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Message from the Headteacher

It has been another exciting term at James Cambell and you can read all about what's been going on in this newsletter. Highlights include the Year 5 children's residential trip to Trewern, the school choir's performance at the Barking and Dagenham music festival and the Year 4 Eid Assembly.

It was also great to see so many parents and families attending the Poetry Festival a couple of weeks ago. The children gave a brilliant performance, learning their poems off by heart and delivering them so fluently. As well as an opportunity to enjoy poetry, this festival is about building children's confidence in speaking publicly, which is really important for their future success.

The school had an extremely positive external review from Challenge Partners in February

and you can read the report on our website at https://www.jamescambell.com/?page_id=4434. The report demonstrates how the school has continued to build on the success of last year's Ofsted inspection and provide an excellent educational experience for our children.

The Year 6 children will be taking their SATs tests next term and we wish them all the best. They have worked incredibly hard and deserve to do well!

Whatever your plans, we wish you all the best for the next two weeks and look forward to seeing you back at school on Tuesday 22nd April 2025.

With best wishes,

Mr Wilson



Spring daffodils and the new swing in the Year 5 and 6 courtyard

Year 6 Ben Kinsella

Our Year 6 pupils recently took part in an eye-opening and impactful visit to the Ben Kinsella Trust, where they learned about the dangers of knife-crime and the importance of making positive choices. Through interactive exhibits and real-life stories, the children gained a deeper understanding of how to stay safe and help create a community free from violence.

This was a valuable experience that encouraged important discussions, and we understand that some pupils may have found certain topics emotional or thought-provoking. We encourage parents to check in with their child and continue the conversation at home.

choir tops. We are all very proud of the shining stars you are!



Click the link below to watch their performance:

<https://youtu.be/3LOU-JDfGwA>

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 sharing the road with other vehicles.

Congratulations to all the pupils who participated in the Bikeability courses.



Rocksteady

On Monday 24th March, James Cambell hosted their first ever ROCK CONCERT! The five bands have been learning different instruments and how to play together to perform a song.

They all performed incredibly well to the audience of parents/carers and children. We cannot wait to see the progress they have made in the next concert.

James Cambell Choir

On Wednesday 19th March, the James Cambell Choir participated in the Barking and Dagenham Music Festival.

They learnt four songs; two songs all schools learnt and two of their own. The James Cambell Choir performed Matilda Medley and You Raise Me Up.

They even learnt sign language for You Raise Me Up.

It was also their first out of school performance where they showcased their

There are a couple of spaces available should your child be interested in signing up. Please speak to a member of the office team for further information.

Click the links below to watch each bands performance:

[The KitKats](#)

[The Evil Devastating Unicorns](#)

[Fireball](#)

[Dancers](#)

[The Swiftest](#)

Parents and Carers Feedback: A positive outlook for our school community

We are thrilled to share the results of our recent survey conducted during our Parents' Evening meetings. An overwhelming 94% of parents expressed being 'very satisfied' and the remaining 6% were 'satisfied' with the Parents' Evenings at our school.

This positive feedback is testament to the hard work and dedication of our staff, as well as the strong partnership between home and school.

Parents and Carers commented:

- *A wonderful school with great teachers! I like that they are always ready to help for the well-being and education of the children.*
- *My favourite thing about James Cambell primary is the knowledge and information I get about my child's various subjects and how they are doing in their class. Also, during parent evening, I get to go through their books with their teachers and see how well they are doing.*
- *Great communication, the school always notify me of any issues, changes or events. Good teachers and friendly staff.*
- *The overall positive atmosphere, with seasoned, caring and considerate staff who consistently consult both parents*

and pupils on learning and support plans.

Parents' suggestions:

Q. I'd like some help with supporting my child's learning.

A. Watch this space! James Cambell have partnered with the National Numeracy Schools & Families Programme. We will be running workshops to enhance the maths confidence of parents and carers. We also run workshops for phonics and information sessions for Y6 SATS.

All our maths lessons are available on White Rose home learning and please look at our website for details about this half term's learning.

Make sure you have signed up to Class Dojo for regular updates from your child's class teacher or have a look at our website.

Q. I would like longer time at parents' evenings.

A. Please feel free to book an appointment with your class teacher and they will be happy to accommodate you.

We truly appreciate the support and trust our parents show. We will continue to work together to ensure our school remains a nurturing and dynamic environment for all our students. Thank you for being an integral part of our school community.

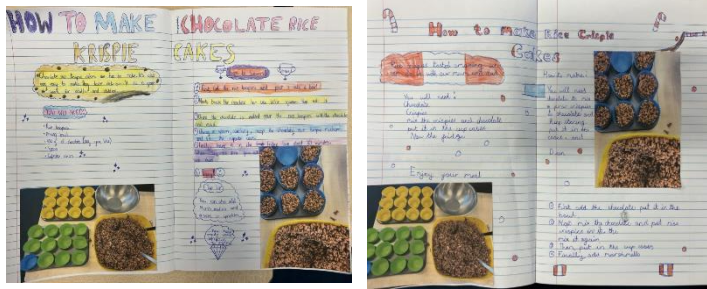
If you would like to become part of the Parent Forum, please contact me via the office.

Mrs Macleod, Assistant Head for Parental Partnership



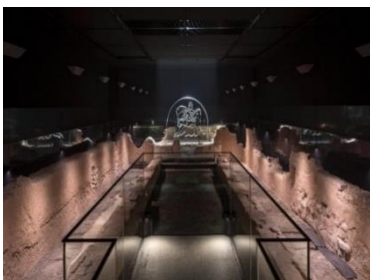
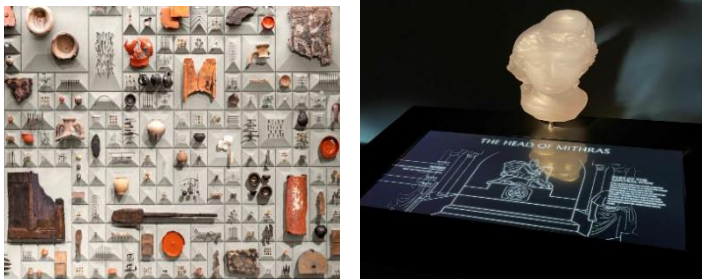
Year 3 English

Year 3 wrote a set of instructions on “How to make chocolate Rice Crispy Cakes”. The children really enjoyed writing up the instructions and also following the instructions to make the cakes together!



Year 3 Trip to the London Mithraeum Museum

Year 3 have also been learning about the Romans in history, so they took a trip to the London Mithraeum (Bloomberg Space). The children had the exciting opportunity to explore the ancient ruins of the Roman temple and immerse themselves in a fascinating exhibition, bringing their studies to life.



Junior RE Conference

Year 5 representatives of James Cambell joined the Junior RE Conference Day 2025

Noor, Naysha, Zakir, Dolly and Lottie proudly represented our school at the Junior RE Conference on this year’s official first day of spring. They met up with other children from our Barking and Dagenham borough to share and discuss key messages from a variety of religious stories from different faiths.

At the start of the day, the children enjoyed playing games to get-to-know each other and they worked together to solve challenges, like building bridges out of paper that could support the weight of a tea light candle. They ended the day by creating colourful bookmarks, which revealed what they learnt.

One of the most valuable benefits of the day was the way children expressed their views, listened to each other’s opinion and reflected on the value of compassion to build strong, respectful communities. Their dialogue and cooperation throughout the day show us the path for a better future.



Year 2 visit to Mosque

Year 2 had a great visit to UKIM Masjid Ibrahim Mosque at the end of February. We learnt lots about Islam and Ramadan. They showed us around the Mosque and told us about what happens in their community. They even let us taste dates and olives.



Digital Resilience Toolkit

Parenting Guide

See how your parenting can help build your child's digital resilience

internet matters.org

What type of parent am I?

There are four types of parenting style: **Authoritarian**, **Permissive**, **Neglectful** and **Authoritative**

1. Authoritative

This is the ideal parenting style – It's the perfect balance between setting boundaries for your child and giving them space to grow



How is this beneficial in building my child's digital resilience?

- You act as a guide and support by telling them you've been on this earth a little longer, and have the experience to help them tackle their online issues
- You are willing to listen to your child's views and validate their feelings
- You give your child a sense of containment and ensure your child feels a sense of security to allow them to take risks
- You are giving them the control to navigate their own online world but ensuring they are also safe by having the right safeguards in place
- A child of an authoritative parent feels as though they have the respect of their parents but also respects their parents

2. Authoritarian

This is a 'my way or the highway' style of parenting

Why this may be problematic?

It can be damaging as you are minimising a child's opportunity to deal with life and crucially minimising feelings about their resilience and their grit

What could I do differently?

- Spend more time listening to your child
- Validate them for what they're doing
- Allow them to have more say in the way their lives are run



3. Permissive

This is when you want to be your child's best friend

Why this may be problematic?

A child's self-esteem is dependant on boundaries and expectations. If they don't have any boundaries or consistency, this can be problematic as they won't feel a sense of containment and they don't have the ability to self-parent

What could I do differently?

- Practice setting boundaries and implementing rules
- Openly talk to your child about your expectations of online behaviour, what they're getting up to online, who they're talking to and explain why you're establishing rules
- Don't be afraid of not being liked by your child, you need to be a parent and keep them safe online



4. Neglectful

You completely leave your child to their own devices

Why this may be problematic?

Without parent oversight, it can encourage a child to solely depend on themselves and be more vulnerable to experience online risks.

What could I do differently?

- Make time for your child and their online world
- Get involved and find out what they're up to online
- Have regular conversations
- If you are struggling to parent your child, you may need to seek help such as talking to your GP or a social worker



We were delighted to welcome parents and carers to our annual Poetry Festival in March. Children from Reception to Year 6 performed a variety of poems, from Rudyard Kipling to Shakespeare! All the children learnt these poems by heart and performed them with great confidence and enthusiasm.

At James Cambell we have been working hard over the last couple of years to develop our pupils' oracy. We aim for all our pupils to be confident to participate in lessons, perform in front of an audience and also listen attentively to others.

We hope that you enjoyed seeing your children perform and we look forward to welcoming you back next year!



Year 4 Eid Assembly

Last Friday, Year 4 performed their assembly for Eid. All the children spoke clearly and enthusiastically sang. We are very proud of you.



World Book Day

Children celebrated World Book Day to promote the joy of reading and storytelling. Children dressed up as their favourite book character bringing stories to life in a fun and engaging way. We took part in various events and activities such as paired reading between the Key Stages, author events as well as reading challenges.



Year 5 Social Enterprise Group

Year 5 children joined the International Classroom where they networked with other schools from Spain and the UK. We were one of eight schools. The children enjoyed listening to other children's ideas. We discussed and identified a problem of homelessness in our community. We have now come up with a business plan and a fundraising project to help homeless people.



SEND



What is Autism?

Autism is a lifelong condition that affects how people see the world and interact with others. It's called a "spectrum" because everyone experiences it differently. Some common traits include:

- **Social communication differences** – Some autistic people may struggle with eye contact or small talk, while others love deep conversations about their favourite topics.
- **Love of routines** – Many autistic people like to stick to the same schedule or have special interests they're really passionate about.
- **Sensitivity to sounds, lights, or textures** – Some may find bright lights or loud noises overwhelming, while others might not notice them at all.

Autism isn't something that needs to be "fixed." It's just a different way of thinking and experiencing the world. It's great to know about autism, but what really makes a difference is **acceptance**—making sure autistic people feel comfortable, valued, and included.

Sycamore Trust U.K. offers a range of services specifically designed to support autistic individuals and their families, and we aim to educate the community and empower individuals of all ages to flourish and be valued members of society. This is the charity we are raising money for.

Local Offer

We would like to remind parents that The Local Offer is an information resource for children and young people with SEND living in the Barking and Dagenham and can be accessed via the following link:

[Home - Barking and Dagenham SEND Local Offer](#)

Trewern

The Year 5 children had an excellent time away on Wales. They showed resilience and bravery, trying new things they were unsure of, as well as superb team work skills helping each other through different activities. They

completed caving, gorge walking, lambing, bush craft skills and climbing as well as getting used to the dark in the evening activities.



CPC Update

CPC have been learning about mysterious worlds: Oceans this half term. They researched different ocean animals and habitats and visited the London Aquarium to see ocean creatures in real life. They have also used different media to demonstrate their learning.



Whizz Flash Dash

The Reception classes this half term have been thinking about how everyone is different and special, through the topic of superheroes. From Batman to policeman, from Superman to super me, from the incredible Hulk to incredible mums, we delved into everything super! They have explored a range of different people with all different superpowers.

To celebrate the topic, the children and staff, all dressed up as different superheroes and explored all the different powers we can have.

Here are a few things the children had to say:

“I am super kind to my friends and always share toys” - Belle

“I am super strong and can help move things” - Bobby

“My mum is super. She makes yummy food and gives good hugs” - Elliot



Sports/PE Competitions

What a fantastic term we have had in PE. It has been filled with lots of exciting competitions and activities, and the children have truly shown their enthusiasm sporting spirits. This term, we kicked off with some great tournament for Year 4 and 5. The teams displayed incredible teamwork and skill throughout the matches. The interclass competition between Year 3 and 4 was another highlight, where friendly yet competitive games created a great atmosphere for all involved.

A special mention to our Year 6 pupils who travelled to Beam Primary School for the Barking Dagenham Cup quarter finals. They put on an amazing display of skills. We are proud of their efforts.

Looking ahead, we have even more exciting events planned for next term. Stay tuned for more updates there is plenty to look forward to!



Thank You

We would like to express our gratitude to Tony Medcraft, a Freemason based at Old Libian Lodge No 6096, for his generous donation of school uniform, shoes and PE Kits for the children and families of James Cambell Primary.



Your support and contribution mean a lot to us and the community we serve.

From everyone at JCPS, thank you!

Key dates for next term

Tuesday 22 April	First Day of Term
Tuesday 29 April	Reception trip to Hainault Forest
Thursday 1 May	Greek Day in Year 4
Friday 2 May	Year 1 St George's Day Assembly
Monday 5 May	May Day Holiday
Monday 12 – Thursday 15 May	KS2 SATs
Thursday 15 May	Reception welcome meeting for new intake parents 9:15am
Friday 16 May	Year 6 trip to Go Ape
Tuesday 20 May	Year 6 transition visit from Jo Richardson
Tuesday 20 May	Reception stay & play session (group 1) 2-3pm
Wednesday 21 May	Reception stay & play session (group 2) 2-3pm
Thursday 22 May	Reception stay & play session (group 3) 2-3pm
Friday 23 May	Nursery closed for current pupils
Monday 26 – Friday 30 May	Half Term