



Message from Headteacher

Welcome to our half-termly newsletter for October. As you can read, it has been a very exciting start to the school year for the children of James Cambell Primary. There has been lots of great learning and fantastic opportunities, ranging from visiting athletes to trips to Valence House and Dagenham and Redbridge FC.

There have been a number of real highlights, including last Friday's year 5 Black History Assembly, which was described by Councillor Kangethe as "the most brilliant Black History Month assembly I have attended". The school also won two awards – a silver award for our work on anti-bullying and a gold award for OPAL (outdoor play and learning)!

This year the school is working on four key priorities:

- **Substantive knowledge:** building pupils' knowledge basis, and ensuring that they have opportunities to practise and embed new learning
- **Literacy:** improve pupils' writing and develop their love of reading
- **Oracy:** building pupils' skills at speaking confidently and using a wide range of vocabulary

- **Growth:** enhancing pupils' resilience, relationships, teamwork and leadership skills. An important part of this is applying to be a Rights Respecting School, which you can read about in this newsletter

We will be letting you know more about each of these four priorities in future newsletters.

I wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable half-term week and look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 31st October.

With best wishes,

Mr Wilson

Headteacher

Anti-bullying silver award & OPAL Gold Award

Congratulations are in order for James Cambell as the school has been awarded two prestigious awards for play and behaviour. Children have said in our pupil surveys that they feel safe and happy at school. Bullying occurs in all schools, but our children tell us that when it occurs, it is dealt with quickly and thoroughly.

This commitment to Anti Bullying has been recognised and we are proud to say we have been awarded with a Silver Award from the Anti Bullying Alliance. Only 14% of applicants reached this level. It recognises the rigorous systems we have in place for reporting and monitoring. We also have children trained as Anti Bullying ambassadors via the Diana Award. We will be sending more information out to parents during Anti Bullying week in November.

James Cambell have been working with OPAL, a nationally recognised outdoor play and learning organisation since the return to lockdown. We have invested heavily in our

playgrounds with new climbing frames and line markings for games, as well as our enormous sand pit.

Children love the freedom of free flow across out playgrounds, mixing with their friends and siblings. We have a dedicated sports coach on the field at lunchtime. Children have access to scooters, skateboards, football, basketball, den building, wall climbing as well as areas for music, quiet drawing and dressing up.

In addition, both the infant and juniors can go into the halls freely to access the board games in the quiet lunchtime clubs. We also have student leaders participating in the decision making through the OPAL committees.

So we were really delighted to be awarded Gold status and we have been told we should reach the highest level Platinum by the end of this academic year! The school will be used for workshops by other schools.

If you want to be part of the parent team supporting OPAL, please book in for a tour via the office.



RE

As part of our Religious Education curriculum, all year groups visit different places of worship. In addition, we like to invite people to share their faiths and give talks to the children.

This term, Year 4 did a question and answer with someone of the Hindu faith.



World Mental Health Day

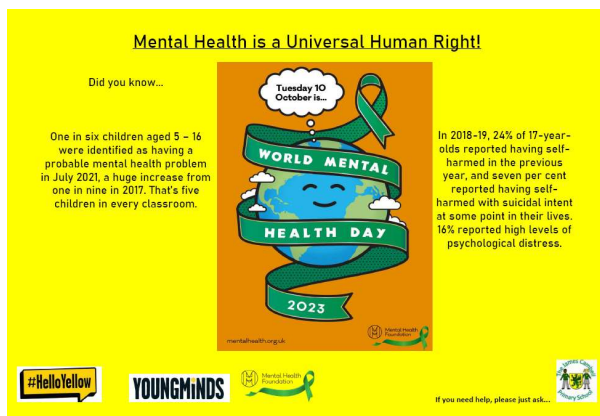
James Cambell Primary marked World Mental Health Day 2023 by supporting 'Britain Get Talking' ITV in partnership with Young Minds with the theme #HelloYellow.

Senior Mental Health Lead Mrs Parker-Skinner shared, "It was inspiring to see the whole school community come together to acknowledge the importance of mental health and wellbeing, not just today but every day".

One in six children aged 5 – 16 were identified as having a probable mental health problem in July 2021, a huge increase from one in nine in 2017. That's five children in every classroom.

With mental health & wellbeing an issue that touches many of us, James Cambell Primary is proud to have in place support available to all our pupils and colleagues.

Watch this space for additional support coming soon to include parents!



FAMILY HUBS are centres which, have been developed to support families with children and young people aged 0- 19 years to receive early help / support to overcome a range of difficulties and build stronger relationships with their communities. Within the Family Hubs you can access valuable support from **FAMILY NAVIGATORS** who are there to work with you and your family to support you get the right services at the right time. Please find below the information you need to access this support.

[pdf - Family HUB - Navigators Pack - Booklet 1 East FINAL Families.pdf](#)

Black History Month

Across the school, children celebrated Black History Month during October. Every year group had a different cultural or historical focus:

- Early Years learnt about **Rosa Parks** and made signs supporting her fight for freedom.

- Children in Year 1 looked at different pieces of **African art** and how it has influenced art in the UK before producing their own artwork.
- Year 2 looked at **African and Caribbean music** and learnt some songs.
- Year 3 looked at **influential sports people** and how they were positive role models, both in their field of sport and in their communities. An athlete visited as part of this, which you can read about in this newsletter.
- The theme in Year 4 was **African and Caribbean food**, looking at how different types of food have influenced UK culture and creating their own recipe book.
- For Year 5, it was the journey of **Motown**, culminating in their assembly performance.
- Finally, Year 6 looked at the influence of the generation **before the Windrush**.



Year 5 gave three performances of their wonderful Motown assembly on 13th October, the first one to parents and families, and the next two to children across the school.

The first performance was also attended by Councillor Kangethe, the Barking and Dagenham Cabinet Member for Educational Attainment and School Improvement. She loved the performance and wrote to the school afterwards:

"I wish to sincerely thank you and all teachers at James Cambell Primary School for inviting me this morning to the most brilliant Black History Month assembly I have attended so far.

The Motown magic celebration was real magic which lit the whole assembly hall with fantastic melodies, dancing and infectious rhythms.

All the year five class proved to be so confident and truly enjoyed their assembly. It was their show and they owned it. Well done."



New pupil ambassadors appointed

Congratulations to our new Year 6 pupil ambassadors:

Isabella, Hope, Fraser, Briken, Castiel, Oluebube, Valentina, Niya, Poppy, John and Maisha.

These ambassadors have a very important job in being role models for all the children at James Cambell.

They also have a number of other duties, including:

- showing visitors around the school;
- helping out at Parents' Evenings;
- helping to set up and run school events;
- assisting in the library and with school resources; and
- most importantly, ensuring that everyone is safe and happy at playtime and lunchtime.

Following an interview with Miss Higginson, Mr Wilson and a school governor, Stephen Noon, we also appointed a Head Girl, a Head Boy and four Deputy Head Girl/Boys. They are:

Head Girl: Favour

Head Boy: Leonel

Deputy Head Girls:

Michelle and Maryam

Deputy Head Boys:

Yusef and Ardit

Well done to all of them for speaking so confidently during the interviews and answering a number of difficult questions about how they would make the school even better.



New climbing frame in the Early Years

The children in Nursery and Reception love playing on the new climbing frame. Over the half-term holiday, we will also be extending the canopies in the Early Years courtyard to provide them with cover from rain and make it easier to play and learn outside all year round.



Rights Respecting Schools

At James Cambell, we aim to be a school where children's rights are at the heart of our ethos and culture, to improve well-being and to develop every child's talents and abilities to their full potential. As part of this plan we are working towards recognition as a 'Rights Respecting School', an award given to schools on behalf of Unicef UK.

Unicef is the world's leading organisation working for children and young people and their rights. In 1989, governments across the world agreed that all children have the same rights by adopting the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). These rights are based on what a child needs to survive, grow, participate and fulfil their potential.

Pupils will learn about their rights by putting them into practice every day. A Rights Respecting School models rights and respect in all its relationships.

We really hope that you will be able to support our school on our journey towards becoming a Unicef UK Rights Respecting School. For further information about Rights Respecting Schools please visit: www.unicef.org.uk/rrsa

Visit of athlete to Year 3

On 10th October, professional mixed martial arts athlete Sydney Omar Dacres delivered an assembly/workshop as part of our Black History Month work on 'Inspirational sporting people'.

He spoke passionately to the children about resilience and how he had faced many setbacks as an athlete – but had never given up!



Day of the Dead in Year 6

As part of Year 6's Mexico topic, the children made and decorated their own Day of the Dead masks out of clay.



Year 4's Greek mythology workshop

On Friday, 13th October, the children of Year 4 had a workshop on Greek mythology, from Jonny Walker of Otherwise Education. The children really enjoyed hearing about the mythical story of the creation of the world and acting out some famous myths, such as the war between the gods and the titans.



Year 5 Valence House Visits – 3rd and 5th October

Year 5 visited Valence House as part of their history study: *How has Dagenham changed and why?* Using historical skills they learnt about what life was like in Dagenham in the past.

Children gathered information about Dagenham in the past such as the Ford industry, the chemist and leisure time. We

enjoyed looking at the model of Dagenham and the old streets that are still there today.

Children looked in the archives. They learnt about James Cambell, a significant person from the local area, who our school is named after. They studied past documents to find out about people's lives in the past.

Through role play children found out that Chadwell Heath was built by the Romans.



- James Cambell Year 6 girls were victorious in their football fixture against Thames View Juniors to win the Appleyard Shield on 11th October. Cambell won the game 7 – 2, with goals scored by Poppy (3), Favour (2) & Ivy (2).



Sports Events

There have been some great sports events at James Cambell this half-term, providing a great opportunity for the children selected to represent the school and enrichment opportunities for our children with special educational needs (SEN).

These events have included:

- Cricket Enrichment sessions, delivered by Essex Cricket, were held for years 3 and 5 on 26th September. The event was organised to promote the Cricket World Cup and encourage children to join local cricket clubs.
- On 27th September, Year 2 and 3 girls participated in the football festival at Barking Sporthouse.
- A group of James Cambell children with SEN participated in the Primary Panathlon (a bowling competition) at Namco Funscape, Romford, on 29th September.

Attendance

ABSENCE PROCEDURES

If a child is absent, the parent/carer should contact the school via parentmail, there is a step by step guide on our website should you require support. Please communicate the reason for the absence and where possible supply medical evidence for us to keep on record.

Parents/Carers are expected to maintain contact with the school for each day of absence.

James Cambell runs a first day absence procedure via parentmail, if we have not had a message from you by 9:30 to ascertain reasons for your child's absence you will receive a phone call. If we are unable to make contact with you, you will receive a letter and could also have a home visit from a member of our attendance team.

Attendance is monitored closely by ourselves and our linked attendance officer.

Drastic effect on learning

Cause for concern

Excellent and on track!



PUNCTUALITY

It is important that children are punctual so that they do not miss out on the beginning of each school day. Being late means they not only miss vital learning but also have an unsettled start to the day.

Children who arrive after registers close will receive a 'U' code as directed by the DfE compulsory attendance codes.

90% attendance is half a day a week or half a year over 5 years!

94% might sound quite good but it is nearly 2 weeks a year

To achieve 98% attendance you can only afford to miss 3 days a year

CPC Update

In July, the Cambell Primary Centre (CPC) was rated as a 'highly effective' provision by the local authority. With everything that goes on for the children, it's hardly surprising...

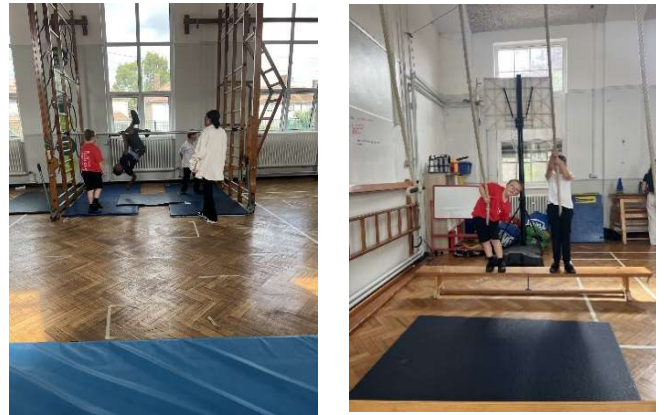
The CPC children grew own vegetables in the garden and then made a vegetable pasta dish which was delicious!



The children visited Dagenham and Redbridge FC:



They have also been learning gymnastics this term and are loving it. Here are some pictures of them in the school gym:



Census Space Day



Congratulations to our Census Space Day winners seen here with their prizes.

James Cambell needs Reading Ambassadors

Advert Open to Upper Key Stage 2



- Are you a book worm?
- Do you like reading a variety of books and love talking about them?
- Do you want to help promote reading at James Cambell?
- Reading ambassador badges are awaiting James Cambell pupils who love to read.

Your responsibilities:

- Arrange and organise book corners in the classroom.
- Deliver book recommendations in Assemblies.
- Keep track of library books borrowed from the library.
- Tidy the library after your class has visited it.
- Offer suggestions to help further the development of reading for pleasure at our school.
- Attend regular meetings.
- Be reading buddies to KS1 children.

To apply create a poster encouraging your peers to read "your favourite book" and bring it your class teacher by

Tuesday 31st of October 2023.

1 Child will be selected from each class.

Piano Fun Club and Guitar lessons

Music is thriving at James Cambell! Year 4 are loving playing the guitars each week. The school funds the weekly lessons from the borough's Music Hub. The children will give a performance to parents in the summer term.

Our Year 5 children loved playing the guitar so much, many are continuing to play this year. The cost is only £40 for the whole year.

The Piano Fun Club is a private company who visit every Tuesday. They provide lessons in many instruments to children of all ages. Have a look at their website and get in touch with them directly if you want your child to have lessons. <https://www.pianofunclub.co.uk/parent-page>

We are already planning the Nativity and Carol Concerts. We will post the dates on Class Dojo nearer the time.

Key dates

Tuesday 31st October	First day of term
Wednesday 1st November	Healthy Relationship Assemblies
Friday 10th November	Year 3 Diwali Assembly
Monday 13th – Friday 17th November	Anti-Bullying week
Wednesday 15th & Thursday 16th November	Parents Evening
Friday 17th November	Children in Need day
Friday 17th November	Nursery closed
Monday 27th & Wednesday 29th November	Police Talks assemblies
Thursday 7th December	Christmas Jumper day & Christmas lunch
Tuesday 19th December	Christmas Fair
Wednesday 20th December	Nursery last day of term
Thursday 21st December	Last day of term for pupils in Reception to Year 6: half day

Class Dojo

Please make sure you have Class Dojo on your phone. It's a quick way to interact with your child's teacher and the diary is really handy for the latest information. Don't forget to add yourself to our Facebook page too: 'James Cambell Primary'. We will be starting an Instagram page for parents in the next half term.