

Issue number: 38

Our school values: Respect. Honesty. Responsibility. Equality. Resilience.

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Message from the Headteacher

Welcome to February's edition of the James Cambell Primary School Newsletter. It has been a busy and exciting half term, and I hope you enjoy reading about what has been happening across our school.

I am very pleased to share some excellent feedback from an external school review carried out by Challenge Partners earlier this half term. Challenge Partners is a network of schools that work together to help each other improve. A team of experienced reviewers spent three days in our school, looking at teaching, learning, and how well we support our children.

The reviewers praised our pupils for their *"exceptional behaviour and positive attitudes"*. They also praised the quality of teaching and the curriculum, including the support provided for children with additional needs. We were especially proud to be given an *Area of Excellence* for *"achieving excellent early reading outcomes in a highly diverse community"*. We will share the full report with parents soon.

We were also delighted to receive a letter earlier this half term from Bridget Phillipson, recognising the strong progress made by children at James Cambell who receive Pupil Premium funding. This means that our school's outcomes for these children are among the best nationally, which is something we are very proud of.

Our Parent Forum this half term was a really positive opportunity to share plans for our new Early Years playground. During the Easter holidays, the new playground will be installed, along with a brand-new soft playroom and sensory room. We are very excited about these new spaces and look forward to welcoming families to a special opening event after school on **Monday 10th April**. More information will be shared soon.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We are very grateful to work in partnership with our families.

Many thanks,

Ms Breakwell

Headteacher

Year 3 Synagogue trip

As part of our Judaism topic, Year 3 visited Oaks Lane Reform Synagogue. The children really enjoyed meeting the Rabbi and learning about the synagogue and its customs. They were excited to see the Torah and to find out how Hebrew is written on the scrolls. During the visit, the children took part in a drawing activity, a tasting activity, and a small scavenger hunt around the building to help them learn more about Judaism. It was a lovely visit and a great learning experience for all.



Year 3 trip to Pizza Express

Year 3 had a fantastic day out visiting Pizza Express at South Bank. The children took part in a cooking experience where they learned how the restaurant works and how pizzas are made. The chefs spoke to the children and showed them what happens behind the scenes before helping them make their own Margherita pizzas.

Each child made and enjoyed their own pizza, which they ate on South Bank while looking out at the London skyline. We then walked across Millennium Bridge, enjoying the views of St Paul's Cathedral and even spotting Tower Bridge. It was a brilliant day and one the children will remember.



Year 5 trip to Jo Richardson

Year 5 thoroughly enjoyed watching the dress rehearsal at Jo Richardson. They paid close attention to the actors' performances, which later inspired and supported their own performance poetry work in English lessons.



Bikeability

Pupils in Year 5 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 share the road with other vehicles.

Congratulations to all the pupils who participated in the Bikeability courses. The instructors said they were very impressed with the exceptional behaviour of this year's group! Well done!



Year 3 interviewed an author

Year 3 were incredibly lucky to hear from Miss Seaton about her journey to becoming an author. She spoke openly about the challenges she faced while balancing school life with writing her books, which the children found fascinating and inspiring. Year 3 asked Miss Seaton lots of thoughtful questions, showing just how engaged they were. We are also very excited that Miss Seaton will be judging our upcoming Mystery Story writing competition. After meeting her, many children in Year 3 are feeling inspired and are now eager to become authors themselves!



Safer Internet Day 2026 – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI

This week, the children at James Cambell joined others nationwide to celebrate Safer Internet Day 2026. This year's theme, 'Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI,' focuses on teaching children and young people the skills to use AI technology safely and responsibly.

From voice assistants, to chatbots, to algorithms, AI technology is playing an increasingly large role in all our lives. It is important that we find time to discuss these tools and the impact they can have on our own and our families' online experiences.

We encourage you to join us in celebrating by continuing the conversation about AI technology at home.

You may also like to use one of these prompts to start a conversation with your child:

- What's your favourite thing to do online?
- Have you ever used an AI tool? How did it make you feel?
- What do you like about AI technology?
- Do you have any worries about AI technology?
- What advice would you give to your friends about using AI?
- Who would you talk to if you saw something worrying online?
- What more can I do to help you feel safe online?

Art Day – 6th February 2026

A local artist visited our school to work with our Year 2 pupils on an exciting textile printing project inspired by the work of London-based artist Yinka Shonibare.

After looking at how Shonibare uses bold, patterned fabrics and draws inspiration from nature and culture, the children created their own vibrant designs.

First, each pupil painted a piece of fabric in a bright base colour. They then used inspiration

sheets featuring natural forms such as leaves and flowers to help them develop ideas for their own print designs.

Using plasticine, the children carefully moulded their own printing blocks into a range of shapes and textures, using clay tools to add detail and pattern. Once their blocks were complete, they applied paint and printed repeated patterns across their fabric, creating striking and colourful results.

Through this project, pupils experienced the full design and production process and developed their understanding of pattern, repetition and printmaking in textiles.

We have some budding textile designers at James Cambell!



SEND Update

In this section, we'll be exploring the Zones of Regulation and offering practical tips on how you can help your child feel calm and ready to learn at home. As always, if you have any SEND-related questions that your child's class teacher cannot answer, please don't hesitate to email Ms Thompson directly at hthompson@jamescambellprimary.org.uk

How We Teach Self-Regulation

Why is Self-Regulation Important?

Everyone needs to manage their feelings and behaviour. When we notice we are upset or worried, we can do something to feel calm

again. Some children find this harder and need extra help. That's why we teach self-regulation in school.

The Zones of Regulation

Feelings can be big or small, and sometimes hard to explain. The Zones of Regulation helps children understand their feelings by using four colours:

Blue Zone – tired, sad, or bored

Green Zone – calm, happy, ready to learn

Yellow Zone – worried, silly, or excited

Red Zone – angry, scared, or out of control

This simple system helps children talk about feelings and learn what to do to get back to the Green Zone. Our goal is to help every child feel calm, focused, and ready to learn.



Talking About the Zones with Your Child

- Talk through the four Zones together
- Ask your child: "How do you feel in each Zone?"
- Share your own examples too.
- Discuss feelings in each Zone
Example: "In the Yellow Zone, I might feel worried."
- Talk about body clues Example: "When I feel worried, I get butterflies in my stomach or sweaty hands."
- Notice actions or behaviours Example: "When I'm in the Yellow Zone, I might fidget or pace around."

- Plan strategies to return to the Green Zone Example: “If I feel anxious, I might do breathing exercises or yoga stretches.”
- Make a personal list of strategies Remind your child: “Everyone is different. What works for one person might not work for another.”
- There are no “good” or “bad” Zones – we all experience them.
- The key is recognising feelings and using strategies. Keep It Consistent. Use the same language and visuals at home and school.
- Talk to school about strategies so your child feels supported in both places

Ideas for Self-Regulation Tools

Sensory Tools: Snack or drink, Fidget toys, Movement breaks, Exercise, Music, Sand/water play

Thinking Tools: “Size of the problem” thinking, Positive self-talk, Talking to an adult or friend.

Calming Activities: Breathing exercises, Reading or colouring, Quiet space, Adjusting lights or noise.

Be Water Aware: Stay safe in and around water!

Students from Riverside Secondary visited our school to deliver an engaging Water Safety Assembly for our Y4 and Y5 classes. The session highlighted the risks associated with rivers, lakes, open waterways and even ice. It helped us understand the hidden dangers of fast-moving currents, cold water shock and changing conditions, even for confident swimmers.

The presenters shared practical tips on recognising hazards, making sensible choices near water and knowing what to do in an emergency. Real-life examples emphasised the importance of caution and responsible behaviour around water.

A fun quiz tested children’s understanding of the key messages and a Q&A time gave them the chance to clarify how to make smart choices. It’s always better to be safe than sorry!



Building healthy relationships

Thirty children from our year 4 took part in a two-day creative *Tender* workshop, exploring what makes relationships healthy and how to handle tricky situations.

Through drama and art, the children stepped into each other’s shoes, learning how different people may think and feel. They role played real-life scenarios and reflected on a range of choices when responding to others; they used their emotions and communication skills as they expressed themselves and their thoughtful decisions.

The workshop ended with a presentation for parents and classmates, sharing the message that we all need positive relationships based on care, kindness and respect.



Year 2 Science Museum trip

Year 2 had a fantastic trip to the Science Museum as part of our history topic, How We Learned to Fly. We explored exciting exhibits, discovered how flight has changed over time, and learned about the people and inventions that made it possible. The children were curious, enthusiastic, and asked brilliant questions. We all had a great day full of learning and fun. A big thank you to our parent helpers for their support on the day!



Children's Mental Health Week

This week, we celebrated Children's Mental Health Week by wearing our brightest colours and donating to a children's mental health charity. Children also learnt about the five ways to wellbeing: connect, be active, keep learning, give and take notice. Why not think about how you could remind children of these at home?

Cambell Primary Centre News

CPC have been learning about Space this half term. They have learnt about how the Earth, Sun and Moon relate to each other, drawing diagrams and making models to illustrate this. Their art has also included making clay moonscapes. Our nurture word for the half term has been 'motivation' and we have sought to have a practical purpose to our learning. This week, for example, the children shared their gardening expertise by teaching

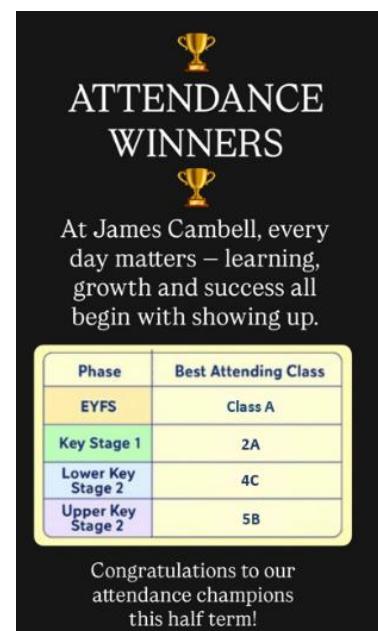
the Rainbow Room children how to grow cress. This was a wonderful opportunity for our children to think of others, writing instructions and adapting their own learning for a different audience.



Attendance Reminder for Parents

If your child is unwell and so absent for 3 consecutive days, we recommend that they are seen by a GP. For any absence lasting five days, medical evidence must be provided to authorise the absence. Please note that our Attendance Team aims to carry out a home visit on the 5th day of absence to offer support and ensure your children's wellbeing.

Thank you for your continued cooperation in prioritising attendance.



ATTENDANCE WINNERS

Phase	Best Attending Class
EYFS	Class A
Key Stage 1	2A
Lower Key Stage 2	4C
Upper Key Stage 2	5B

At James Cambell, every day matters – learning, growth and success all begin with showing up.

Congratulations to our attendance champions this half term!

Sports Competitions

Our school has had an exciting few weeks in sport, with our netball team achieving an impressive 4th place out of 10 schools in their recent competition, showing great teamwork and determination. Our SEN bowling team also made us incredibly proud by taking 1st place in their event, demonstrating fantastic skill and enthusiasm. Meanwhile, our Year 3 & 4 pupils enjoyed their first introduction to netball at a mixed netball festival, where they took part in a variety of fun activities alongside other schools, building confidence, learning new skills, and representing our school brilliantly throughout. They narrowly missed out on the semi-finals after a very close 4–3 quarter-final match against Eastbury Community School.

Key dates for next term

Monday 23 rd February	First day of term
Thursday 26 th February	Year 2 trip to Mosque
Tuesday 3 rd March	3C Pizza Express trip
Wednesday 4 th & Thursday 5 th March	Parents' Evening
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day
Monday 9 th – Friday 13 th March	Year 5 pupils at Trewern Residential trip
Tuesday 17 th March	Class Photographs
Wednesday 18 th – Friday 20 th March	Poetry Festival
Friday 20 th March	Red Nose Day
Tuesday 24 th March	Year 4 Eid Assembly
Thursday 26 th March	Year 2 Easter Assembly
Friday 27 th March	Dare to be Different Day
Friday 27 th March	Last day of term