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Message from the Headteacher

It has been a short but very busy half term at James Cambell!

It was wonderful to see so many parents and families at our Poetry Festivals. I hope you enjoyed hearing your children perform with such confidence, clarity and enthusiasm. We greatly appreciate your continued support and are already looking forward to our Singing Festivals in the Summer Term.

Many of our Year 5 pupils attended the Trewern residential this half term, gaining exciting and memorable experiences that I am sure they will cherish for years to come. Our Year 4 children also brought the story of Ramadan to life through a thoughtful and engaging assembly. Alongside this, we enjoyed a range of special events, including World Book Day, Comic Relief and Dare to be Different Day.

During the Easter holidays, our Early Years playground will be redeveloped following consultation with our Parent Forum. We are very much looking forward to sharing the finished space with you.

Looking ahead, our Year 6 pupils will be preparing for their SATs next term. They have shown great commitment to their learning, and we are very proud of their efforts.

We hope you all have a restful and enjoyable break and look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 13th April.

With best wishes,
Miss Breakwell

Attendance Update

Phase	Best Attending Class
EYFS	B
Key Stage 1	2B
Lower Key Stage 2	3C
Upper Key Stage 2	6A

Helping Your Child Love Maths – Parent Workshop

This month, some of our parents joined us for a fun “Help Your Child Love Maths” workshop. Everyone took part in a hands-on activity where they made playdough from scratch. Parents measured out flour, salt, water and food colouring, showing how simple kitchen tasks can help children learn about measures in a practical and enjoyable way.

This workshop is part of our work with **National Numeracy through their Schools and Families Programme**, which helps families build confidence with maths at home.

During the workshop, parents were also shown the National Numeracy Challenge. This is a simple online check that helps adults understand their own maths confidence and offers small, manageable next steps. Many parents said they found it helpful and reassuring.

In Year 2, children have been using special homework from the programme. The tasks are practical and easy to do together, like counting, comparing, or measuring everyday items. Parents have shared that this type of homework has been really positive and has helped them support their child’s maths learning.

A big thank you to all the families who took part. We loved seeing you getting involved, having fun, and gaining new ideas to use at home. Together, we can help every child feel confident, happy, and excited about maths! For more information:

www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk/challenge



Help Your Child with Maths No Cook Playdough Recipe
Ingredients:

- 2 cups plain flour • 1 cup salt • 2 tbsp. vegetable oil • 2 tbsp. cream of tartar • 1.5 cups boiling water • Food colouring (optional)

Instructions:

1. Mix flour, salt and cream of tartar.
2. Add oil and food colouring.
3. Carefully pour in boiling water.
4. Stir until dough forms.
5. Knead until smooth.
6. Adjust with flour/oil if needed. Storage: Store in an airtight container for 4–6 weeks.

Year 3 R.E. trips



Year 3 visited St. Albans Church, where they met Reverend Faye and learned about the meaning of Lent and Easter in the Christian faith. They also visited the local mosque, where they met the Imam and learned about the importance of Ramadan and Eid in Islam. These visits helped the children understand different religious traditions and how people celebrate important events in their faith.



The Brilliant Club – Scholars Programme

This term a group of 15 girls in Year 5 have been selected to take part in The Scholars Programme, delivered by The Brilliant Club and funded by the Park Charity Trust for Girls. They have been working with an expert tutor, Victoria Onyeagboko, who is a legal specialist and exploring the question, “What are Rights?” This is an especially meaningful topic as we are working towards achieving the Gold Rights Respecting Award.

The girls have been engaging with small group tutorials and the programme will culminate in a memorable graduation ceremony at City, University of London in May, where the girls will celebrate their achievements and enjoy a real taste of university life.



The Brilliant Club



Comic Relief Fun at James Cambell Primary!

Last week, we enjoyed a wonderful couple of days celebrating Comic Relief at James Cambell Primary School.

The children arrived in their brightest non uniform outfits, filling the school with colour, laughter and plenty of smiles. Everyone also shared a special lunch, which added to the sense of togetherness.

A favourite moment was receiving our Comic Relief slap bands. There were many happy faces as the children proudly wore them throughout the day.

Most importantly, the children learned about the valuable work Comic Relief does and how the money raised supports people in need. This links closely to our school values, as we continue to encourage kindness, empathy and helping others.

Thank you to everyone who took part and donated. We are very proud of how our



school community came together for such an important cause.

Easter Celebrations at James Cambell Primary

We have had a wonderful time celebrating Easter across the school, filled with creativity, reflection, and community spirit.

Our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children took part in a fantastic Easter Bonnet Parade. The effort and imagination that went into the bonnets was truly incredible and each year they get better and better. From bright spring flowers to wonderfully creative designs, the children wore them with pride and big smiles.

A big thank you to all the parents and carers who came along to support the parade. It was lovely to share such a joyful event together.

Well done also to all of our Key Stage 2 pupils who took part in the Easter egg decoration competition. The entries were full of creativity and care and showed what a talented group of children we have. We will be sharing photos of all the entries on Class Dojo so please look out for them.

We would also like to say a special thank you to Reverend Faye Bailey for leading three engaging assemblies where the children

learned about Holy Week and the meaning behind Easter. These assemblies gave pupils a valuable opportunity to reflect and deepen their understanding.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this such a special celebration in our school community.



Trewern 2026

We had a superb week in Wales with the year 5 children. All the children were a credit to their parents. They showed great resilience and bravery overcoming fears to try new activities. Many of the children grew confident and by the end of the week were tackling new activities head-on. They also developed their independent skills, being able to complete chores to help keep the house clean or help serve and wash up after meals. We were able to see lambs which were only a few hours old, slide down a river, climb a rock face and investigate caves. In the evenings we heard owls, saw bats, solved problems and completed orienteering races. A great time was had by all.

Does this bring back memories?

Trewern now have new facilities which allow visitors to stay at Trewern on a self-catering basis. If it's available you could hire the whole main house, stay in our lodge and/or pod, or camp in the grounds in our yurts, tents or campervans/caravans, the new cabins are on Airbnb! If you are interested in booking a break away please visit: [Accommodation and Facilities – Trewern Outdoor Education Centre](#)

Dare to be Different day

Information from Sycamore trust

We're asking everyone in Barking & Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge to wear something unusual on Friday 27th March 2026 (or on any day of your choosing, if that Friday doesn't work for you) and donate £1 to Sycamore Trust. Celebrating diversity

The idea behind the Dare to be Different campaign is twofold. Yes, we are hoping to raise some money, so that we can continue to support families and individuals with vital services, but it's also about raising awareness, not only of the charity, but also of autism in general. Because of the difficulties in fitting in to society that autistic individuals face on a daily basis, we felt that *#daretobedifferent* was the perfect platform. There's no right or wrong way; it's just about acknowledging, embracing and celebrating those differences. That's why we're asking people to wear whatever they want. It might be odd socks, pyjamas, or a football kit, but it doesn't matter because whatever people decide to wear is fine by us. As long as it's different!

Sycamore Trust came into school on Tuesday 24th March to deliver assemblies to the whole school and explain the reasons behind the day.

SEND Update

As James Cambell Primary School Special Educational Needs and Disability Coordinator (SENCO), I am here to offer support and advice regarding additional needs or SEND support for your child. As a school, we value the engagement of our parents so please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions. My contact email address is: hthompson@jamescambellprimary.org.uk

[SEND – Keeping Safe Online Information taken from Childnet.com.](#)

For many young people with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND), the internet can be a place where they feel safe, calm and in control; somewhere they can

make friends without having to communicate face-to-face and build a community which they may not have in their offline life. Whilst recognising the internet is a great resource which young people enjoy using, life online for a child with SEND may pose additional challenges that require careful management and support.

When should I talk about online safety to my child?

Whether your child is verbal or non-verbal, the moment your child expresses an interest in the internet, is the time to talk about and show ways in which they can stay safe online. Allow yourself enough time and choose a quiet space to avoid interruption. Everyone has the right to feel safe and enjoy their time online so it's important for children to understand boundaries and behaviour, both their own and that of other people. The earlier you start this communication, the easier it will be to talk about any online safety concerns in the future.

Learn how to use parental controls.

Setting up parental controls and filters on your home internet can help to avoid age-inappropriate images, videos and websites being seen by your child whilst they are using the Wi-Fi. Many devices like phones, tablets and consoles have parental controls settings to restrict this content, as well as restricting additional costs online, such as in-app purchasing and turning off location functions. Internet Matters provide some helpful information about these settings and how to use them. [Parental controls and privacy settings guides | Internet Matters](#)

Join in and find out what they enjoy online.

Show an interest and find out what your child enjoys doing online and ask to be shown the things they like to play, look at, or watch. If possible, ask to join in as this will show you exactly what your child sees when they are online. Whether it be YouTube, Mine craft, Roblox or social media, upskilling your own knowledge is key in being able to keep your child safe online. [Parenting, Media, and](#)

[Everything in Between | Common Sense Media](#)

What is 'Wake Up Wednesday'?

National Online Safety is an award-winning organization whose mission is to empower parents, teachers, and children with the knowledge to keep safe online. 'Wake up Wednesday' is just one of the initiatives led by National online safety and produces guides for schools and parents on the latest technology, APPS, gaming, social media platforms. For more information visit: [Online Safety Guides & Resources for Parents](#)

Barking and Dagenham's SEND Local Offer is for You

Children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) or disabilities and their families.

The site is being regularly updated, so keep going back to discover what's happening with Barking and Dagenham's SEND Local Offer.

[Barking and Dagenham SEND Local Offer](#)



Poetry Festival Performances

On the afternoons of Tuesday 17th, Wednesday 18th and Wednesday 25th March 2026, children from Reception through to Year 6 were delighted to share their Poetry Festival performances with parents and carers. Each year group had worked incredibly hard to learn and rehearse their poems, and they all did a fantastic job!

The children performed a wonderful range of poetry, using clear, confident voices and expressive actions to bring their words to life. It was lovely to see such creativity and enjoyment across the school, with every child playing a part in making the performances so

special. Everyone who attended was extremely impressed by the children's efforts and confidence on stage.

Well done to all of the children from Reception to Year 6 – we are so proud of you all!



In Key Stage 2, pupils were inspired by rich texts such as *The Wizard of Oz*, using their creativity to design 'wanted' posters and even linking their learning to science by creating cyclone experiments. Logan explained, "*The water was making a swirling shape and the glitter was moving very fast the quicker we spun them.*"

It was a fantastic day that celebrated not just books, but the power of reading to inspire, connect and spark imagination. We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm shown by all of our children.



World Book Day

On Thursday 5th March, James Cambell Primary School came alive with a shared love of reading as children across the school celebrated World Book Day 2026.

From the youngest pupils to the oldest, the day was filled with creativity, imagination and a real joy for books. In Reception, children brought stories to life through hands-on activities inspired by *Supertato*, developing their fine motor skills while creating characters, writing speech bubbles and even rescuing trapped vegetables.

Across the school, pupils explored a wide range of texts and creative responses to reading. In Key Stage 1, children took part in the BBC Live Lesson and used their imagination to reflect on how books make them feel, while also enjoying opportunities to read in different environments, including outdoors. As Aila (2A) shared, "*I loved the challenge in the BBC live lesson where we drew how we would want books to make us feel.*"

There were also lovely moments of shared reading, with older pupils reading stories in the sunshine to younger children, helping to build a strong sense of community and a love of storytelling.



Year 4 Brings the Joy of Eid to their Assembly

This week, year 4 performed their school assembly to parents remembering Eid ul-Fitr, the joyous festival that marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan.

Children shared how Muslims observe Ramadan through fasting from dawn to sunset, increased prayer, reading the Quran and practising patience and gratitude. This month of self-discipline helps build empathy for those who are less fortunate.

This assembly not only helped us understand and appreciate Muslim traditions but also reminded everyone of universal values:

gratitude, kindness, generosity and the importance of community. It was a wonderful example of how our school celebrates diversity and brings us all closer together.

This year is particularly special, because Ramadan (in preparation for Eid) and Lent (in preparation for Easter) started on the same day and happened side by side, through a parallel journey of prayer, fasting and charity.

Whether you just celebrated Eid or you are going to celebrate Easter, we hope the spirit of joy and sharing stay with you!



Key dates for next term

Monday 13 th April	First day of term
Thursday 23 rd April	St George's Day Assembly
Wednesday 29 th April	Reception trip to Hainault Forest
Thursday 30 th April	Parent Forum 9am - 10am
Monday 4 th May	Bank Holiday – school closed
Monday 11 th – Thursday 14 th May	Year 6 SATs
Tuesday 19 th May	Year 2 trip to Tower of London
Tuesday 19 th May	Year 6 transition day at Jo Richardson
Thursday 21 st May	Culture & Rights Day
Friday 22 nd May	Last day of term