

# End of Half Term Newsletter



Swiss  
Cottage  
School  
Development &  
Research Centre

Inclusive  
Nurturing  
Inspiring

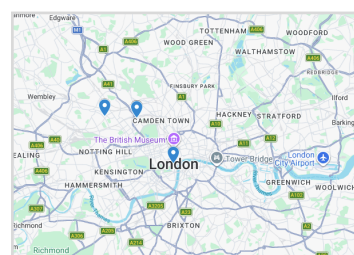
Friday 13th February 2026

Today is the start of Spring half term holidays and also marks the midway point in our calendar year. Below, we're proud to showcase some of the wonderful teaching and learning across the school this half-term and give a flavour of the immersive and multi-sensory experiences that pupils have especially enjoyed. We return to school on Monday 23rd February, and Family Learning Week starts the week after that (week commencing 2nd March). The dates and times for individual classes are below - please reserve the date, so that you can come in to your child's class and share their learning experiences with the staff. We hope that you all have a positive half-term and look forward to welcoming you back after half-term.

## Global Day of Play

We were one of 3 schools in the country to be officially registered as celebrating the Global Day of Play, alongside hundreds of schools across the globe—spot us in the world map on the official website.

On that particular day (Friday 6th February), we were fortunate to enjoy some rare sunshine along with a host of enticing play-based activities. Spot us the world map on the official [Global Day of Play website](#). Classes from across the Amethyst pathway and lower school played alongside and with peers across the school and in every available space. There was some fantastic engagement as well as interactions between pupils from a range of classes and ages.



## Phonics

This term, pupils in the Emerald pathway have been enjoying working in cross-class groups for their phonics lessons (teaching them to read and write through learning letter sounds and whole word reading). It has been wonderful to see their engagement and determination and as a result, they are making fantastic progress in developing their early reading skills.

Classes have also been exploring measurement and quantity, for example through making sensory bottles. They practised using language such as full, empty, more and less, counted spoonful's, followed simple instructions, and developed fine motor control while pouring and filling. The activity supported turn-taking, focus, and engagement, with lots of lovely concentration and pride in their finished bottles.



## Preparing for Adulthood

Students on the Sapphire Pathway (our Sixth form) have been enjoying exciting opportunities to explore their futures beyond the classroom. Through work experience at inspiring cultural venues such as the Wallace Collection and the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, students apply their learning to meaningful real world experiences, building confidence and resilience across different environments.

A selection of students across the pathway also attended a lively Preparing for Adulthood event in Bloomsbury, taking part in interactive workshops designed to spark ideas and explore possibilities. They discovered opportunities within their community and learned about different college pathways.

These experiences have inspired students to think positively about their futures and take important steps towards greater independence and success.



## Pupil Photography

The Sapphire pathway have also been learning about photography and pupils have enjoyed taking photos of different places around the school. We learned how to change photos with filters using photo editing software.

These are some of the pupil photos.



## Number Day

Pearl Pathway pupils have had many highlights this term.

For number day, the pupils supported children in other pathways to engage with numbers and fun in the drama studio! Not only were all students modelling the activities, they also helped to set up and clear up after the event! Some Pearl learners also supported learning for younger students during our 'day of play'.

It's great to see them applying their learning and developing leadership skills.



## Reading Club

This term, The Ruby Pathway launched a peer-to-peer lunchtime reading club. They have welcomed pupils from the Pearl Pathway into class and enjoyed having stories read to them by their peers. This experience has provided wonderful opportunities for social interaction, communication and engagement with the wider school community.

The Ruby Pathway are pleased to welcome Josie, a new teacher to Benjamin Zephaniah class. Josie has had a fantastic first half-term, fully immersing herself into the school community and providing highly engaging learning experiences for the pupils.





# Family Learning Week

Tuesday 3rd March - Thursday 5th March 2026

## Session 1: 10.00 – 10.30

Tuesday 3rd March	Wednesday 4th March	Thursday 5th March
Jonathan Bryan	Bluebell	Malala
Rosa Parks	Tulip	Marigold
Chris Packham	Dahlia	Dandelion
Rose Ayling-Ellis	Elton John	Michelle Obama
Lizzie Emeh	Ellie Goldstein	Temple Grandin
	MLK	

## Session 2: 11:00 – 11.30

Tuesday 3rd March	Wednesday 4th March	Thursday 5th March
Nnenu Kalu	Stevie Wonder	Derek Paravacini
Mandela (11:15)	Lilac	Elderflower
Michael Rosen	Lucy Bronze	Sunflower
Iris	Benjamin Zephaniah	Clover
Lotus		Katherine Grainger

**CAMDEN** Parent Carer Forum  
**SEND Tribunal Training**  
 Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 10:30am-12:30pm  
 Greenwood Centre, Kentish Town, NW5 1LB

**SENDIASS**

Are you a parent or carer of a child or young person with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) in Camden?  
 SENDIASS will be delivering an informative and supportive training session about SEND tribunals.

The session will cover:

- What SEND tribunals are
- When and how to appeal
- What the process involves
- Where to get support and advice

The training is designed to help parent carers feel informed and confident.

This training is for Camden parents and carers of children and young people, ages 0-25 with SEND.

To register for the link please email:  
[Camdenpc@kids.org.uk](mailto:Camdenpc@kids.org.uk) /  
[Aishatu.Mohammed@kids.org.uk](mailto:Aishatu.Mohammed@kids.org.uk) Or you can call or text  
 07385 003 662

**Kids**

[Click here for more information](#)

**CAMDEN** Parent Carer Forum  
**'Walk & Talk'**  
 Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026 - 10:15 AM - 12:30 PM

**SENDIASS**

Are you a Camden Parent or Carer of a child or young person (0-25) with additional needs?  
 Do you enjoy walking and talking and a chance to meet?  
 Would you like to help your own child and make friends with other parents and carers at the same time?

If so, join us for our popular 'Walk & Talk' sessions, led by fellow Camden parent Ais.

There is a chance to meet with other parents and carers who may be experiencing similar life experiences and talk and learn from each other during a relaxed walk from Hampstead Heath to Hampstead House and back (with a stop along the way for a well deserved hot drink and sweet treat).

PS If you prefer to walk and listen that's ok too! We can even register a return walk so why not come along!

Hampstead Heath is owned by the wider Trust and is a National Trust site. Please respect the rules of the Trust and the rules of the house. Please do not enter the grounds of the house or the grounds of the house.

Please let Ais know if you're coming (text or a call) - 07385 521093 or you can email:  
[Camdenpc@kids.org.uk](mailto:Camdenpc@kids.org.uk)

Wear appropriate clothing as we walk on or off, and please be on time (if you need to cancel, just let us know as we don't need for you!)

**Kids**

[Click here for more information](#)

**CAMDEN** Parent Carer Forum  
**'Breakfast Club'**  
 Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March - 10.30-11.30am

Regents Park Children's Centre and Family Hub  
 Augustus Street, NW1 3TJ

Join us for a relaxed morning with a light breakfast, warm drinks, and great company!

It's a chance to connect with other SEND parents and carers, switch off from the realities of day-to-day life and feel supported in a friendly, welcoming space.

If you are new and haven't joined us before, why not make this your first time? We are a friendly bunch, and we'd love to see you there!

To book a place please email: [Camdenpc@kids.org.uk](mailto:Camdenpc@kids.org.uk) / [Aishatu.Mohammed@kids.org.uk](mailto:Aishatu.Mohammed@kids.org.uk)  
 Or you can call or text 07385 003 662

**Kids**

[Click here for more information](#)

## Term Dates

To view our term dates, including 2026/27, please visit our website:

[www.swisscottage.camden.sch.uk/parents/termdates](http://www.swisscottage.camden.sch.uk/parents/termdates)

Wishing all of our families a safe and enjoyable break.

The first day back for pupils is

**Monday, 23rd February!**