Primary Centre - Online safety

As well as the important messages about safety, the children were also able to try on police helmets!



Christmas Fair

A huge thank you to the PTA for organising an amazing Christmas Fair after school on Tuesday 20th December. Children (and parents) really enjoyed the face painting, the Christmas stalls, the food and visiting Santa's grotto. Congratulations to our lucky raffle winners!



Year 6 visit the National Gallery

On 23rd November, year 6 visited the National Gallery to learn about how different faiths and religions are expressed through art. They sketched some of the paintings before enjoying a lunch in Trafalgar Square.



RE at James Cambell

As part of our Religious Education (RE) curriculum, each year group visits a place of worship and this term year 4 visited the Hindu temple in Alperton, West London.

The building was hand carved in India over a period of 16 years and then transported and assembled on site.



The children were treated to a tour of the temple. They were able to draw some of the avatars and learn about Hindu culture. The highlight was when a group of Hindu worshipers sung to the group.

Year 6 visited the National Gallery as part of their RE unit on Christian Art. The children admired the art work and had fun recreating some.



The whole school visited our local church and were greeted by Reverend Faye Bailey. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 treated us to an amazing Nativity. The children in the juniors had a fantastic Carol Concert. They impressed everyone by signing Starry Night in Makaton.



Road Safety Week



James Cambell took part in this year's Road Safety Week. The children learned about how to cross the road safely.

This year the theme was 'Safe Roads for All' and how everyone has a right to a safe and healthy journey to school.

Why not make a New Year resolution to walk to school or park a few streets away to ease congestion outside the school?

New Head Girl, Head Boy and Pupil Ambassadors

For the first time in its history, James Cambell has appointed a Head Boy and Girl. Congratulations to Aisha and Muhammad (both from 6A), who successfully applied for the posts, including attending an interview panel with a school governor, the Headteacher, Ms Higginson (the Year 6 Head) and pupil representatives. All the candidates really impressed the panel with their confidence and presentational skills.

We have also appointed pupil ambassadors from year 6. These ambassadors are role models for our school values and behaviour, and also have other important roles, such as showing around visitors. You may well have met some of them at the November Parents' Evenings! The ambassadors are Laurentia, Fareed, Jamal, Kaelyn, Ayokunmi and Zachary from 6A; Dexter, Diego and Olamide from 6B; and Ioan, Bobby, Daria and Catarina from 6C.

Congratulations to all of them!



Attendance matters!

Good attendance at school is not just valuable, it's essential. Going to school is directly linked to **improved progress and attainment** which should in turn lead to further learning opportunities and better job prospects. As well as this, going to school every day helps to develop friendships, social skills, team values, life skills and cultural awareness.

Our aim is for every child to have at least 97% attendance. Attendance falling to 90%, for example, means that your children will have missed over 100 lessons in a year - that is a huge amount of lost learning!

If your child's attendance during the year was...	Your child would have lost...	This means they would have missed over...
95%	9 days from school	50 lessons
90%	19 days from school	100 lessons
85%	29 days from school	150 lessons
80%	38 days from school	200 lessons
75%	48 days from school	250 lessons

As parents, you are legally responsible for ensuring that your child goes to school and does not miss out on that learning.

Every child who has 100% attendance at the end of the year will receive a special certificate and reward.

Citizens Advice

Citizens Advice give free confidential advice about many things including benefit advice, concerns about debt management, housing problems and can offer legal advice.
www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Barking Learning Centre, 2 Town Square,
Barking Essex IG11 7NB United Kingdom
Phone 0300 3309 038

You can find out more information on support for parents and families on our school website at:

http://www.jamescambell.com/?page_id=11254

This includes information on support with cost-of-living and also on the Winter Activity and Food programme open to eligible children during the Christmas holiday.

Key Dates for next term

Monday 9 th January 2023	First Day of the Spring Term
Tuesday 7 th February 2023	Safer Internet Day
Monday 13 th February – Friday 17 th February 2023	Half Term Holidays
Wednesday 1 st & Thursday 2 nd March 2023	Parents' Evenings
Thursday 2 nd March 2023	World Book Day
Thursday 17 th March 2023	Red Nose Day
Friday 16 th March 2023	Reception Mother's Day Assembly
Friday 31 st March 2023	Year 2 Easter Assembly
Friday 31 st March 2023	Last Day of the Spring Term