

Message from the Headteacher

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and finding out about what's been going on at James Cambell Primary. The children have been doing some great work – and enjoying themselves at the same time.

School trips are loved by the children and provide them with great opportunities for learning. However, it is sometimes difficult to find enough parent volunteers to help support. If you would like to help out on trips as a parent volunteer, please let us know. We will arrange for you to have free online first aid training and also a DBS check. Your help would be greatly appreciated!

Unfortunately, these are challenging times as the cost of living crisis continues. At James Cambell we want to support the local community whenever possible. If your child is eligible for Pupil Premium, then we can provide a range of support including a free bagel breakfast, free after school clubs and subsidised trips. We also run weekly coffee mornings for parents and parent engagement courses. If you would like to find out more, please speak with Lisa Marshall or Denise Parker-Skinner, and see if there is anything we can do to help.

On behalf of all the staff at James Cambell Primary, I wish you all a happy half-term break. We look forward to seeing you back at school on **Monday 20th February**.

With very best wishes,

Joe Wilson
Headteacher

Reception Animal Visit

After learning about different animals this half term, and using non-fiction texts to research them, children in Reception were very lucky to have some real animals come and visit us. The children had the chance to meet a wide range of animals including baby meerkats, a guinea pig, a very large rabbit, a tortoise, a snake, a tarantula and many more! The children stroked, held and cuddled all the animals.

The children made all of us very proud, with how calm they were around the animals and the excellent questions they asked the animal handlers.



Anti-bullying training



In January, a group of students from Year 5 and Year 6 travelled to Southall to train as Anti-Bullying Ambassadors. Pupil surveys tell us each year that bullying at James Cambell is rare and incidents are dealt with thoroughly. However, at James Cambell we want the very best for our pupils and staff, so this year we are

working with both the Anti Bullying Alliance and the Diana Award.

Over the next 12 months, Ivy, Gabriella, Yusef, Elisabeth and Favour will be running 4 campaigns in wellbeing, online safety, community and respect. They will be starting after half term with online safety and promoting our online worry box, Toot Toot.

If you have any concerns, please speak to your class teacher or contact me via the office.

Mrs Macleod

Assistant Head

Behaviour and Anti Bullying Lead



Hardship Fund

Barking & Dagenham

Discretionary
Hardship Schemes
&
Financial Support

James.Johnston@lbdd.gov.uk



[Please click here for information on the LBBD Household Support Fund](#)

Parent Engagement Sessions



JAMES CAMBELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

COFFEE MORNING

Come & Join Us Everyone Is Welcome!



Wednesdays 9am – 10am

- Information on Barking & Dagenham events and support.
- What's happening at our school?
- Get to know our Inclusion Team.
- Sharing tips & signposting to help with the 'Cost of Living'
- Food Bank Vouchers & Clothing Bank



We understand that the cost of living crisis is making things tough for many of the families at the school. We want to help if we can and you can find out lots of information about the support available by coming to our coffee mornings every Wednesday from 9am to 10am. Please drop by and have a chat.

On our website, there's lots of information on support available to families, including:

- how to apply for free school meals
- access to affordable loans
- Barking and Dagenham hardship funds and financial support
- playgroups and children's activities
- support on parenting
- support for mental health

[Click here to view our webpage on support for parents and families.](#)

Please come along to our coffee morning to find out more - or ask to speak to Ms Marshall or Mrs Parker-Skinner.

Safer Internet Day



Like most of us, our children and young people are spending more time online now than ever before. But do you know what they're doing and who they're talking to?

This year's Safer Internet Day was Tuesday 7th February with learning based on the theme ***"Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online"***.

Both parents and the school have a vital role in keeping children safe online. This means:

- supporting children's online safety with ongoing conversations;
- having conversations with children about their online lives can help you to gain a deeper understanding about what they love doing and what they are concerned about; and
- giving children the confidence to open up if things go wrong and gives you the opportunity to support them when they need it the most.

At school, we teach children about online safety and encourage them to talk to a trusted if they feel worried or concerned about something they have seen or heard online.

Outside school, it is the responsibility of parents/carers to make sure that what your child does online is appropriate for their age - including which games they play, films they watch and social networks they use. Please remember that most social media apps have age ratings and allowing access to social media platforms for under age children raises safeguarding concerns.

Please remind your children to be kind and treat others how they would like to be treated when online. If they do see something that worries them or that might be wrong, all they need to do is ask for help from a trusted adult. They could talk to you or to us, or they may feel more comfortable talking anonymously to Childline.

Volunteers for trips

Please help support the children at the school by becoming a parent volunteer for school trips. Trips provide some of the most memorable times for children and it can be really rewarding for parent volunteers to participate in the children's fun and learning outside the school. You can also pick up useful skills that may help you in your own career.

We will provide access to free online first aid training and a DBS check for all parent volunteers. If you are interested, please speak with the school office.

Events for next half-term

Monday 20 February	First day back at school
Tuesday 28 February & Wednesday 1 March	Parents' Evenings
Friday 3 March	World Book Day
Monday 13 to Friday 17 March	Year 5 at Trewern
Friday 17 March	Red Nose Day
Friday 17 March	Reception Mother's Day Assembly
Thursday 23 March	Class Photos
Friday 31 March	Year 2 Easter Assembly
Friday 31 March	Last day of spring term

Please note that the NEU is planning further strikes for 2nd, 15th and 16th March. We will keep you updated on the impact, but it is likely that the school will need to be partly closed to children on those days.

Careers Week for Year 6

Each year we have a Careers Week for our year 6 children in the summer term. The aim of the week is to inspire the children about opportunities in the future as they prepare for secondary school.

The children love it when people from different professions come in to talk to them about their jobs. If you would like to speak with the year 6 children about your job, please speak to Mr Wilson.

Children's Mental Health Week



This week is Children's Mental Health Week. People with positive connections to family, friends and others often experience better mental health than those who are less well connected. When our need for rewarding social connections is not met, or we don't feel understood or cared for by those around us, we can feel isolated and lonely. This is why it is so important for our mental health that we connect with others in healthy, rewarding and meaningful ways.

Our theme **Let's Connect** encourages an inclusive approach to making meaningful connections for all – during Children's Mental Health Week, and beyond.

During Children's Mental Health Week, host of Channel 4's comedy show Taskmaster, Alex Horne will set tasks each day for children to join in with at home.

For more information on how to get involved, visit taskmastereducation.com

Big Read

This term we have been delighted to relaunch The Big Read for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes. Developing our pupils' love of reading is one of our key school priorities this year so it has been fantastic to welcome so many parents every Friday to enjoy a good book with their child.

Did you know that research shows that children reading for pleasure makes a huge difference to their academic achievement (and that it is even more important than how well educated a child's parents are)? Reading is also proven to have a positive impact on children's emotional development and mental wellbeing.

When parents join The Big Read they send a message to their child about how important reading is and how much they value it so thank you to those parents who have been able to attend. Please continue to join these sessions to help your children develop their reading skills and grow their love of books!

Year 1 and 2: Friday 8.45am-9.05am

Early Years: Friday 8.55am-9.15am

Year 5 Gurdwara trip

Year 5 had a lovely time at the Gurdwara in Ilford. When we got there we had a talk about Sikhism and how they practise Seva, which is helping people without wanting any reward. Seva means 'selfless service'. Sikhs can practise Seva in different ways, for example by helping people who need food or care.

They serve free meals daily to the community who need it. Everyone is welcome. We were very lucky to be served fresh chips and baked beans. We absolutely loved it. Children also learnt all about the 5 Ks and how Sikhs worship. The children were very respectful and extremely well behaved throughout the day. Well done Year 5!

