



Contents

Message from the Headteacher	Page 1	School Council	Page 6
Supporting your child's learning	Page 2	Safeguarding	Page 6
Head Boy & Head Girl	Page 2	PE/Sports Competitions Update	Page 6
Year 6 visit London Buddhist Centre	Page 2	Year 5 Valence House Trip	Page 6
CPC Update	Page 3	Coffee Morning Calendar	Page 7
Mental Health	Page 3	Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	Page 7
Zones of Regulation	Page 3	Year 5 Social Enterprise Workshop	Page 7
Black History Month	Page 3	Rock Steady Launch	Page 8
Update on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)	Page 4	Nursery dates	Page 8
Attendance Update	Page 4	Key Dates for School Year	Page 8
Parent Partnership Award	Page 5		



Message from the Headteacher

Welcome to our first newsletter of the year. This term has got off to a great start with the children setting really well into their new classes and enjoying their learning.

This year we want to build on last year's achievements. That isn't going to be easy: last year was an extremely successful one for James Cambell Primary. The children from Early Years to Year 6 achieved results above national averages and Ofsted rated the school as 'good'.

We are committed to continuing to build on this success and to deliver our vision of providing all the children at James Cambell with the opportunities they deserve. Every year we have a small number of key school priorities to make the school even better.

Our priorities for 2024/25 are:

- strengthening the partnership with our parents/carers;
- a whole school development programme to further enhance our provision for children with special educational needs;
- continuing to advance our high-quality teaching; and
- promoting oracy to develop children's speaking skills, confidence and vocabulary.

I very strongly believe that children make the most progress when the school works closely with parents and carers. Parents often ask how they can best support children's learning at home and, in this edition of the newsletter, we have an article on five key things that research shows are vital to children's development and success

I wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable half-term week and look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 5th November.

With best wishes,

Mr Wilson

Headteacher

Supporting your child's learning

Children make most progress when the school and parents work together. Here are five key things that research shows can help your child succeed:

1. Get enough sleep
2. High Attendance
3. Read every day
4. Have breakfast before school
5. Complete homework, in particular times tables and spellings

We understand it can sometimes be difficult to persuade your child to do these five things. If so, there are various ways we can help, including:

- parenting programmes
- our breakfast clubs
- advice from your class teacher about reading books or homework
- signposting to external agencies, such as Talking Therapies
- referrals to Early Help if you need a bit of support at home

Please speak with your class teacher or our wonderful learning mentor, Lisa Marshall, if you would like to find out more.

Head Boy & Head Girl

We are delighted to announce the appointment of our new Head Boy, Head Girl, Deputy Head Boys and Girls, as well as our Year 6 Ambassadors for the 2024-25 academic year. After a rigorous selection process, which included written applications and interviews, these students have demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities, commitment to school values, and a passion for making a positive impact within our school community.

Congratulations to:

Head Boy: Artiom

Head Girl: Ivy

Deputy Head Boys: Billy and Barak

Deputy Head Girls: Gabriele and Renee

In addition, a group of highly motivated Year 6 students have been selected as School

Ambassadors. They will represent the school at events, help support younger students, and work closely with staff to promote a positive and inclusive environment.

Our school ambassadors are:

- Mollie
- Freya
- Gabi
- Bethany
- Aka
- Alex
- Ben
- Christopher
- Ewan
- Izan
- Braxton
- Saeed

We are incredibly proud of all of these students and look forward to seeing them take on their new responsibilities. We are confident they will be excellent role models and will contribute greatly to life at our school.

Well done to everyone involved!

Year 6 visit London Buddhist Centre

Over the last few weeks, our Year 6 students had the wonderful opportunity to visit the London Buddhist Centre as part of their learning about world religions and mindfulness. The trip provided an enriching experience, allowing the children to explore the principles of Buddhism in a calm and peaceful environment.

During the visit, students participated in a guided meditation session, learning techniques to focus and relax, which they found both calming and insightful. They were also introduced to key Buddhist teachings about compassion, mindfulness, and living in harmony with others.



The students asked thoughtful questions and were respectful throughout, gaining a deeper understanding of the practices and beliefs within Buddhism. The trip was not only educational but also offered a valuable chance for personal reflection and mindfulness, which the students can carry forward into their daily lives.

We are proud of how our Year 6 pupils engaged with this cultural experience, and we thank the London Buddhist Centre for their warm welcome!

CPC Update

This half term we have been learning about children around the World. We labelled maps, made puppets and cooked different food to get an idea of what life is like for children in other countries. We have also involved our parents in our learning through two coffee mornings and a parent and child gardening event.

Mental Health

What is mental health? Mental health is how we think, feel and behave.

Just like our physical health, we can do lots of things to keep our mental health good. If you are interested in finding out more, please ask to speak to a member of the school mental health and wellbeing team or keep an eye out for handy hints in future issues of this newsletter.

Zones of Regulation

From time to time, all of us (including adults) find it hard to manage strong feelings such as worry, anger, restlessness, fear and tiredness, and this stops us from getting on with our day effectively. Children who feel these emotions often find it hard to learn and concentrate in school.

At James Cambell, we have implemented the Zones of Regulation intervention to teach children strategies to help them to identify their emotions and cope with these feelings so they can get back to feeling calm and ready to learn. These coping strategies are called 'self-regulation.'

We believe this intervention can be used at home to help your child identify their emotions and self-regulate. In the meantime, please visit [The Zones of Regulation | A Curriculum For Emotional Regulation](#) if you would like to know more.

The ZONES of Regulation

THE ZONES OF REGULATION

Blue Zone Sad Bored Tired Sick	Green Zone Happy Focused Calm Proud	Yellow Zone Worried Frustrated Silly Excited	Red Zone overjoyed/Elated Panicked Angry Terrified

Black History Month

At James Cambell, we have been proudly celebrating Black History Month, with this year's theme being "Reclaiming Narratives." Each year group explored various aspects of Black history, learning about influential Black artists, historians, inventors, and scientists.

We were treated to a fantastic performance by Year 5, showcasing their understanding of the theme. We were joined in the audience by Councillor Elizabeth Kangethe, the Barking and Dagenham Cabinet Member for Educational Attainment and School Improvement.



On **Thursday 24th October** to conclude Black History Month, we enjoyed a powerful musical performance by "The Ganda Boys,"

adding a special touch to our Black History Month celebrations.

The Ganda Boys bring a fresh light to joyous African songs & chants, with sprinklings of English lyrics by band member/lyricist, Craig Pruess.

Originally from Uganda, London based lead singers Denis Mugagga and Daniel Sewagudde are internationally recognised, with 21 GRAMMY artists joining their song “The Forgotten People” in Studio City, Los Angeles.



Update on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

At James Cambell, we recognise that all children are unique and we aim to motivate, engage, inspire and celebrate our pupils’ journey, efforts and achievements. Where pupils have special educational needs or disabilities, we plan provision that encourages, support and challenges pupils to raise aspirations and to be an integral part of the life of the school. If you would like to know more about the SEND offer at James Cambell, visit the school website where you can read our SEND policy and SEND information report.

Pupil Passports are created for all pupils who are identified as having an additional need within school (SEND). The purpose of the Pupil Passport is to set specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timely (SMART) targets for the children over a termly period. These are completed by the class teacher and SENDCo, Miss Thompson. Alongside each target is the identified provision/intervention that will be put into place to support the child. This might be an intervention, strategy or resource. At James Cambell, we always share and discuss the Pupil Passports with parents and can recommend how to support at home.

Your class teachers will be in touch to review, celebrate and set new targets for the term.

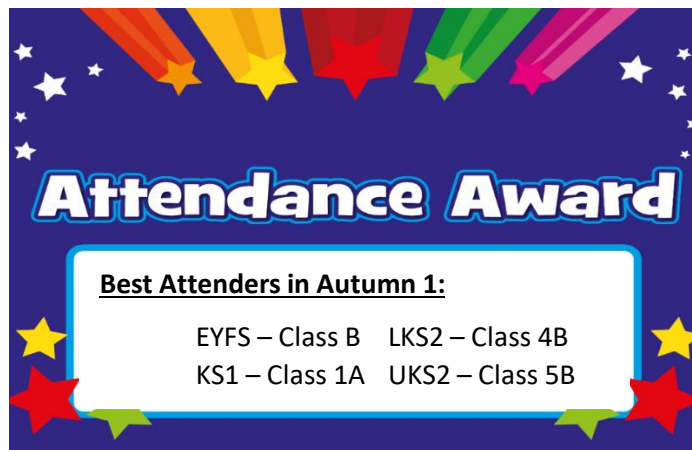
Please keep an eye on Class Dojo where the updated information from Barking and Dagenham Local offer is shared. Or you can go to the website [Home - Barking and Dagenham SEND Local Offer \(lbdd.gov.uk\)](https://www.lbdd.gov.uk). The next SEND drop-in is on 7th November at Dagenham Family Hub where you can receive in person support for families with children with special educational needs and disabilities.

If you need support or information please contact our SENDCo Hazel Thompson via telephone or email her on hthompson@jamescambellprimary.org.uk.

If you would like to give your views on SEND provision at the school, please complete the parent survey at <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=feVGC6HV1kK1ITMZ16L4zL2yakyMDbxCuFZsVQ5jpUpUM1ozR005VVRyMEILTVpWOURVQzIxQIJXVy4u>

Attendance Update

Our attendance at James Cambell has started well in the Autumn Term. We have achieved our target of 96% and hope that with your support this will continue.



Well done to the highest attendance classes and a big thank you to parents/carers for your support in making sure your child comes to school on time every day.

We wrote to you earlier in the term about some changes The Department for Education has made to the way in which schools and

Local Authorities monitor attendance. These changes are not just for James Cambell Primary but for all schools and Local Authorities across the country, with the aim of ensuring consistent approaches.

Fines will now be issued for irregular school attendance, not only term time leave.

For irregular attendance - where a child has unauthorised absences of 10 sessions or more in any 10-week period, the school must escalate to prosecution. 'Sessions' refer to each half of a school day, with most schools having two sessions each day, as is true of James Cambell.

Term Time Leave Attendance Penalty Notices (fines)

1. Each parent will be issued a separate penalty notice, for each child who is absent. For example, 2 parents and 3 children, each parent will receive 3x penalty notices for £160 each, with a family total of £960 in fines.
2. The fine amount will be £160 per parent, per child, paid within 28 days, reduced to £80 per parent, per child, if paid within 21 days. This will only be considered on your first offence.
3. The next time an offence occurs, within 3 years of the date the first penalty notice is issued, the fine amount will be £160 per parent, per child, paid within 28 days, with no reduction.
4. The third time an offence occurs this will be presented to Magistrate's court with no penalty notice issued. This will include Term Time Leave fines and Irregular Attendance.
5. **Term time leave does not just include holidays.** Where a child is absent and it is believed they are absent due to term time leave, schools will be expected to carry out a home visit and see the child on or before the 3rd school day of absence.

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.

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

Children who arrive after registers close will be marked as late as directed by the DfE compulsory attendance codes.

If your child has been late this half term you will note that they are now asked to sign in under our inventory system. This means that lateness can be tracked more accurately and information can be passed to The DfE more readily.

Lateness should not be a frequent occurrence. Please check the school website to refresh your memory of our start and finish times.

Parent Partnership Award

James Cambell are committed to improving our provision for parents and this year we are applying for the **Leading Parent Partnership Award**.

We would be really grateful if you would complete the survey which has been sent out to all parents via Parent Mail. You can find it at <https://forms.office.com/e/TZfdnYNLZu>

We will be working with the new members of our parent forum and we will be looking at ways to continue to improve our communication with parents.

If you are interested in taking part, please contact Mrs Macleod via the school office.

School Council

Our School Council met for the first time this year and discussed wet play. Thankfully due to our outdoor play and learning philosophy, wet breaks are very rare at James Cambell. We love to get out in the fresh air. However, on the rare occasions we have very poor weather, the children stay inside and play board games, draw or watch a movie.

The School Council want to make the wet play boxes more exciting, so please send in any card games such as Uno, Dominoes, puzzles, chess, draughts or Jenga to make out wet playtime even better.

We look forward to our next meeting.

Safeguarding

motivates our pupils and makes the event more special.

Also a special thanks to Mr Johnston for taking our Year 5 & 6 to Tag Rugby team to the quarter finals of the borough competition, finishing 3rd in their group. This is a fantastic improvement from last year when they finished 7th.



OpenView Education
TRAINING THROUGH THEATRE

KEEPING KIDS SAFE ONLINE RIGHT NOW

TOP TIPS

- 1. SET UP PARENTAL CONTROLS**
Check your settings are up to date and controls are applied on all devices and apps.
- 2. SUPERVISE ONLINE ACTIVITIES**
Ensure online activities are supervised by an adult and in a public space in the house. E.G - Living/Dining Room.
- 3. SET CLEAR EXPECTATIONS**
Talk about expectations for behaviour online, including how and when devices will be used.
- 4. TALK ABOUT IT**
With the schools closed, online activities will increase. Let your children and young people know they can talk to you about anything that happens online.
- 5. GO ONLINE TOGETHER**
See if you can share online experiences by joining in with their favourite app/game.

PE/Sports Competitions Update

Our school offers a wide range of sports in PE lessons and we provide the opportunity for the children to compete in a variety of competitions.

The Dagenham Cup football competition brought us together with local schools in a friendly yet competitive environment, giving our students the chance to showcase their football skills and teamwork.

We have also entered our children in the Primary Panathlon which featured nine sports geared for all pupils needs.

Well done to Christopher from Year 6 for being chosen for the boy's district trials. As always we appreciate parents' support that

Year 5 Valence House Trip

We had a fabulous time at Valence House. We learnt all about our school, the Ford Factory and the Becontree Estate.

We went into the museum to identify famous people that lived in Dagenham and we enjoyed looking at old documents in the archive room. We especially enjoyed role-playing figures from the past.



Coffee Morning Calendar

Coffee morning Calendar

23/10/24
E-safety with Alan Jacobs

What Parents and carers need to know about e-safety! You are invited to attend our E-safety coffee morning aimed at giving helpful Strategies to Keep your family safe online.

6/11/24 Meet our
Behaviour Lead Mrs Macleod

Mrs Macleod will be talking about a whole-school approach to promoting positive behaviour and full attendance. As well as, how to identify and plan to overcome the barriers, to help every child succeed.

20/11/24 Meet
Ken from Trinity School

Ken is the Autism and Structured Teaching consultant and Lead Trainer at Trinity School. He will be here to talk about Positive Behaviour support, Structured Play and how it can support any student with additional needs.

4/12/24 Meet
Ashley Morris Family Hub
Heathway Library

Family Navigators help families find and use the services they need:

- They can point you towards the support you are looking for.
- They can help with childcare, healthcare, housing and more.
- They can work with families and help them get what they need.

Parent and Carers Coffee Morning!
Free tea, coffee and biscuits provided.
Everyone is welcome!

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal - Available to purchase from office

This year we are again supporting the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. We will be selling poppy resources to raise the much-needed funds for this worthwhile cause.

Poppies can be purchased from the school office. We do have a number of other poppy themed resources that will be available to buy.

Here's what is available to buy:

Paper Poppies (Without pin) - £1.00

Zip Pulls - 2 for £1.00

Reflectors - £1.00

Silicon Bands - £1.00

Snap Bands - £1.00

We only have limited supplies, so once they're gone, they're gone!!

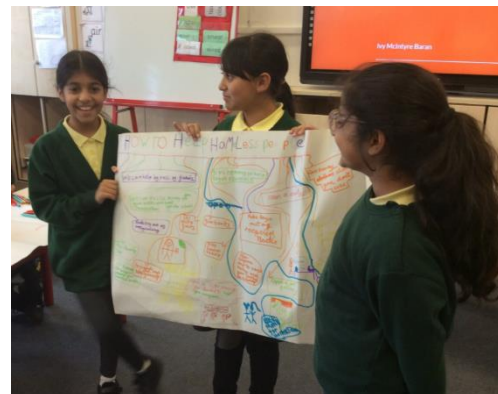
Thank you for your support.



Year 5 Social Enterprise Workshop

Social Enterprise Schools is a learning programme that enables young people to be change makers.

It is great to be able to give our children the opportunity to solve the issues that matter to them in their school, community and the world. Children have already produced some amazing ideas. The following children will be taking part in this amazing programme: Benedith, Reggie, Sawad, Abdullah, Jannah, Ishan, Inaaya, Zidane, Zayan, Sumayyah, Zakir and Niyah.



Rock Steady Launch

After half-term your child will have the opportunity to learn the drums, keyboard, and guitar, bass or singing in 30 minute lessons every week by a professional musician. Your child will have an online learning account for the lessons.

We will be launching this in assemblies on 6th November.

Limited lessons will be available from Monday 11th November.

It is a monthly cost of £42.79 and no cost in August.

There will be 3 live performances a year.

More information to follow after half-term!



Nursery dates

Thursday 19 December 2024	Nursery's last day of Autumn Term
Friday 20 December 2024	Nursery closed
Thursday 3 April 2025	Nursery's last day of spring Term
Friday 4 April 2025	Nursery closed
Thursday 17 July 2025	Nursery's last day of Summer Term
Friday 18 July 2025	Nursery closed

Key Dates for School Year

Monday 28 October – Monday 4 November 2024	Half Term
Monday 4 November 2024	Staff Inset Day (non-pupil day)
Tuesday 5 November 2024	First day back for pupils
Friday 15 November 2024	Children in Need day
Wednesday 20 & Thursday 21 November 2024	Parent's Evenings
Tuesday 17 December 2024	Christmas Fair
Thursday 19 December 2024	Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch
Friday 20 December 2024	Last Day of Autumn Term (<i>half day for pupils – collection after lunch time</i>)
Tuesday 7 January 2025	First Day of Spring Term
Monday 17 February - Friday 21 February 2025	Half Term
Friday 4 April 2025	Last Day of Spring Term
Monday 7 April to Good Friday 18 April 2025	Easter Break
Easter Monday 21 April 2025	Easter Monday
Tuesday 22 April 2025	First Day of Summer Term
Monday 5 May 2025	May Day Holiday
Monday 26 May – Friday 30 May 2025	Half Term
Friday 18 July 2025	Last day of the school year