



We are half way through the academic year! And next week is Half Term. There is so much happening in the Half term , from our holiday club to Shrove Tuesday, Chinese New Year and the start of Ramadan.

### Year 5 & 6 fasting

On the app there is a form for you to complete if you want your child to fast during Ramadan. We will only allow children who we have the forms for, so please make sure that you fill it in.

Chinese New Year falls on **Tuesday February 17**, ushering in the Year of the Horse. But the best of the festivities are saved for the following weekend. On Sunday, February 22 London's Chinatown, Trafalgar Square and the West End will fill up with hundreds of thousands of revellers, in the biggest Lunar New Year celebration in the world outside of Asia. The centrepiece of the festivities is a spectacular parade, as well as free performances and, of course, feasting galore. The seventh animal in the cycle of the 12 Chinese zodiac signs, the horse represents power, beauty, success and perseverance. The last Year of the Horse was in 2014, and you're known as a horse if you were born in 1942, 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, or 2002. If so, tradition has it that you'll be presented with exciting new opportunities this year. And, being a horse, you'll know just how to make the most of them: people born in this year are said to be confident, responsible, and friendly, although they're known to hate being reined in.

Hopefully, you will have all had a meeting with your child's class teacher, except Moorhen. We hope you spend some of this half term working with your children on their targets. Remember the school website has lots of ideas and tips for things that you can be doing at home. It is great that we have two 3 millionaire readers, five 2 millionaires and fifteen millionaires. We love how the children of Mission Grove love to read and regularly ask for more books. We hope to hear of more wonderful reading over the half term break.

Twenty places where children can eat free this half term. Please click on this link to find out where they are.

### 20+ UK restaurants where kids eat free this half term - February 2026

£15 Vouchers will be issued for parents who are entitled to free school meals.

It is with great sadness that Mrs Zehra Hacet has resigned from working at the school to focus on her family. Zehra has worked at the school for many years and supported hundreds of children in class and at lunch time. We all wish her and her family the very best. She will be missed.

Wishing you all a happy Half term and Valentines. —Miss Jennings—Headteacher

### Free activities for Half Term

The Southbank is preparing for the half term . It's Imagine festival, a mix of family-oriented shows and workshops, play experiences and exhibitions, music, art and literature that'll keep youngsters diverted February 11–21. There are events for kids of all ages (from babies to pre-teens) with many of them free, ranging from communal singalong sessions to dance workshops.

Highlights of the 2026 edition include the self-explanatory *An Evening with Jacqueline Wilson and Rachael Dean* (Feb 15) where the legendary children's author and her illustrator will discuss their works; *Quentin Blake's Mrs Armitage on Wheels* (Feb 18–21) is a new puppet-based musical based on Blake's book; the Unicorn's fun *The Princess and the Pea* (pictured) will be calling in Feb 14–20; *The Show for Young Men* (Feb 13–15) is a funny, heartfelt physical theatre show for older children about contemporary masculinity; and for young 'uns there's a day of musical performances from CBeebies stalwarts Andy and the Odd Socks (Feb 15).

## SPECIAL DATES

### ATTENDANCE PERCENTAGE BY CLASS

**Thank you to the parents who have checked their child's certificates and informed us of medicals and other errors.**

Nursery North AM	80.55%
Nursery North PM	83.78%
R Goose	85.09%
R Grouse	85.17%
2yr North PM	85.37%
2yr North AM	86.40%
2 Mallard	88.38%
Nursery North Full Time	88.53%
1 Chaffinch	90.96%
R Goldfinch	91.04%
5 Swan	91.12%
4 Wagtail	91.50%
4 Woodpecker	91.96%
4 Wren	92.08%
Nursery South AM	92.08%
3 Kittiwake	92.31%
1 Chiff Chaff	92.36%
R Goldcrest	92.51%
5 Sparrow	92.75%
2 Merlin	92.90%
2 Magpie	92.99%
6 Barn Owl	93.09%
4 Waxwing	93.13%
1 Crow	93.21%
5 Swallow	93.59%
6 Blackbird	94.00%
3 Kingfisher	94.04%
1 Cuckoo	94.21%
6 Buzzard	94.58%
3 Kestrel	94.59%
5 Skylark	95.10%
Nursery South PM	95.31%
3 Kinglet	95.48%
2 Moorhen	96.01%
Nursery South Full Time	96.57%

February 2026 Article 15—to meet with friends & join groups/ clubs

### **16th—20th Half term Holidays**

23rd	Children back to school	
23rd	School dentist in	
24th	Girls football competition	
	Year 5 camping meetings 5pm South &	5.40pm North
25th	Anglo Saxons workshop for year 4	
26th	9am PTA North	
27th	Magpie Assembly	
	Year 4 Poetry workshop	

MARCH 2026 Article 14—freedom of thought and religion

### **2nd Secondary offer day**

### **Year 1 film night**

3rd	KS2 rescheduled fun run—Douglas Eyre
5th	World Book Day
	Chaffinch & Chiff Chaff Theatre trip
	Curriculum Governors
9th	STEAM WEEK
	Happy Puzzle workshops
12th	Cuckoo & Crow Theatre trip
15th	Mother's Day



### **Half Term Holiday Club**

This will be running for the full week. The application form is on the website.

The half term is from Monday 16th to Friday 20th February.

The club is held on the North site.

Please visit the website to complete the application form for a place.

[Mission Grove Primary School - Holiday Club](#)



At Mission Grove, everyone aims high, everyone is included, and creativity is valued.

We live our motto: *Respect yourself, respect others.*

Our values guide us—respect, inclusion, life-long learning, high aspirations, resilience, and integrity.

Dates for our NHS drop-in n the North Site, 9.30am start:

19 March 2026

23 April 2026

7 May 2026

11 June 2026

9 July 2026



The world is full of kind If you can't find one, people.

Help us create a safe and happy environment for everyone. Think before you shout or get angry with staff.  
**RESPECT YOURSELF, RESPECT OTHERS !**



Shouting & swearing will not be tolerated anywhere in school.



Some of the children took part in a live on line **Opera workshop** on Wednesday with The London Royal Ballet & Opera.

Vincent – I went to stage school before but I learnt more today. I enjoyed it.

Monika – It made me calm and I enjoyed the singing

Atarah – I liked when we did the singing and the soldier bit.

Jonas – I really enjoyed learning about behind the scenes at the opera house

Alexandra – I really liked the soldier bit because I liked the singing.

Hussain – It made me feel calm, happy and I wondered how they made that sound with their voices.

Shoaib "I liked how they changed their voices"

Dennis "I enjoyed seeing how they created the sets behind the stage"



### ***Supporting Activity - Promote our All-Ability Cycling Club***

**Our drop-in all ability cycling clubs are designed for people with a range of abilities. Bikeworks provide a range of cycles including: hand-cycles, relaxed recumbents and side-by-side tricycles.**



**bikeworks**

Visit <https://www.bikeworks.org.uk/> to find out more or scan the qr code

***Include in your newsletter or share on social media and this counts as a supporting activity!***



Reception hosted their first *Stay and Play* sessions this week to showcase all that the children have learned and experienced during our *Transport and Journeys* topic. We were delighted with the fantastic turnout and it was wonderful to see parents joining in with the arts and crafts, role-play, and messy play activities. Going forward, we will be holding a *Stay and Play* session at the end of each half term, and we look forward to welcoming you again.





# Science News

## STEAM week - Stay curious

We are excited to announce that this year's STEAM Week will celebrate the theme of **curiosity**. Throughout the week, pupils will explore, question, design, experiment and discover just how exciting Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics can be.

### **What to look forward to:**

- ◆ A range of practical, curiosity-driven activities across the school
- ◆ A special **STEAM dress-up day**
- ◆ A whole-school **poster competition**
- ◆ Opportunities for families to get involved and celebrate learning

Keep an eye on upcoming communications and see below for further information about how to take part.

## Science Joke of the Week!

Do you have a science joke that's guaranteed to make everyone giggle?  
Share it with us!

**How do trees get on the internet?**

**They log in - Kajetan, Blackbird class**



# Science at home!

## Dancing Raisin!



ALWAYS  
ask an  
adult to  
help you!



### What you need:

- Raisins
- Still water
- Fizzy water
- Two clear, plastic cups

### What to do:

1. Carefully pour some still water into two plastic cups.
2. Gently, drop a raisin into the water. Did it float or sink?
3. Next, pour some fizzy water in to a clear plastic cup
4. Gently, drop a raisin into the water. Did it float or sink?
5. What was the difference between the two reactions?

### Why do you think this was?

I'd love to hear about all the science you have been doing at home!

Bring in photos and come and find me in my classroom (Kestrel class) to let me know what you have been up to.

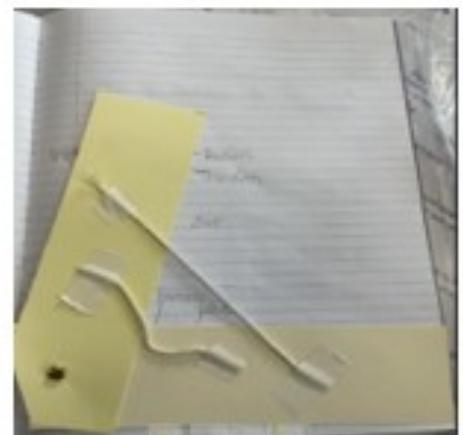
Or send in your results to the office for the attention of Ms Hakeem.

## Science in the school

### Muscle Model

This week in Science, Year 3 became body explorers! We investigated how muscles work by building a model of an arm using cardboard, string and split pins. We learned that muscles can only pull, so they have to work in pairs to help our joints move. When we pulled one string, the arm bent, and when we pulled the other, it straightened again. We made careful observations and talked about which parts of our model represented the bones, muscles and joints. It was exciting to see our learning come to life!

*"Our model helped me understand how the biceps and triceps move the skeleton" (Haris, Kestrel class)*



## Energy Garden



We were very fortunate to have an educational workshop delivered by Leila Fortunato (Senior Education Co-Ordinator at Energy Garden) which brought together science, sustainability and geography in a highly interactive session. **Year 4's** explored real-life examples of solar installations in London and discussed how community energy projects help reduce carbon emissions and support local neighbourhoods.

We are very grateful to Ms Hakeem organising this link with Energy Garden for providing such an inspiring and educational experience.

*"Green places are very important because people who live in flats don't have gardens so they can't grow fruits and vegetables. The more sunlight there is, the more electricity the solar panel can create" (Zaynab, Wagtail class)*

*"I was surprised with the map that showed how green London is. I imagined it would be maybe 60% green for London but it was actually 12.5% which was really shocking and alarming because I knew global warming, pollution and deforestation is happening but it's sad to think that we are losing all of the lovely nature that London did used to have" (Frankie, Wren class)*

*"During the workshop, I learned that solar power is a type of renewable energy. I also learned about non-renewable energy sources such as coal, gas, and oil, which are harmful because they pollute the air. I particularly enjoyed investigating how solar power works by positioning the solar panels in different directions and recording the results" (Zainab, Woodpecker class)*

## Poster competition - Inspiring curiosity!

This year, our poster competition is all about exploring **what makes a good or positive childhood**—and children's ideas will help shape the future! We are working with a team of scientists and researchers, alongside the British Science Association and NUSTEM at Northumbria University, to collect young people's thoughts for the Government Office for Science.

The competition is now open, and entries close at **6 pm on Thursday 16 April 2026**. Children and young people are encouraged to explore the questions for their age group, think creatively, and present their ideas in a **2D poster (A4 or A3)** using any materials or digital tools. Posters must be submitted to Ms Hakeem or your class teacher.

**Primary aged children (5-11) will be considering the questions**  
**'What makes children's lives positive? What will a positive childhood look like in the future for children your age?'**

This is a fantastic opportunity for pupils to share their visions for the future while having fun with science and creativity!



## Dress up day - date tbc

At Mission Grove, we love challenging stereotypes and celebrating the amazing diversity in STEM. Many of us picture a scientist as an old man with wild hair, a white lab coat, and safety goggles—but in reality, scientists and engineers come in all shapes, ages, and backgrounds! During STEAM week, we would like our pupils to take part in a special fancy dress challenge, coming dressed as real-life scientists or as one of our "Scientific Enquiry Superheroes."

## STEAM careers

We would love to invite parents / carers to come and **talk to our pupils about your career**, showing them how many jobs use **Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Maths (STEAM)** every day—even jobs they see all around them!

Whether you are a **hairdresser, train station worker, software developer, nurse, chef, or engineer**, your story can inspire our children.

If you are interested, please **speak to Miss Hakeem** for more details.

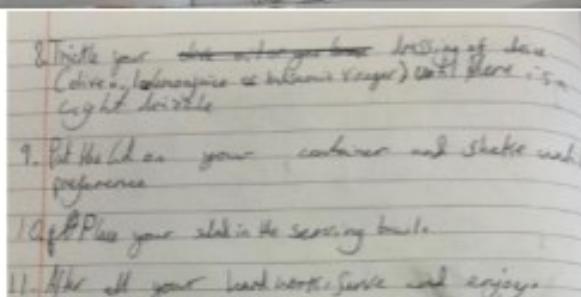
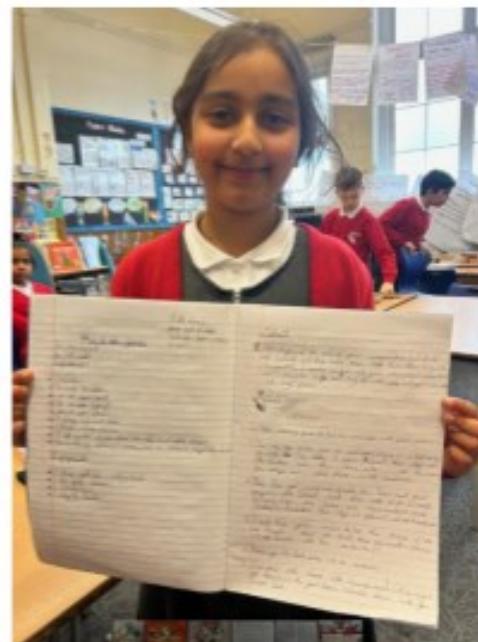
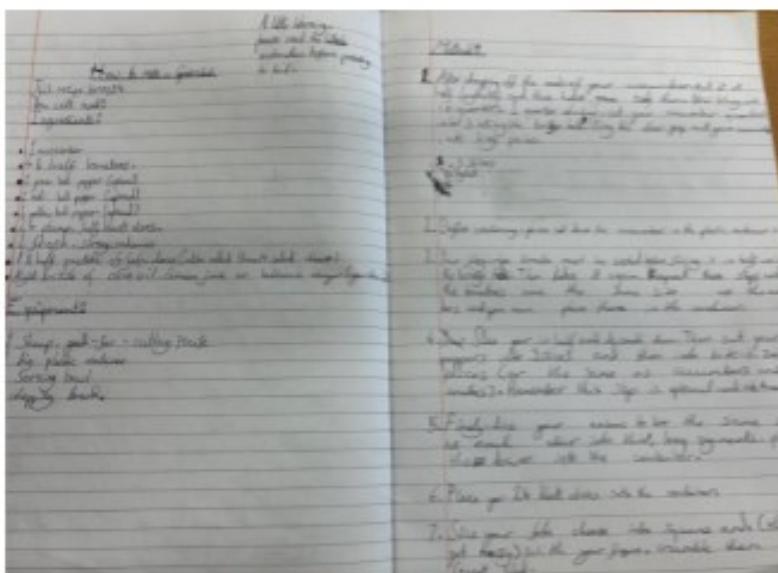
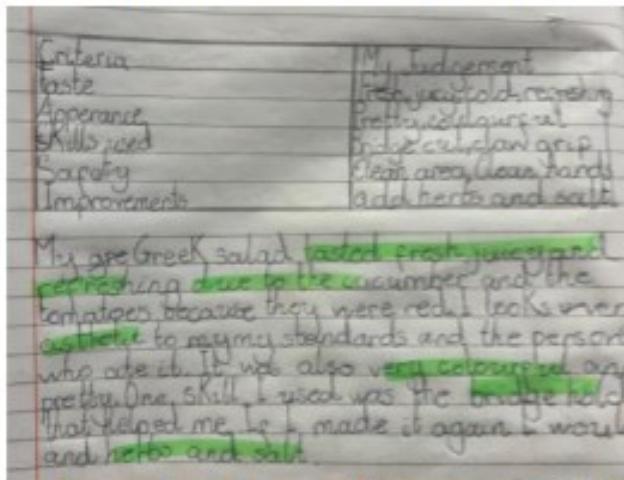
*Other examples of STEAM careers: banker, shop keeper, photographer, set designer, accountant, farmer, builder, plumber, electrician, social media manager, game designer, pharmacist, vet, nutritionist, gardener, IT support, web designer etc*



Work in a **STEM** field? We would love to hear from you to inspire our children to pursue Science beyond the classroom.

## Year 5 learning

This term in year 5, we have been looking at imported and exported food items but also processed and unprocessed foods. As our topic was Ancient Greece the children designed, made and evaluated their own Greek salads. The children practised the claw grip and bridge hold.



## Employability Workshops

Looking for support with your job search?

Join our engaging hands-on employability workshops designed to help you boost your confidence and get you job – ready!

Workshop Name	Date	Time	Venue
Confidence with Employability JS0140C3	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	10am - 12:30am	Queens Road Learning Centre
CV Support - 1 day workshop JS0141C3	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2026	10am - 3:30pm	
Interview Success- 1 day workshop JS0142C3	Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	10am - 3:30pm	

Learn how to present yourself confidently.

We'll help you write a CV that clearly shows your skills and experience, highlights your strengths and achievements, and is tailored to different job roles so employers can see what you're good at. Practical hands-on workshop.

We'll help you get ready for interviews by practising how to speak confidently, answer common questions, and make a good first impression. Practical workshop with role play.

**Interested in joining one or more of our workshops?**

To reserve your place, simply contact Business Support on **020 8496 2974**

**Queens Road Learning Centre (QR)97 Queens Road  
Walthamstow E17 8QR**

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March

# EASTER EGG HUNT

No yolk, this is serious fun!



An Easter egg hunt on school grounds - have fun  
and raise funds for Mission Grove!

£2 to enter

Must book by Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March to take part