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Message from the Headteacher

Dear all,

As we approach the end of another exciting and successful year at James Cambell Primary, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on everything we've achieved together.

Our children have worked incredibly hard, and their efforts have truly paid off. From Early Years through to Year 6, our results this year have been very strong. In all year groups with statutory assessments—Reception, Year 1, Year 4, and Year 6—children have achieved consistently above national averages. These achievements give our pupils an excellent foundation for future learning and success.

Of course, academic progress is only one part of what makes our school so special. This year, we were proud to receive the Rights Respecting School Silver Award, recognising our commitment to children's rights and wellbeing. We've also continued to offer a rich variety of experiences—from exciting educational trips and vibrant Culture Day celebrations to memorable assemblies and performances. You'll find highlights of these events throughout this newsletter.

None of this would have been possible without the incredible support of parents and carers, and the skill and commitment of the staff at the school. The summer fair, organised by the amazing hardworking Friends of James Cambell, was a real highlight and showed James Cambell at its absolute best. I would like to thank the whole school community for making this such a great year for our children.

As many of you know, I will be leaving James Cambell at the end of this term. It has been an absolute privilege to be part of such a warm, caring, and supportive school community. Thank you to everyone who has wished me well over the last few weeks. James Cambell will always hold a special place in my heart,

and I look forward to returning to visit in the years ahead.

We are also saying farewell to Ms Canary, Mr Rahman and Ms Morgan, who have all made significant contributions to the life of our school. We thank them for everything they have done and wish them all the very best in the future.

Finally, we bid goodbye and good luck to our wonderful Year 6 pupils as they move on to secondary school. We're proud of all you've achieved and know you'll continue to thrive in the next chapter of your journey. Please don't forget to come back and visit!

I wish all our families a safe, happy, and restful summer break. You'll find some ideas for summer activities in this newsletter, and we encourage all children to take some time to enjoy a good book or two over the holidays.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school, refreshed and ready for the new year, on Tuesday 2nd September 2025.

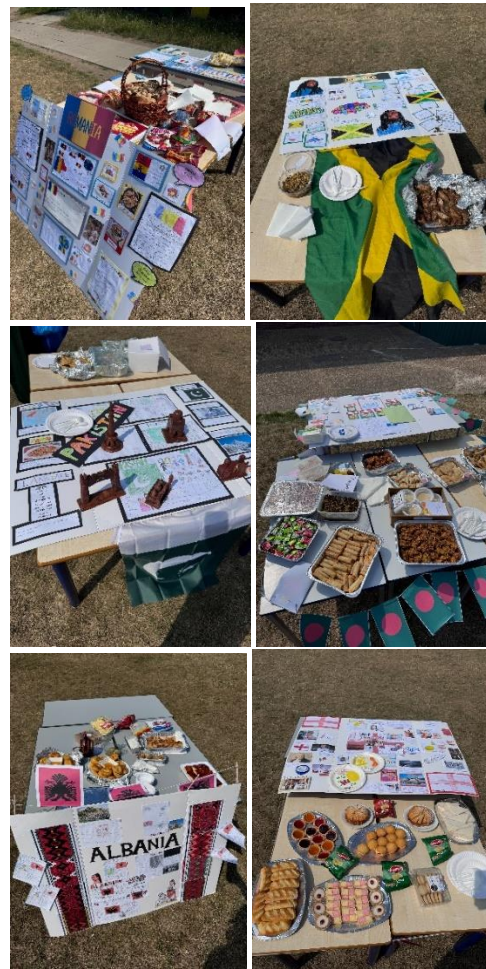
With very best wishes,

Mr Wilson

Culture Day

Culture Day was a fantastic celebration of the many cultures that make up our school community. Students, families, and staff came together to share traditions, showcase cultural displays, and enjoy a wide variety of traditional foods.

It was a wonderful opportunity for everyone to learn about different countries and customs, and to appreciate the rich diversity we're lucky to have at our school. The event was full of energy, connection, and pride, a true highlight of the year!



CPC Update

CPC have had a very busy term. As part of our 'Transport' topic, we went on an Uber boats trip, made bus garages, compared modes of transport and completed a traffic survey.

The children have also continued their high level of expertise in looking after plants and animals. They won a gold in our school science fair with their presentation on sustainability in the CPC garden.

More recently, we have hatched chicks for Wellgate Farm, which has really built on the previous half term's 'New Life' topic. In addition, we represented the school by using our art skills to make a piece contributing to the display at St Alban's church.



Year 5 Sculpture Project with Visiting Artist

This half term, we were thrilled to welcome **Reza Ben Gajra** from **Bow Arts Trust**, who worked with our Year 5 pupils on an exciting sculpture project. Building on their previous work inspired by **Antony Gormley**, the children created wire portraits and figures using skills they had learned earlier in the year.

Working individually and collaboratively, the children helped produce a **series of six life-size wire sculptures**, each representing a child in a different pose. These striking sculptures have now been **installed as a permanent feature in Key Stage 2**, celebrating the creativity and teamwork of our young artists.

A huge thank you to Reza and Bow Arts Trust for such an inspiring experience!



History Bee

Three enthusiastic Year 6 pupils had the fantastic opportunity to represent our school at the History Bee hosted by Manor Junior School. The event brought together young history lovers from across the area for a fun and challenging competition that tested their knowledge of historical events, people, and timelines.

Our students thoroughly enjoyed the experience, showing great enthusiasm and team spirit throughout the event. It was a wonderful chance for them to deepen their understanding of history in an engaging and competitive environment. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and the way they represented our school with confidence and curiosity!



Science Fair

The Science Fair was a wonderful showcase of the children's curiosity, creativity, and growing understanding of the world around them; all tied to the important theme of *Building a Sustainable Future*. Pupils from Reception through to Year 6, including our CPC children, took on the role of young scientists for the day.

They explored key sustainability topics such as renewable energy, recycling, and environmental conservation, and confidently



Author visits Year 4

Merita Avdyli is a dual language author who writes English and Albanian books - she talked about being proud of the languages you speak at home and got to know the cultures of the children in our year group. She shared what it's like to write a book and gave the children the empowerment to one day write a book of their own!

presented their projects to staff, parents and peers. The children demonstrated impressive oracy skills, speaking clearly and knowledgeably about their investigations. The event left both students and visitors inspired by the children's enthusiasm and their commitment to making a positive impact on the future.

Year 6 Careers Week

The Year 6 students took part in an inspiring and engaging Careers Week, filled with exciting opportunities to explore their future aspirations. The week began with a visit from PowerUK, where students learned about the world of engineering and the many careers it offers. They also created their own vision boards, thoughtfully imagining the paths they might take and the goals they hope to achieve.

Throughout the week, they took part in a range of lessons focused on different job sectors, helping them gain a broader understanding of the world of work. A special highlight was a talk from our Headteacher, Mr Wilson, who shared his own career journey and the experiences that led him into education.

Adding a creative twist, the children also enjoyed dance workshops, showing how passion and dedication can lead to fulfilling careers in the arts. It was a fantastic week that encouraged our students to dream big and believe in their potential.



- **Maggie (2C)** – for her vibrant collage of her church
- **Tahir (3C)** – for his striking artwork of the Kaaba

Their thoughtful and well-crafted work truly captured the spirit and significance of these sacred spaces. Our winners proudly attended a Prize Giving Ceremony on 1st July, where they were honoured and presented with certificates.

A big WELL DONE also goes to all the children who submitted their entries. Each piece reflected a positive and insightful response to their visit to places of worship, and it was clear that an exceptional amount of creativity and care had gone into each of them. The entries, which are currently on display in the RE classroom, are a real credit to the children and to their teachers, whose guidance and encouragement clearly inspired such high-quality work.

Every contribution was not only impressive, but genuinely worthy of recognition – and some were very nearly winners themselves! We are incredibly proud of each and every one of you.



By Tahir



By Zimal

RE Competition

CONGRATULATIONS to our winners of the recent B&D *Religious Education* Competition:

- **Zimal (2A)** – for her detailed model of a mosque



By Maggie

Rights Respecting Schools Silver Award

We are delighted to announce that our school has been awarded the Silver: Rights Aware accreditation by UNICEF UK's Rights Respecting Schools Award. This recognition reflects our commitment to embedding the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into our policies, curriculum and culture.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this achievement:

- Our dedicated staff and leadership brought children's rights to life through assemblies, classroom displays, policies and everyday interactions.
- Our enthusiastic pupils, including school council, have championed rights leading projects, discussions and school-wide initiatives.
- Parents and carers, your conversations and support at home and in school have helped instil a rights respecting culture in our community.

UNICEF identified that, to earn Silver accreditation, we have successfully:

1. Embedded rights into our school's mind set and routines
2. Promoted understanding of the UNCRC across our community
3. Acted on our Silver Action Plan (building on Bronze)
4. Seen positive impacts on students and school life
5. Empowered pupils to view themselves as global rights advocates

This milestone marks a significant step on our journey toward Gold Rights Respecting accreditation. Over the next year, we will continue to:

- Deepen teaching, learning and discussion of specific rights
- Embed rights into decision making from playground rules to curriculum planning
- Strengthen student voice through councils, leadership roles and community involvement

Thank you to every member of our school community, your energy, passion and belief in children's rights have made this possible.

Year 6 Chalkwell Beach trip

The Year 6 trip to Chalkwell Beach was a fantastic day, filled with sunshine, smiles, and sandy toes. The weather was glorious, setting the perfect scene for making special memories by the sea.

All the children had a brilliant time exploring the shoreline, taking part in a fun crab search, and savouring the simple pleasures of the seaside. There was much surprise at how quickly the tide came in – a valuable (and soggy!) lesson in respecting nature's pace.

The classes made the most of their very own 'Happy Island', basking in the sun and cherishing every moment of their time together. Before heading back to school, there was just enough time for a well-earned ice cream – the perfect end to a sun-kissed seaside adventure.

It truly was one of the highlights of the year, sparkling with laughter, friendship, and the magic of being together. A heartfelt thank you to our wonderful parent volunteers for helping make it all possible.



Year 4 Guitar

Year 4 have learnt to play the guitar this year. They have learnt to play chords and strum. Towards the end of the year, they also began to sing whilst playing. They finished the year with a guitar concert.



Community Music Service

Department for Education

BARKING AND DEGENHEM community music service

FOOD FOR THE SOUL: ARTS PLAYTIME

MUSIC.THEATRE.DANCE.FOOD.

Come and create with us! We will be running two 4 day workshops celebrating the creative arts in the Vibe Youth Centre from 4/8/25-7/8/25 and 11/8/25-14/8/25. The workshops will be open to 5-11 year olds in LBBD and free for those on benefits related free school meals.

To sign up your child or get more information: elizabeth.kitto@lbld.gov.uk

MUSIC.THEATRE.DANCE.FOOD.

This Summer's Food for the Soul Workshops will allow children to try foods from around the world as well as take part in Art activities.

This year, we will feature workshops full of fun and games from:

- The Community Music Service on Rhythm and Song
- Barking and Dagenham Youth Dance on Movement
- Write Back on Creative Expression
- The Boathouse on Acting and Performance
- True Cadence on Lyric Creation

Food will be served from 12-12.30pm
Workshops will start from 12.30 and finish at 4pm

We will include 2 breaks and a snack as well as a full meal, everyday.

We are offering 20 places per week and will prioritise young people on benefits related free school meals who can attend completely free of charge. We will also have some spaces available at a small cost for children who do not fall into this category.

WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU AT THE VIBE!

Sports & PE Competitions

As we wrap up a tremendous and busy term, we wanted to celebrate all the exciting things that have happened in PE.

This term, Years 3 to 5 had the fantastic opportunity to work with Essex Cricket Club, putting their skills to great use. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed every session and showed real enthusiasm.

Swimming has also been a highlight this term, giving children the chance to build confidence and learn essential life skills in the water. It's been wonderful to see their progress.

Our Sports Day was a huge success! Every child gave their best effort, showing great determination, teamwork, and a true sporting spirit. Thank you to all the parents who came along to support and encourage the children, your presence meant a lot.

Finally, I want to say what a privilege it has been to lead PE at our school. I am incredibly proud of what the children have achieved. As I now move onto a new school abroad, I will be passing the baton onto Mr Johnston, who will be leading PE from September. I know the subject will continue to thrive under his guidance.

Wishing you all a restful summer break and continued success in the new term.

Thank you,

Mr Rahman



Music Festival

James Cambell held their first music festival this year. All the classes learnt a song from a hit musical and we celebrated this over 3 days. It was lovely to see all the children perform in a different way giving them opportunities to express themselves. Well done to all the children.

Rocksteady Concert

The end of year Rocksteady concert was a huge success. The budding rock stars performed their hits they learnt this term. Each group worked hard together to keep in time and performed like real rock stars on the stage. There are a few spaces available for September. Please enquire with the office.

Thank You for Your Feedback!



A big thank you to everyone who responded to our recent parent survey — we received over 100 responses, and we're so grateful for the time you took to share your thoughts. Your feedback is incredibly valuable and helps us to celebrate what's working well, as well as identify where we can improve.

What You Told Us

We're delighted to see such positive feedback overall:

- **97%** of you said your child feels happy at school
- **91%** agreed the school supports good behaviour
- **94%** felt the school has high expectations for your child
- **96%** said your child is doing well at school

- **93%** appreciated the wide range of subjects offered
- **91%** would recommend the school to another parent

What You Value About Our School

Here are some of the themes that came through strongly in your comments:

- Children enjoy coming to school and feel **safe, happy and well cared for**
- Teachers are described as **welcoming, supportive and approachable**
- Parents feel **informed and involved** in their children's learning, especially through Class Dojo and other communication tools
- The school is seen as **inclusive, respectful and community-minded**, often described as having a "village feel"
- Many of you appreciate the school's **warm, welcoming atmosphere**
- Events like **Culture Day, the Poetry Festival and Science Fair**, as well as clubs and assemblies, are highly valued
- **Playground equipment and lunchtime activities** are popular
- Leadership was praised, and staff described as **professional, respectful and responsive**

How We're Taking Action on Your Suggestions

While the feedback was very positive overall, you also shared helpful suggestions for improvement. Here's what we're doing in response:

- **Support for SEND and struggling pupils:** We'll continue to build on our SEND development programme, focusing on classroom adaptations and staff training to ensure all children get the support they need

- **Too many Class Dojo notifications:**
We'll review our communication strategy so that whole-school messages only go out when truly relevant
- **Clarity around Heads of Year:** We'll ensure all parents know who their child's Head of Year is and how to contact them
- **Unsafe driving and parking:** We continue to ask parents to avoid driving to school and not to stop on the zigzag lines. We've also registered our interest in Barking and Dagenham's **School Streets** initiative, which would restrict traffic near school at drop-off and pick-up — though the final decision lies with the local authority

If you made a suggestion that isn't listed here, please know that it was still appreciated — and you're always welcome to discuss your ideas further with our leadership team.

Thank you once again for your continued support. We're proud of our school community and look forward to working together to make it even stronger.

Key dates for next year



Key Dates

Start of School Year	Tuesday 2 September 2025
Half Term	Friday 24 October – Friday 31 October 2025
Last Day of Autumn Term	Friday 19 December 2025
First Day of Spring Term	Tuesday 6 January 2026
Half Term	Monday 16 February - Friday 20 February 2026
Last Day of Spring Term	Friday 27 March 2026
Easter Break – Week 1	Monday 30 March 2026 to Friday 3 April 2026 (includes Good Friday)
Easter Break – Week 2	Easter Monday 6 April 2026 to Friday 10 April 2026 (includes Easter Monday)
First Day of Summer Term	Monday 13 April 2026
May Day Holiday	Monday 4 May 2026 (Bank Holiday)
Half Term	Monday 25 May (Bank Holiday) - Friday 29 May 2026
Last day of the school year	Friday 17 July 2026