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## 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 had their residential trip to Trewern, but have also been enjoying swimming lessons at the school.

It was great to see so many parents and families attending the Poetry Festival last week. The children gave a brilliant performance, learning their poems off by heart and delivering them so fluently. As well as an opportunity to enjoy poetry, this festival is about building children's confidence in speaking publicly, which is really important for their future success.

As Silver Award winning members of the Anti-Bullying Alliance, we have a zero tolerance to bullying of any kind at James Cambell. Children in Years 5 and 6 have recently been trained in Anti-Racist Bullying by the Diana Award and we hosted a training day for schools in the East London area on the 27th March.

The 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!

Whether you are celebrating Eid or Easter - 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 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

With best wishes,

Mr Wilson

## 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 Mr Murray, Ms Dada, Ms Kelly, Ms Sullivan and Ms Foteva, 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 going mountain walking, exploring a cave, making survival shelters, climbing on the indoor climbing wall and also toasting marshmallows and making popcorn on a campfire!

Going to Trewern really helps the children to develop their independence. For many of them it was the first time away from their families – they made their own beds every morning, cleaned their rooms and served the food at breakfast and dinner time.

Trewern is already booked again for next year – so the current Year 4s have something really exciting to look forward to!



## Wonderdome Planetarium Experience

The Year 5 topic for Science this half term is learning all about the Solar System. Children had the opportunity to go into the dome and see all the planets projected around it. They learnt lots of interesting facts and asked lots of questions. Children thoroughly enjoyed it.



## Reception Mother's Day Assembly

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March, 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. They also sang a beautiful Mother's Day song and shared with all the parents why they loved their mummy. A highlight was some of the pupils acting out the song '5 little ducks went swimming one day'.

We were all so proud of the confident performance the Reception children gave. Well done Reception!



## James Cambell Choir

On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024, the James Cambell Choir went to Parsloe Primary School to take part in the Barking and Dagenham Music Festival.

The choir has only been established for 7 weeks. The children attend every week and learnt several songs.

The Head for Music for Barking and Dagenham commented on how incredible the choir sounded and said that their version of Blackbird by The Beatles made her cry.

Click on the links below to see the videos of the James Cambell Choir singing in the Barking and Dagenham Music Festival:

[Power in me](#)

[Blackbird](#)



## CPC Update

CPC have had a busy half term learning about the mysterious world under the sea! We researched and wrote about different sea creatures and worked together to make a 3D octopus in class as well as smaller creatures from salt dough.

We also went to the Sealife Adventure Centre at Southend-on-Sea to see the animals and habitats we'd learnt about in real life. The children were very well-behaved and enjoyed seeing penguins, fish and even a vampire crab! They also enjoyed a walk on the beach and collected shells for an art project so we can make links between our experiences and different types of learning.

We have also had a lot of change as we are saying goodbye to one child, as well as welcoming new children in both classes. It has been a pleasure to see how all the boys have been encouraging to newcomers and visitors to the CPC. Our emphasis on community this year is definitely having an impact on their day-to-day living.



## United against Racism

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March marked the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

James Cambell Primary challenges any offensive language or comments and takes all forms of bullying and prejudice extremely seriously.

As Silver Award winning members of the Anti-Bullying Alliance, we have a zero tolerance to bullying of any kind.



We use the Anti Bullying Alliance definition of bullying, which is:

*The repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power.*

*Bullying can be physical, verbal or psychological. It can happen face-to-face or online.*

Scan the QR code for a video definition.



We are delighted to announce Mr Murray has taken over the role as **Race and Social Justice** Coordinator and that we are also partnered with the **Halo Trust** and **Show Racism the Red Card**.

### Diana Award Anti Bullying Training



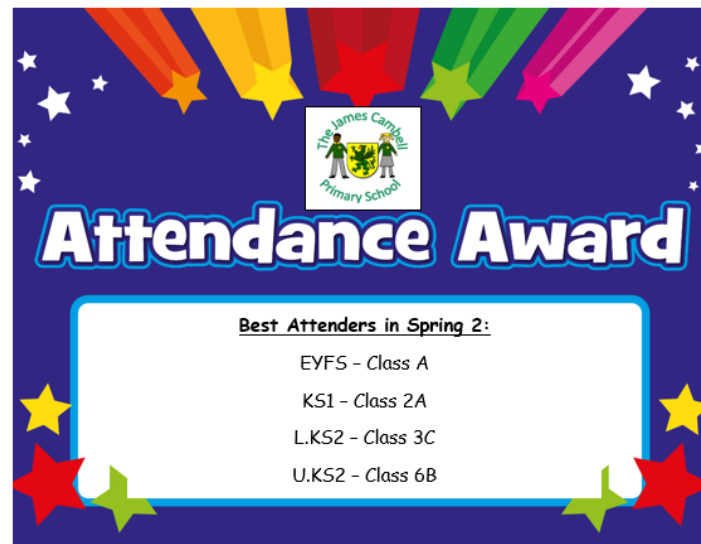
James Cambell were delighted to host a training day for the Anti-Bullying Diana Awards this week. We were joined by ten schools from across London, learning about how we can identify, deal with and help prevent bullying.

We now have 18 trained Anti Bullying Ambassadors in KS2. They have to complete three badges and they have decided their first campaign will be centred on inclusion, dealing with topic such as disability, SEND and racism. Watch this space!

Congratulations to Elizabeth, Yusef, Favour, Gabriella, Ivy, Sajan, Dre, Jasmina, Maddie, Keiarah, Inaaya, Victoria, Sawad, Alex, Gabi, Ariana, Aadam and Billy.



### Attendance Award



### Outdoor Play

At James Cambell, we strongly believe that outdoor play is crucial for children's development, offering a wealth of benefits. The school is the proud holder of an OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) Gold Award.

Let's explore why it matters:

1. Physical Skills and Strength:
  - Outdoor play allows children to develop essential physical abilities such as gross motor skills, coordination, and balance.
  - [Activities like jumping, climbing, cycling, skating, and team sports are easier to practice outdoors than at home or in structured indoor environments.](#)
2. Autonomy and Decision-Making:
  - Unstructured outdoor play empowers children to direct their own activities, fostering independence and decision-making.
  - [Unlike structured indoor play, the unpredictability of natural environments encourages creative problem-solving.](#)

3. Creativity and Imagination:
  - In unfamiliar outdoor spaces, children must think creatively about play.
  - Whether using new play equipment or climbing trees, they invent games that make use of the environment, stimulating their imagination.
4. Cooperation and Social Skills:
  - When playing with others, children learn cooperation.
  - They work together to decide on games or share the space, enhancing their social skills.
5. Knowledge and Connection to Nature:
  - Being in a natural environment teaches children about the world around them.
  - Exposure to plants, animals, and sunshine enriches their understanding of the environment.
6. Risk Management and Confidence:
  - While caregivers aim to protect children from all risks, navigating minor risks outdoors is essential.
  - Learning how to handle different situations increases confidence and resilience.

Outdoor play not only contributes to physical health but also supports mental well-being. It provides opportunities for making friends, exploring nature, and fostering a love for learning. Encouraging outdoor play is vital for children's holistic development



## Red Nose Day

**Thank you we sold all our red noses totalling £500**



## World Book Day

Pupils (and staff!) had a wonderful day celebrating reading at James Cambell on World Book Day. Parents throughout the school joined us in the morning for The Big Read. The day was themed around poetry, with pupils reading and writing their own poetry.

Reading for Pleasure remains one of our whole school priorities this year as research has shown the impact reading for pleasure has, not just on a child's academic success but also their wellbeing, sense of identity, understanding of others. It is so important to keep reading with your children, even as they get older. Why not take a trip to the local library during the Easter holidays?



## Year 5 British Museum Trip

Year 5 had a wonderful time at the British Museum. They learnt all about the Ancient Egyptians and their beliefs of the Afterlife. Children viewed and recorded information about different artefacts.



## Bikeability

Pupils in Year 5 and Year 6 have enjoyed the Bikeability courses this term. Pupils received Level 1 and Level 2 certificates where they learned how to maintain their bicycle, control their bike, be aware of their surroundings, understand road signals, signs and road markings and sharing the road with other vehicles.

Congratulations to all the pupils who participated in the Bikeability courses.



## Ben Kinsella Workshops

The Year 6 trip to the Ben Kinsella Workshop proved to be a profoundly enlightening and impactful experience for both students and accompanying staff members alike.

The workshop, dedicated to educating young minds about the dangers and consequences of knife crime, offered a comprehensive and interactive program that left a lasting impression on everyone involved. The facilitators skilfully navigated the delicate subject matter, engaging the students in thought-provoking discussions and activities designed to foster empathy, critical thinking, and awareness.

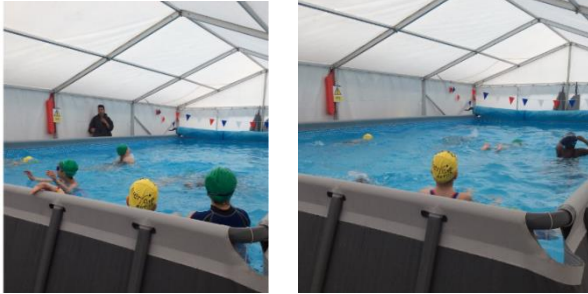
Through interactive exercises and group discussions, students were encouraged to reflect on factors such as peer pressure, social inequality, and the role of media in shaping perceptions and behaviours.

In addition to its educational value, the workshop also succeeded in fostering a sense of empowerment among the students. By equipping them with knowledge, skills, and resources to make informed decisions and navigate challenging situations, the workshop empowered students to become agents of positive change within their own communities.



## Year 5 Swimming

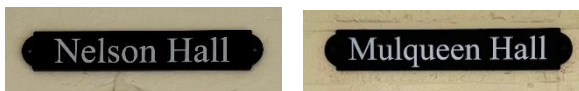
We were fortunate enough to have a temporary swimming pool in the school. Year 5 have had a wonderful time learning how to swim 25 metres. There was also the opportunity for some other year groups to use the pool.



## New Mulqueen and Nelson Halls

We are very lucky to have such skilled, dedicated and committed staff at James Cambell. Two of our staff - Ms Mulqueen and Ms Nelson - have actually worked at the school for over 30 years!

To celebrate this amazing achievement, we have renamed the Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 halls. The former Key Stage 1 Hall is now the Mulqueen Hall. The former Key Stage 2 Hall is now the Nelson Hall!



## Pupil Voice

At James Cambell, we attach great importance to the views of our children. This is in line with our commitments as a Rights Respecting School. Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child states that children have the right to give their opinion, and for adults to listen and take it seriously. We therefore have a Pupil Leaders' Committee, chaired by our Head Girl and Boy, who meet regularly to give their views on how to improve the school.

In addition, we have a School Council which has representatives who are elected from each class. At a recent meeting, the School Council met with the kitchen team and gave their views

on the school dinners menu. This led to a number of changes which should make meal choices more popular - while still remaining balanced and healthy!

## Bronze Rights Respecting Schools Award and next steps

We are delighted to share with you the exciting news that our school has been honoured with a Bronze award, marking a significant milestone in our journey towards becoming a recognised rights-respecting school. This achievement comes as a result of extensive collaboration and dedication from our entire school community.

This Bronze award is not just a mere accolade; it symbolises our steadfast commitment to upholding the principles of individual liberty and the rights of every child within our school. It underscores our belief in the inherent dignity and worth of each student, and our dedication to nurturing an environment where their rights are respected and protected.

This award is a stepping stone towards greater heights. Our school is already making strides towards the Silver award, and we are confident that with continued dedication and perseverance, we will soon achieve this milestone and beyond.

This recognition is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our students, staff, and parents alike. Together, we have created a school community where the rights and well-being of every individual are valued and prioritised.

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to making our school a rights-respecting environment where every child can flourish and thrive.



## Poetry Festival

We were delighted to welcome so many parents to our first Poetry Festival. From Reception to Year 6, pupils performed with confidence and enthusiasm. This year as a school we are focusing on developing our children's oracy. This includes ensuring that children always talk in full sentences and prompting them to speak loudly and clearly when sharing ideas. We are looking forward to holding the Poetry Festival as an annual event moving forwards and we look forward to seeing the children's confidence continue to grow.



## Sports Events and Competitions Update

This term has been very eventful for our James Cambell sports teams! We have competed in football competitions, which have been a great opportunity for the children to represent the school and experience high level competitions.

We have also attended gymnastics festivals, which have also been fantastic experiences for our children.

In football, our teams have played exceptionally and the results have been a big improvement, with the boy's football team reaching the 16<sup>th</sup> round in the Barking & Dagenham Trophy. Additionally, the girl's football team has reached the quarter final of the Appleyard Shield.

We are looking forward to lot more activity and competition in the summer term - including sports days!

## James Cambell at Easter

The children and staff have had an amazing day. EYFS and KS1 looked spectacular in their Easter Bonnets. It was so lovely to see all the parents cheering in the parade.



Year 2 were exceptional in their Easter assembly, which retold the story of Holy Week. The song at the end was fantastic and the children all sang so clearly.



Well done to KS2, who joined in with the Easter Assembly, led by our local vicar Reverend Faye. She was so impressed with the children's knowledge of Holy Week.

Finally, the Easter Egg competition was so hard to judge, as the standard was so high. Very well done! There are videos on Class Dojo of all the entries.



Our hard working staff joined in the fun by taking part in a Secret Bunny egg exchanging event.

**Key dates for next half-term**

Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	First day of term
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	Arc Theatre performing for Year 5 & 6
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 4 Eid Assembly
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 1 St. George's Day Assembly
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	May Day Holiday
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Last day of term