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### Message from the Headteacher

I very much hope you have enjoyed the build-up to Christmas and had an opportunity to celebrate with the school, whether at the Christmas Fair or at the nativities and Carol Concerts at St Alban's Church. These popular events have hopefully lifted everyone's spirits and I would particularly like to thank the amazing Friends of James Cambell for all their hard work and dedication in organising the Fair earlier this week.

The Christmas events have been just one part of another exciting and eventful term at James Cambell. The 'Nite Owls' visited, year 5

gazed at the stars in the Wonderdome and we participated in the inaugural Powerhouse Games - to name just a few. The children have also been learning about how to keep themselves and others safe and happy through Anti-Bullying Week, talks from the police and Road Safety Week.

Reading is one of the most important factors in a child's future success. It was great to see so many children at the bedtime story reading sessions last week. We are giving all the children in the school a book as a Christmas present - please keep encouraging your child to read and enjoy some good books over the holidays.

On behalf of everyone at James Cambell, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you all back at school on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

With best wishes,

Mr Wilson

Headteacher

## Year 4 visit to St Alban's

In R.E lessons, year 4 have been learning about Christianity and why the Bible is an important book. We visited the church and found out about how the Bible has changed over time. We had the opportunity to ask Reverent Faye questions about the Bible. We found out that the Bible has headings, verses and chapters in them to find the section we wanted easier.



## Year 1 visit to St Alban's

In this R.E unit the children's learning focused on what Christians do to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

The children considered why people give gifts at Christmas and explored the Christian belief that Jesus is God's gift to the world. To enrich and support the children's learning we visited the local church to discover more about the Christmas story.



## Nite Owls

We were very lucky to receive a visit from Nite Owls on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November. Children in Nursery, Reception, CPC, Rainbow Room, Year 4 and Year 5 were treated to a flying demonstration with several different owls and an informative talk about owl habitats and their diets.

After that, children were given the opportunity to have their photo taken with Dotty the owl perched on their shoulder! This

was a fantastic chance to see beautiful birds up close and learn about how to look after the environment to protect them.



## Newly Open Music HAF for Year 5 & Year 6

Barking & Dagenham are offering a range of fun, enriching, and healthy activities for all school-age children (5-16 years old). Free for those eligible for benefit-related free school meals, with paid places available for everyone else. Each activity includes a healthy hot meal, and booking is essential to secure your spot. Don't miss out – make this winter unforgettable!

**FOOD FOR THE SOUL**

WINTER MUSIC EDITION  
DATES- 30TH- 31ST DEC, 2ND- 3RD JAN  
LOCATION- MAKE IT BARKING 12-4

LET'S SET OUR PATH FOR THE NEW YEAR WITH MUSIC AND LYRICS

4 DAY WORKSHOP OF MUSIC TECH, BEAT POETRY, PERFORMANCE AND MUSICAL THEATRE COMBINED WITH PLANT BASED FOOD

THE PROGRAM IS OPEN TO LBBD YEAR 5 AND 6 STUDENTS  
IT IS FREE TO ALL ON BENEFITS RELATED FREE SCHOOL MEALS  
AND £5 PER DAY ANY OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE WHO WISH TO ATTEND

ALL FOOD SERVED IS VEGAN, HALAL AND ALLERGY AWARE.  
FOR MORE INFO OR TO SIGN UP EMAIL:

ELIZABETH.KITTO@LBBD.GOV.UK

BARKING & DAGENHAM  
community  
music  
service

Barking & Dagenham  
Department  
for Education

<https://www.lbdd.gov.uk/children-young-people-and-families/events-and-activities-children/free-holiday-activities>

For queries, contact:  
hafprogramme@lbdd.gov.uk

## Speech & Language Strategy of the Month

### SPEECH AND LANGUAGE STRATEGY OF THE MONTH: DECEMBER

#### FOLLOW THE CHILD'S LEAD

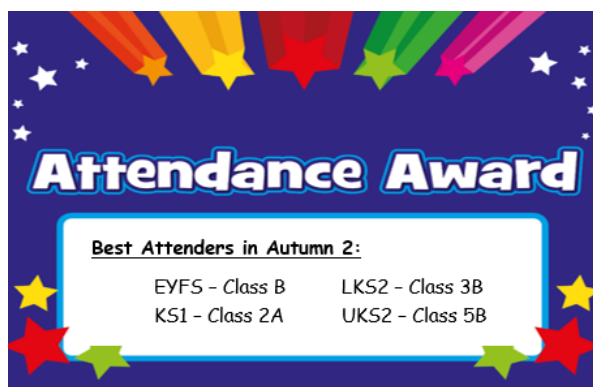
**Why?** This lets the child to learn at their own pace, strengthens their attention and turn-taking skills, and builds connection.

**How?** Watch what the child is focused on and join in without taking control of their play. If they're stacking blocks, start stacking blocks with them. If they knock the blocks over, join in and talk about what's happening. Following their lead shows that you're interested in what they're doing and keeps them engaged.

**When?** Whenever you are playing with or engaging with the child.



#### Attendance Update



Thank you for your support in sending your child(ren) to school as much as possible: we know that in primary school it is our parents who drive attendance and punctuality for their children.

By encouraging good habits it sets our children up with a positive work ethic for the future.

This term we have been focusing on punctuality. As you will be aware, punctuality is an essential part of any school or workplace and therefore it is imperative that our children arrive on time to start their day.

Please be advised that as part of their new guidance, the Local Authority have asked us to look for patterns in children's absences so we will be looking out for trends (for example, if your child frequently misses the first or last

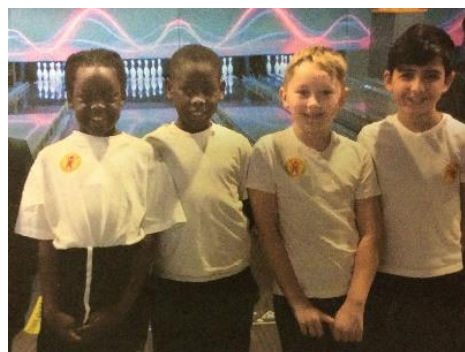
day of term or perhaps is always absent on the same day as their sibling).

Our attendance had improved so far this year and is above the national average, which we are really happy about. We look forward to seeing this improvement continue in the Spring Term.

#### PE Competitions

This term has been a successful one for PE, filled with exciting competitions and interclass events, offering pupils a fantastic opportunity to compete in a healthy, supportive environment.

We are also proud to have partnered with Power2Inspire for the first-ever Powerhouse Games, bringing inclusive sports to London. Held on the December 6th 2024, this inspiring event united participants of all abilities for a day of fun, adaptability and community building through sports.



#### Year 6 Imperial War Museum

This term, Year 6 students embarked on an unforgettable educational trip to the Imperial War Museum, where they had the opportunity to explore the First World War exhibit. The visit brought their classroom learning to life, providing a deeper understanding of the events, people and experiences of this pivotal moment in history.

The exhibit showcased a range of artefacts, from soldiers' uniforms and personal letters to larger displays like tanks and weapons used on the front lines. Students were particularly captivated by the interactive sections which allowed them to engage with history in a hands-on way, sparking thoughtful discussions

about the impact of war and the sacrifices made by so many.

Teachers were thrilled to see students demonstrating curiosity, asking insightful questions, and connecting what they've learned in class to the real-world exhibits. Many remarked on how the trip not only enhanced their historical knowledge but also encouraged empathy and critical thinking.

A big thank you to the staff and parent volunteers who made this trip possible! It was a day that truly enriched our Year 6 students' understanding of history and left them with memories to treasure.



### Year 5 Wonderdome

Year 5 had an amazing time inside the Wonderdome-a mobile planetarium- where we learnt fascinating facts about the planets in our Solar System.

It transported us on a cosmic journey, a thrilling adventure exploring the wonders of the Universe.



### Year 3 Synagogue trip

This half term, Year 3 visited Oaks Lane Reform Synagogue to explore Judaism and learn about its beliefs and traditions. The children had the opportunity to see inside the

synagogue and take part in an engaging arts and craft workshop, where they created their own pieces inspired by what they had learned. It was a fantastic hands-on experience!



### Stone Age Workshop

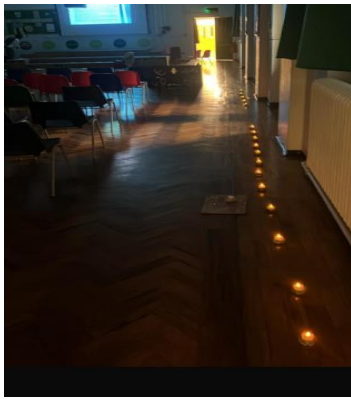
Year 3 had a fantastic time during their Stone Age workshop visit to the school. The children learned about life in the Stone Age, explored a variety of fascinating artefacts from the period, and even had the chance to play some traditional games. They saw different materials used by people at the time, including jewellery, and discovered how life in the Stone Age was so different from their own. It was an exciting experience for our children.



### Diwali Assembly

Year 3 had a wonderful Diwali assembly at the end of last half term to celebrate the festival of lights. As part of their RE learning, the children acted out the story of Diwali, made and displayed beautiful Diya lamps and sang a

variety of songs for the audience. Each song helped explain the significance of light during the festival, making it a meaningful and vibrant celebration for all!



### **Bedtime stories**

On Wednesday 11th December, children across the school put on their pyjamas, drank hot chocolate and enjoyed some wonderful bedtime stories!

It was lovely to welcome so many pupils and parents to this annual tradition at James Cambell Primary School. We run bedtime stories to give our children a really exciting reading event.

Encouraging your child to read every day is one of the best things you can do for them. When children read for pleasure, it is proven to boost their academic attainment more than anything else!



### **SEND Update**

At James Cambell, we are committed in recognising that all children are unique and as a community we aim to motivate, engage, inspire and celebrate our pupils' journey, efforts and achievements. Where pupils have

special educational needs or disabilities, as a school, we plan provision that encourages, support and challenges pupils to raise aspirations and to play an integral part of life across 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.

This term we have had three special events. A team went to the PowerHouse Games which was held in celebration of International Day of Disabilities. The PowerHouse Games is a 2-3 hour multi-team sports event, featuring accessible and adapted activities like boccia, new-age kurling, and touch rugby. We also took a team to a ten pin bowling competition, as well as entering the Primary Panathlon which provides an introduction to Panathlon and builds foundation skills in a range of Panathlon sports. These are Boccia Blast, Flight Path, Parachute popcorn, table cricket, skittles, volleybat, new age kurling, messi football, slam dunk and precision bean bag. As a school we were very proud of our teams and their achievements at these events.



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 \(lbld.gov.uk\)](https://www.lbld.gov.uk).

### **Friends of James Cambell Christmas Fair**

Thank you so much for attending our Christmas fair. We hope you enjoyed all the different stalls and enjoyed playing the games. As ever we would like to improve every year and are hoping you can give us your opinion. Please can you complete the following form:

<https://forms.office.com/e/jm1MgzH0Mz>

We will be in touch in the New Year informing you on how much we raised and our plans on how we are going to use the money to enhance the provision for the children at the school.

### Anti-Bullying Week

All Different

All Equal

#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK

Anti-bullying week was Monday 11th to Friday 15th November and the theme was 'Choose Respect.'

The aim was for children to have discussions about what it means to disagree respectfully, how to avoid resorting to bullying, and how we can all choose to lead by example.

This links with Rights Respecting Schools Article 29 of the UNCRC: 'A child or young person's education should help their mind, body and talents be the best they can. It should also build their respect for other people and the world around them. In particular, they should learn to respect their rights and the rights of others, their freedoms and the freedoms of others.'

All KS2 have children have a Tootoot account now. Tootoot makes it simple for your children to report anything from bullying to a mental health concern. The simple-to-use app makes it easier for children to speak-up and gives them confidence that their concerns are being taken seriously. A member of the safe guarding team will respond to their concerns.

We also invited parents to join in by knowing the definition of bullying- <https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week-2024-choose-respect/parents-and-carers>

### Police Talks

Once again we invited the Metropolitan Police into our school to help educate our children. Year 4 looked at Crime and Consequences and the significance of being 10 years old. Year 5 looked at how other people can pressure us to join an inappropriate group. Year 6 looked at the dangers of knife crime and how to make positive choices to stay safe.

### 5 Ways to Wellbeing Workshops

We have had an amazing six weeks delivering brain buddies workshops with the children in years 5 and 6. It has been such a pleasure to learn together about how to identify and understand our emotions and how our brains functions, how to spot what we are feeling in different parts of our bodies and explore different helpful ways that we can cope with our different feelings.

Some of the favourite brain buddies' skills across the year group were breathing exercises, body scans, surfing the wave, chair push ups and designing our calm place. The children and their teachers hope to continue practising the skills we have learned during the workshop at home and in the classroom. Well done year 5 and 6.



### CPC Update

We recently visited St Albans church with the CPC children who had baked and decorated shortbread biscuits to hand out to the local community church. Rev Faye Bailey was grateful and appreciative of all the effort the children had put into this gift. The baked goods enjoyed pride of place at the altar.



## Thank You

We would like to thank Natalie Abbott, a parent, for donating Christmas gifts to spread Christmas joy.

Your generosity is much appreciated.



## Parent Partnership Award update

As part of our commitment to continuing to improve working with parents, we have surveyed parents about the way the school communicates with parents. Over 90% parents found our school to be warm and welcoming. Parents also told us they appreciated being able to communicate with the school easily via Class Dojo.

The Parent Forum had a tour of the school. They were very positive about our school reception area and we have made some improvements to the seating and having clearer signage as a result. Our office is also now posting the daily school menu on Class Dojo, in response to a parent suggestion.

Our next step is to look at induction into the school and our school brochures. If you are interested in becoming part of the parent forum, please contact Mrs. Macleod via the office.

## Nativities & Carol Concerts

We started off our Christmas celebrations in the first week of December with our Nativities and Carol Concerts. Staff and children work incredibly hard to teach and learn all the songs.

We had five performances and St Albans Church was absolutely packed. Reverend Faye wrote to Mr. Wilson to praise the children for their excellent performances and their high-

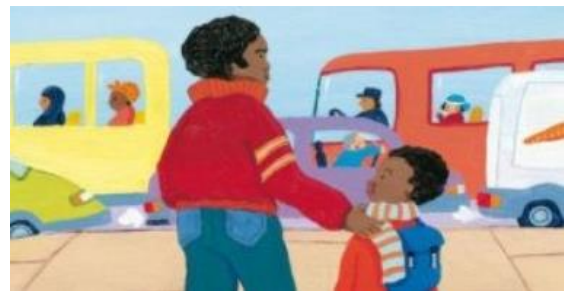
quality performances. A special thank you to Mrs. Redmond, our music coordinator, who organised the Carol Concert.



## Road Safety Week

The school took part in Road Safety Week in November.

We looked at how to stay safe when we are near a road. This could mean if we are walking, on our bikes or scooters, or even on the bus or in a car. It's really important that we are safe when we are near roads and then we encourage others to be too.



Here are some top tips on how to stay safe when you're near a road:

- If you're in a car, always wear your seat belt
- Look both ways before crossing the road
- If you wear headphones, take them out so you can hear if there are any cars or bikes
- Cross at a safe spot – a zebra crossing, a pedestrian crossing or where there is a lollipop person
- Hold an adult's hand when crossing the road

- Never cross the road in front of or behind a large vehicle like a lorry, bus or truck – this is because you can't see the other cars
- If you're wearing a hood, take it down to cross the road – you can't always see with a hood on!
- If you cycle or scoot when it's dark, where something that is hi vis – these are bright and reflective so that cars and people can see you
- Avoid looking at your phone
- Don't ever play near a road

Parents can really help by driving carefully and slowly before and after school, and not parking on the zig-zag lines.

### **Christmas book from James Cambell Primary School**

We have a special annual tradition of gifting a book to every pupil at James Cambell as a Christmas present. We hope your children enjoy their book, picked out for them by their class teacher. Our wonderful admin and support staff team helped to wrap every single book!



### **Key dates for next term**

Monday 6 January 2025	Staff Inset Day – non-pupil day
Tuesday 7 January 2025	First Day of Spring Term
Tuesday 21 January 2025	Year 6 Poetry Workshop
Tuesday 11 February 2025	4A & 4C trip to Natural History Museum
Wednesday 12 February 2025	4B trip to Natural History Museum
Monday 17 February - Friday 21 February 2025	Half Term
Wednesday 26 February 2025	6A Ben Kinsella Workshop trip
Thursday 27 February 2025	6B Ben Kinsella Workshop trip
Friday 28 February 2025	6C Ben Kinsella Workshop trip
Monday 10 March – Friday 14 March 2025	Year 5 at Trewern Residential trip
Thursday 13 March 2025	Class Photographs
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