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Message from the Headteacher

Welcome to our first newsletter of the school year. It was lovely to see so many of you at the parent welcome sessions at the beginning of term - thank you for taking the time to come in and support your child's learning journey.

This half term, our children have been busy learning and taking part in a range of exciting activities. A highlight has been celebrating Black History Month, with pupils exploring the achievements of inspiring Black mathematicians and the Year 5 pupils sharing their learning in assemblies. At James Cambell, our children speak 46 different languages and we are so proud of the richness and joy that this diversity brings to our community. We will continue to celebrate this together throughout the year.

At James Cambell, our vision is to give every child the opportunities they deserve. This means excellent teaching in the classroom, but also those experiences that help children grow in confidence, discover their talents, and feel part of a caring and supportive community. Each year we set a small number of priorities to keep making our school even better. This year we are focusing on:

- Developing strong number skills and times tables knowledge
- Continuing to enhance our provision for children with special educational needs
- Further strengthening assessment to check learning is understood and remembered
- Supporting staff with high-quality professional development

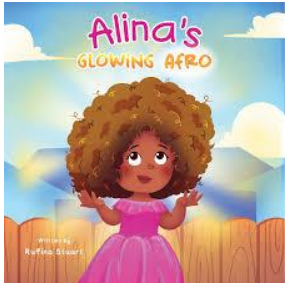
As we reach the end of this half term, I want to thank you for all the ways you support the school. Whether it's attending events, speaking with staff, or encouraging your child at home, it really does make such a difference. I look forward to all that we will achieve together over the rest of the year.

I wish you and your families a restful half term and look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday, 4th November.

With best wishes,
Ms Breakwell
Headteacher

Year 3 Black History Celebrations

As part of our Black History celebrations in Year 3, we had the wonderful opportunity to meet Rufina Stuart, the author of the children's book "Alina's Glowing Afro". The story celebrates Black hair, heritage and inner beauty through the joyful character Alina. The children really enjoyed listening to the story and the loved being able to ask the author questions about the book!



KS2 Panathlon Success!

I'm delighted to share the fantastic news from our recent KS2 Panathlon event!

The Panathlon is a multi-sport competition made up of different activity stations, each designed to develop key skills such as coordination, balance, agility, and teamwork. It's a brilliant way for children of all abilities to get involved, challenge themselves, and experience the fun of friendly competition.

This year, our team showed incredible determination, resilience, and teamwork, resulting in a 3rd place finish and well-deserved bronze medals! It was a proud moment for all involved and a true reflection of the effort they've put in over the past few weeks.

What makes this achievement even more special is the progress we've made compared to previous years. The children have grown in confidence, sharpened their sporting skills,

and demonstrated fantastic cooperation as a team. Their development has been a joy to watch.

Thank you for your continued support, and well done to all the children who took part – you represented the school brilliantly!

Mr Johnston
PE Lead



Bronze Medals and a Borough Award for Sporting Improvement

We're proud to share a fantastic sporting achievement that reflects the hard work, progress, and enthusiasm of our pupils and staff.

James Cambell has been recognised by the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham as the Most Improved School in Sport and Physical Activity!

This award celebrates the strides we've made in developing sporting opportunities and raising the profile of physical activity across the school. From greater involvement in competitions to an expanding range of clubs and activities, we are committed to providing every child with the chance to get active, build confidence, and enjoy the benefits of sport.

Well done to all the children who are helping to make James Cambell a stronger, more active school community.

Mr Johnston
PE Lead

Year 5 Black History Assembly

To conclude the work James Cambell have undertaken for their Black History Month celebrations, Year 5 children performed their Black History Month assembly to parents and Cllr Kangethe. The assembly focused on the history of music and the children performed songs from different eras and genres.



Maths Fun at Home!



Keep practising with *Numbots* and *Times Tables Rock Stars* to build number confidence and speed. Just 5 to 10 minutes a day makes a big difference! Your child will have a log in. If not, please ask your child's class teacher.

www.numbots.com | www.ttrockstars.com

SEND update

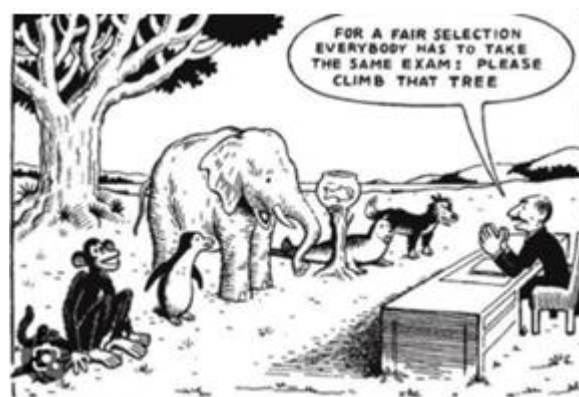


This half term's SEND section of the newsletter is all about adaptive teaching. We hope you find the information useful. If you have any questions, please contact Ms Thompson who will be willing to discuss anything with you.

What is Adaptive Teaching?

You may have previously heard the words differentiation or scaffolding used when discussing the support your child receives in their classroom/school. The new terminology that is being used is 'Adaptive Teaching'.

Adaptive teaching is a technique that enables all pupils in a class—regardless of their ability—to learn together and aim for the same outcomes. Adaptive teaching increases inclusivity and can boost self-esteem while also recognising that some pupils will need extra support to complete the same work as their peers. Being taken out of lessons, working with a TA on a task, or doing a task which has been differentiated (literally, made different) can all increase feelings of isolation and school anxiety. Including pupils with SEND in whole-classroom teaching and not drawing attention to their different, while still providing support to meet their learning needs is what adaptive teaching is all about.



Parents' evening is November 19th and 20th. If you like to book an appointment with Ms Thompson, please email her on hthompson@jamescambellprimary.org.uk or message her on Class Dojo!

The Local Offer can be found at: [Home - Barking and Dagenham SEND Local Offer](#)

Parent Partnership & Community Update

At James Cambell Primary, we are proud of the strong and supportive relationships we share with our families. Your ongoing feedback and involvement help us grow and improve. Thank you for being such an important part of our school community.

You Said... We Did!

We've been listening to your feedback and taking action to make our school even better:

You asked for more information about school dinners

We now share weekly menus on Class Dojo, so you can easily see what's on offer and plan ahead.

You asked for the school gates to open earlier

We've adjusted gate times to help reduce congestion and make drop-off smoother and safer.

You raised concerns about road safety at drop-off and pick-up

We're working closely with the Parking Enforcement Team, who now have a visible presence on Langley Crescent to help keep everyone safe.

You wanted more insight into your child's learning

Each half term, we share curriculum overviews for every year group, outlining what your child is learning and how you can support them at home. These are available on our website and can be translated into multiple languages.

Communication and Partnership

We're delighted to hear how much you value our open and approachable communication. Here's how we stay connected:

- Class Dojo and Parent Mail keep you updated with news, reminders and key information
- You can always reach us via email at office@jamescambellprimary.org.uk
- Senior Leaders (SLT) are on the gates every morning and afternoon — ready to greet you and answer any questions
- Teachers are available at the end of the day for a quick chat or you can arrange a longer meeting if needed

Parent Events and Involvement

Parent Welcome Meetings

Thank you to everyone who attended. Your feedback is helping us shape the year ahead.

Parent Forum

We've had a fantastic response. Our next session is in November, focusing on Anti-Bullying. All are welcome to join and share their views.

Volunteering

We're thrilled to see more parents getting involved, from supporting reading to helping in classrooms and gaining valuable experience.

Friends of James Cambell

Our amazing PTA continues to organise much-loved events like Mother's Day, Father's Day and the wonderful Christmas and Summer fairs.

Leading Parent Partnership Award (LPPA)

We're proud to be working towards the Leading Parent Partnership Award, which recognises schools that build strong, positive relationships with families.

Right now, we're focusing on improving our induction process for new families.

If you've recently joined us, we'd love to hear your thoughts on how welcome you felt and how we can make the experience even better.

Your voice matters — thank you for being part of our journey!

Parent Coffee Mornings

A huge thank you to Lisa Marshall for her continued support of our families. You'll often see her after Bagel Breakfast Club, ready with a smile and a listening ear.

Our Parent Coffee Mornings take place every other Wednesday — a relaxed space to connect, chat and share ideas.

Upcoming Topics:

- Wednesday 26 Nov 2025 – Meet SALT Leanne Lampen (Speech and Language Therapist)
- Wednesday 10 Dec 2025 – Meet Paul Perry (Housing and Homelessness)

Come along, enjoy a hot drink and be part of our growing community — everyone is welcome!

Join Our OPAL Team!

We're looking for a parent volunteer to join our *Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL)* Team. Help us make playtimes more creative, active and inclusive.

Interested? Contact the school office — we'd love to hear from you.

Breakfast, After-School and Enrichment Clubs

We're committed to offering a wide range of opportunities for children to learn, play and grow beyond the classroom.

Breakfast and After-School Care

Run by EM3 in our school dining room, this club provides a safe, fun environment with engaging activities and healthy snacks. For session times, prices and booking details, please contact the school office.

Afterschool Enrichment Clubs

Our dedicated staff are excited to offer a variety of clubs this term — there's something for everyone!

Day	Club	Year Groups
Monday	Maths	KS2
	French	Y3 & Y4
	Art	YR-Y6
	Homework	KS2
	Multisport	Y1 & Y2
	Choir	KS2
Tuesday	Movie	KS2
	Dance	Y1 & Y2
	Netball	KS2
	Craft	YR-Y2
	Art	YR-Y6
Wednesday	Gardening	Y4-Y6
	Cooking	KS1
	Cooking	KS2
	Art	YR-Y6

	Girls football team	Y4-Y6
Thursday	Athletics	KS2
	Cooking	KS1
	Reading	KS2
Friday	Maths	Y1-Y2
	Boys football team	Y4-Y6

CPC Update

CPC have been busy learning about Children Around the World. We have compared our lives with those of children living in different countries and time periods. The children have read *Oliver Twist* and even went to see *Oliver*!

They have also read Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters and discussed the characters and moral of the story before making some group artwork. Our Thrive word of the half term is 'Prepared' and we have certainly seen the children thinking carefully and preparing themselves to be able to embrace new opportunities!



For wellbeing:

We recognise that the wellbeing of the whole family supports the wellbeing of the child. The following websites offer support, hints, training and the opportunity to meet others in similar situations:

<https://www.challengingbehaviour.org.uk/>
(Challenging SEND behaviour)

<https://thegirlwiththecurlyhair.co.uk/>
(Autism)

<https://parentzone.org.uk/parents> (Parent support)

<https://www.dad.info/> (Support for dads)

Attendance Update



ATTENDANCE UPDATE

Celebrating great attendance across our school!

We've had a brilliant half term full of learning and fun! A big thank-you to all our families for supporting good attendance and punctuality – every day really does count.

Attendance Champions - (September-October 2025)

Phase	Best Attending Class
EYFS	Class C
Key Stage 1	1B
Lower Key Stage 2	3A
Upper Key Stage 2	5B

🎉 Congratulations! Well done to Class C, 1B, 3A and 5B - our attendance superstars this half term!

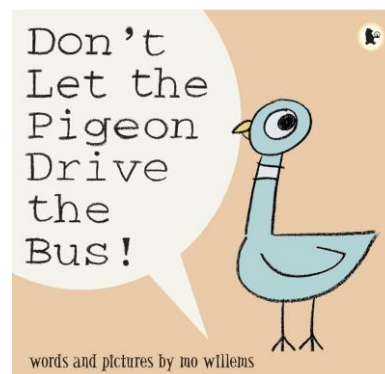
Reading for Pleasure



This half term we have enjoyed welcoming our families into Key Stage 1 for our Big Read sessions. Every Friday morning, until 9:05am, you are invited into your child's class to read with them. This is a great time to snuggle up with a book and enjoy reading, not for the educational value it has, but for the enjoyment you have from the story or the facts it offers. Quite often for me, when I read to my own children, it was their reaction to the story that I enjoyed most, especially if it was a story where the main character was a bit cheeky!

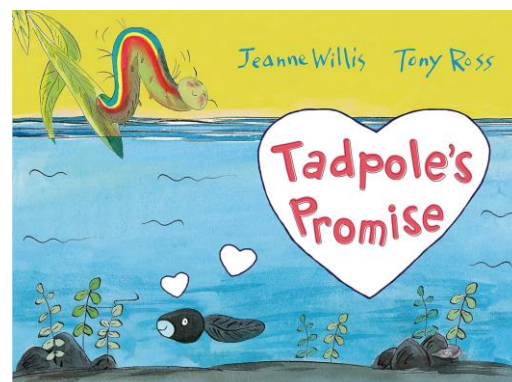
I have a few book recommendations for you, that I hope you enjoy:

EYFS:



When a bus driver takes a break in this hilarious Caldecott Honor-winning picture book, he gives the reader just one instruction: "Don't let the pigeon drive the bus!" But, boy, that pigeon tries every trick in the book to get in that driving seat: he whines, wheedles, fibs and flatters. Will you let him drive? Told entirely in speech bubbles, this brilliantly original and funny picture book demands audience participation!

Key Stage 1:



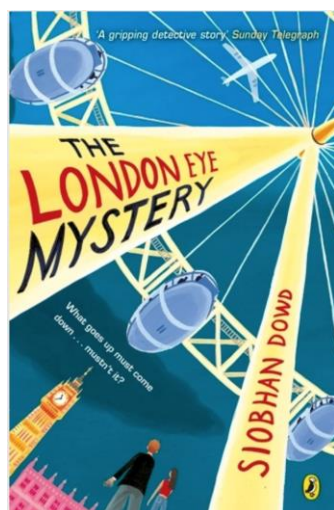
"Where the willow meets the water, a tadpole met a caterpillar. They gazed into each other's tiny eyes and fell in love. 'Promise me that you will never change', the caterpillar says." And foolishly, the tadpole promises. But as the seasons pass and he matures, his legs grow, and then his arms - and what happens to his beautiful rainbow friend?

Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3&4):



Wimpy Kid fans, be prepared for another hilarious diary entry. This time it's all about Greg's crazy, summer holiday where his extended family have all come together in a tiny beach house, in the sweltering heat. What's more, there are family secrets and mysteries brewing that Greg needs to figure out.

Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5&6):



Siblings Ted and Kat's cousin Salim is visiting with his mum. The trio decides to have a day in London and head to the London Eye, but frustratingly the queue is very long. Then a stranger approaches the cousins, offering his ticket for the Eye – which he can't bring himself to ride now because of his claustrophobia. Having never been on the Eye, Kat and Ted encourage Salim to take it. They wave their cousin off onto one of the pods, but when it comes back down half an hour later, Salim is nowhere to be seen. Has he been abducted? Did he ever get off the London Eye? It's up to Ted and Kat to find out.

New Head Girl/Boy & Ambassadors

We are proud to announce our new Head Boy and Head Girl of James Cambell Primary School!



Sawad (6A) and Ishan (6B) have both done an outstanding job delivering their speeches and confidently answering questions during their interview process. Their dedication, leadership, and enthusiasm truly stood out, and we are excited to see them represent our school community this year. Congratulations, Sawad and Ishan!



James Cambell Primary School is proud to introduce our Year 6 Ambassadors. These pupils will be taking on a variety of important responsibilities around the school. They have been chosen not only for their exemplary behaviour but also for their positive attitude and commitment to learning in the classroom.

We are confident they will represent our school with pride and set a fantastic example for others to follow.

Key dates for next term

Monday 3 November	Staff inset day (non-pupil day)
Tuesday 4 November	First day of term
Tuesday 4 November	6B Buddhist trip
Thursday 6 November	6A & 6C Buddhist trip
Thursday 13 November	Parent Forum

Wednesday 19 & Thursday 20 November	Parents Evening
Friday 21 November	Nite Owls visiting
Friday 21 November	Year 6 NELFT workshops
Monday 1 – Friday 5 December	Nativity & Carol Concerts
Wednesday 10 December	Bedtime stories
Tuesday 16 December	Christmas fair
Thursday 18 December	Christmas jumper day & dinner
Friday 19 December	Last day of term