

Message from the Headteacher

It has been another exciting term at James Cambell and you can read all about what has been going on in this newsletter.

The term has been particularly special for the year 5 children, who have not only been on their residential trip to Trewern, but have also been enjoying swimming lessons at the school.

I would like to thank all the parents who attended the recent volunteer session. It's amazing to have your help in supporting the children's learning and providing them with the opportunities they deserve.

The year 2 and year 6 children will be taking their SATs tests next term and we wish them all the best. They have worked incredibly hard and deserve to do well!

If you're looking for fun and healthy activities for your children over the Easter holiday, then you can find lots of ideas in the 'support for families' section of the school website. Many of these activities are free for children who are eligible for benefit-related free school meals, while paid places are available for everyone to join the fun.

We very much hope the weather will improve soon and that there will be some dry, sunny days for everyone to enjoy over the Easter holidays. Whether you are celebrating Easter, fasting for Ramadan or just relaxing, we wish you all the best for the next two weeks – and look forward to seeing you back at school on Monday 17th April 2023.

With best wishes,

Mr Wilson

Parent Volunteer Session

A huge thank you to the parents who joined our parent volunteer information session on Thursday 23rd March. We will be contacting you after Easter to discuss how you can support with trips, reading and other volunteering opportunities.

We will be providing the opportunity for accredited First Aid training for our volunteers free of charge. We're sure they will be making a big difference in the months to come!



Trewern

In March, many of our year 5 children enjoyed a wonderful week at Trewern Outdoor Education Centre located in the beautiful countryside on the border of England and Wales. A huge thank you to Mrs Thompson, Ms Marshall, Ms Collier, Miss Mulenga and Ms Kelly, the staff who accompanied the children on the residential and helped make it such a memorable experience for them.

The children enthusiastically participated in a wide range of adventurous activities,

including caving, BMX biking and gorge walking.

The staff at Trewern were very impressed by the children and said that as a school we “smashed it out of the park.”



The children leave Trewern after a wonderful week

It's booked again for next year – so the current year 4s have something really exciting to look forward to!

Bikeability for year 5



A group of Year 5 children have recently completed the Bikeability cycle training course which equips them with cycling safely on the road; they have also gained independence, social skills and a sense of wellbeing.



Congratulations to Favour, Eniola, Hayden, Poppy, Azfar, Alfie C, David, Jacob, Tyler, Castiel, Fraser, Maryam, Keilan,

Bilal and Oluebube for completing the training.

Making a splash!

In previous years, year 5 have travelled out of school to have their swimming lessons. During March, this changed: the swimming pool has come to us!

The year 5 children have had a wonderful time and, as a result, have made amazing progress with their swimming – a really valuable life skill.



Another benefit has been to provide opportunities for children in other year groups in Key Stage 2 to have swimming taster sessions. The children from the Rainbow Room absolutely loved it!



Year 6 visits to Jo Richardson with sports leaders

Year 6 children had the opportunity to experience competitive sports at Jo Richardson where PE teachers lead the classes in a range of different activities that tested their resilience, endurance and above all their competitive nature. There was a healthy competitive nature which brought out the best in all participants. Children who lacked self-belief were encouraged by others to take part and conquer. It was lovely to see the sportsmanship displayed by children in supporting and congratulating their fellow competitors. The atmosphere at the moment

of announcing the winners was absolutely brilliant! Our thanks to the PE teachers of Jo Richardson for having us and being such hospitable hosts!

Year 6 Ben Kinsella Visit

Y6 visited the Ben Kinsella Trust in Barking, where they learnt about the dangers of knife crime and how to make positive choices to stay safe.

In the Comic Strip room, they explored choices and consequences related to a difficult but real life scenario and learnt the importance of thinking one step ahead. Good choices are what keep us safe.

In Ben's Room, the children learnt the story of Ben Kinsella and, looking at a large collage of photos, they could immerse themselves in his life, dreams and aspirations. In a video, Ben's family and friends talked about Ben's death, which made clear the devastating and rippling effect of a stabbing attack. Year 6 were taught what happened when somebody is stabbed and what you should do if you see someone who has been stabbed (be AWARE). They also learnt the law on carrying a knife and related punishments.

At the end of the workshop, all our children were given a badge with the charity logo: the letter "K" created by Ben, who wanted to become a graphic designer, and now a symbol against knife crime.



Year 3 visit the Mithraeum Museum

Year 3 had an exciting visit to London Mithraeum Museum in central London. It is home to a real Roman Temple discovered under the streets of London. We learnt about the god Mithras and studied artefacts found by archaeologists. We had an immersive experience when we visited the Roman Temple site. There was also an art exhibition called *Albion Waves* by *Oliver Beer* where we saw Roman style art work hanging from the ceiling and making sounds as you got closer.



Year 6 child wins scholarship to City of London School

We would like to congratulate Nafis in year 6 for being awarded a full scholarship to the City of London School. What an amazing achievement!

Nafis gave us all some advice: "Knowledge is nothing without effort. Put it this way: wearing the best suit of armour in the world won't mean anything unless you have a will to fight."

Art Enrichment Day

Some of the children in KS2 had the opportunity to work with a local artist as part of our annual Art Enrichment Day on Friday 17th March (which was also Red Nose Day).

The Art day was devised and adapted across the year groups, in line with what would normally be a 'taster' for an Art GCSE pathway.

Within the session, students were introduced to the work of the artist Freda Kahlo. This included critically analysing the work of Freda Kahlo's self-portraits; drawing including scale and proportion of portraits; painting including colour mixing; printing and monoprint process and collage using different materials. At the end of the session, the children presented their personal evaluation to the work of Frida Kahlo.

We are very lucky at James Cambell to have such talented and hardworking artists!



Anti-Bullying Film Crew Visit

Tom and Charlie from Channel 4 visited the school on Friday 17th March to make a video about online safety with Ivy and Gabriella who are two of our Anti Bullying Ambassadors. The video showed children how they can keep safe inside and outside of school. Our surveys show incidents of bullying are rare and are dealt with quickly. Children are taught that they can report any problems to a trusted adult, by the worry box, online reporting buttons or via Childline. In addition, we are rolling out the online Worry Box 'Toot Toot' to Year 5.



Guitar lessons in Year 4

The school provides free guitar lessons for every Year 4 child. They are taught by Mr Hughes, who is a professional musician from the Music Hub. We will be hosting an end of year performance.



Early Years 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.

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, sang a beautiful Mother's Day song and some were even brave enough to come to the front and share with the audience 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!

Easter Bonnet Parade/Easter Eggs

We were overwhelmed by the amazing Easter bonnets made by Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. It was lovely to see so many parents watch the fantastic parade this morning.

The Reverend Faye Bailey from our local St Albans Church was there to cheer the children on.

She hosted three assemblies and taught the children about Holy Week. The children were very knowledgeable and impressed her with their learning.

Later that morning, Reverend Faye and Mr Wilson judged the KS2 Easter Egg competition. Every year we are eggstatic about the eggcellent contributions from the children. A video of the entrants has been posted on Class Dojo.



Year 6 Football

Congratulations to the year 5/6 girls for their 3-2 win against Goresbrook Primary School. It was a tough match, but the girls kept battling

throughout. Zara scored the first goal with Neveah scoring two to bring the three points home to James Cambell!

Following the game, Mr Johnston said, "Due to their immense effort, I've seen a massive improvement from the team and the girls were just one match away from reaching the super six final."

School Dinners and Packed Lunches

Eating a healthy lunch every day is really important for children's development and for their teeth. It helps children stay fit and well, feel energised and be ready to learn.

Our school dinners are designed to provide healthy, balanced meals for your children. To make sure your child enjoys school meals, the menus are developed in consultation with pupils, schools and parents. The school menus meet all nutritional standards and guidelines, including Food for Life and the School Food Plan.

Things will work slightly differently from April 2023 with children having improved choice each day. They will no longer have to pre-order their choice of school meal in the morning. Instead they will be able to choose from the counter food from the menu on that day, complemented by an updated self-serve, fresh salad bar and freshly baked breads, accompanied by water.

The kitchen staff have a comprehensive list of children with allergies and this will be monitored whilst pupils make their own choice.

School meals cost £2.10 per day which you are required to pay in advance and be in credit on your account. In order to keep payments efficient, we use the cashless system ParentPay, where you are able to use both online and local pay point's payments.

For those children who have packed lunches, we have introduced new guidance to help parents in making these healthy. You can find this on our website at:

http://www.jamescambell.com/?page_id=11918

A big thank you to the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) for their help in putting together this healthy packed lunch guidance.

World Book Day



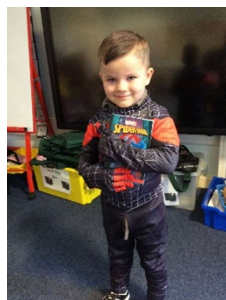
"A book is a gift you can open again and again."

World Book Day on 3rd March sprang into action at James Cambell with our ever popular Big Read. This time, it was extended into KS2 and parents engaged with their children by reading a selection of texts in class.

The focus throughout the day was on the reading and exploring of books. Children read a range of stories in class, with the emphasis on personal choice. Activities included creating comic strips, making potato characters, taking part in BBC live lessons and literary quizzes and even a cardboard challenge in Year 3.

The children who chose to dress as their favourite characters added to the flavour of the day. Children thoroughly enjoyed World Book Day and hopefully returned home even more enthused about the power of reading.

There are exciting events taking place in the future linked to our Reading for Pleasure drive, so watch this space!



Red Nose Day

The school raised £255.00 for charity from donations on Red Nose Day! Thank you for all of your kind donations.

Key Dates for next term

Monday 17 April	First day back at school
Thursday 20 April	Year 5 Wonderdome Trip
Thursday 27 April	Year 1 St James Park & Buckingham Palace Trip
Friday 28 April	Year 4 Eid Assembly
Monday 1 May	May Day Holiday
Friday 5 May	Year 1 Coronation Assembly
Monday 8 May	Bank Holiday for the Coronation of King Charles III
Monday 15 May	Year 6 Jo Richardson transition visit
Friday 19 May	Year 6 Go Ape Trip
Friday 26 May	Last day of term