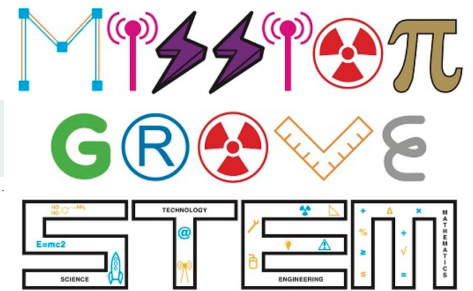




Friday 14th March 2025
Edition 22



After the glorious sunshine last week the weather has been very unpredictable this week, with hailstones and snow yesterday!

We have also had the extreme happening in lessons. One minute you walk into the hall and there is a class in silence with headphones on doing different things. Then you go to another hall and there is a giant Ludo board with the children cheering when they throw a 6!

STEAM week has been fun, engaging and creative. Please see further in the newsletter for pictures and comments and check out the website where there will be more photos. Thank you to the parents who have been in to help make the creations and join in the fun learning.

We will be having a holiday club running from the 7th to the 11th March and then the 14th to the 17th March. The booking form and information is on the website. Go to the parent and carers and Holiday club or for a quick link click [here](#).

Mission Grove News. You will have seen last week on north that one of our enrichment groups is now making a newspaper to sell. All of the profits are going towards the playground refurbishments. The paper has interviews, games, factual pieces and school stories. Another fantastic edition to the activities going on at Mission Grove.

PTA meeting

On Monday the PTA met and discussed up and coming events. There will be posters popping up around the school for a Bake Sale, 19th March. Any donations for this will be gratefully received and any volunteers to help sell on the day. For Mother's day there is the chance for you to purchase a card, flower plant and chocolate for the amazing price of £5. Please pre-order on parent pay. You can also buy the items separately.

We will be having our annual Easter Hat Parade on the 4th April. The PTA will be running an Easter Egg Hunt on that day too. It will be £1 per child to enter. Again you can pre book on parentpay. If you would like to help at these events please let your child's class teacher know, the office and on South Jacob's mum and on the North Lek and Arlo's mum.

Parent Evenings

This terms parents evenings for year Reception—5 will be on Thursday 27th March and Thursday 3rd April.

Check the app in the coming days for the google booking form.

There will be a 10 minute slot for every child.

In the session you can look at the children's work books and talk to the teacher. The children have completed AR and AM tests this term and the children doing phonics have had an assessment. These are just some of the things that you can discuss with your child's class teacher.

The teacher will be updating you on your child's attendance also.

At the parent evenings there will be an opportunity for you to complete the annual parent survey. If you could please fill this in to help us gain your views and opinions.

Katie Jennings

Headteacher

SPECIAL DATES

Year 6 Leavers Hoodies

We will be placing the order for this years leavers hoodies on April 3rd. We have sent an app today with all of the details. We do them at this time of year so that they can have them for some of the summer term at Mission Grove.

The children have loved them in the past. The cost is £25. You can pay on parent pay or at the school office. It will be a red hoodie with black writing.



On the app you need to click the [blue](#) word SIZE and that will open a pdf of the different sizes available

March

- 17th Waxwing class @ V & A
Sparrow @ All Hallows workshop
- 18th Chaffinch @ Transport museum
Chiff Chaff STEAM stay & Play
Gymnastics
- 19th PTA Bake Sale—after school
Wren V & A Museum trip
Chaffinch STEAM stay & Play
- 20th Inclusive swim festival
Swan @ All Hallows
Cuckoo STEAM stay & Play
Finance Governors
- 21st COMIC RELIEF—Wear It Funny
Year 4 sleepover
Swallow Class Assembly
- 24th Rock Steady Concerts—participants can come dressed as a Rock Star. 10.30 am South, 2.30pm North
Wagtail @ V & A Museum
- 25th Woodpecker @ V & A museum
Year 1 @ London zoo
Crow Transport museum
Year 5 Come Dine with me
- 26th Chiff Chaff Bugliest Bug
Year 4 Wonderlab
Paent Evening
- 27th Kittiwake Class Assembly

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



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

MissionGrove
PRIMARY SCHOOL
RESPECT YOURSELF RESPECT OTHERS



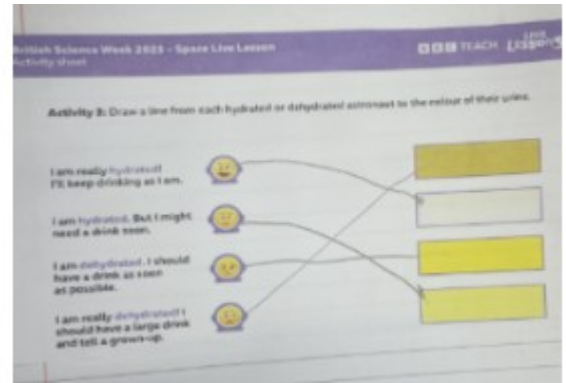
Shouting & swearing will not be tolerated anywhere in school.

News from STEAM week

In this special KS2 science Live Lesson during British Science Week, hosted by Grace Webb and Greg Foot, find out what it takes to become an astronaut.

British Astronaut Tim Peake, who himself spent 173 days living on the ISS will be our mission commander, setting curriculum-linked tasks for 7–11 year-olds to join in with throughout the lesson.

From understanding the effects of space on our bones to learning how astronauts manage food and hydration, your students will explore the challenges of living in space. By the end of the session, they will have completed an 'astronaut training plan,' preparing them for life in space and inspiring them to blast off into the world of science and space exploration.



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.

2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.

3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.

4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.

5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.

6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Repeatedly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.

7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.

9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press Play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING

Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.

10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13–16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowri is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, Neuroteachers, which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.



The
National
College®

MORE STEAM NEWS

In the now>press>play Experience, children put on wireless headphones and were plunged into the world of their topic. Immersed in sound, they become the main character in a story, meeting people, discovering places and solving problems, on an educational adventure they'll never forget.

On a school trip to Pompeii, you fall down a well and go back in time to 79AD. Ash is falling from the sky and the people don't realise Mount Vesuvius is about to erupt. Will you be able to save them? And will you ever get back to the present?

In this Experience, the children learnt about:

- ✦ How the earth's crust is broken up into tectonic plates which move
- ✦ How this can cause volcanic eruptions and earthquakes on plate boundaries
- ✦ The way in which communities prepare for and are affected by natural disasters.



We will be having a **year 5 come dine with your child** on Tuesday 25th at 12.30. We appreciate that it is in the middle of Ramadan, which will impact on many of the families who are fasting. Due to this we will be looking to organise another in the summer term. To help the kitchen, middays and to ensure we don't have to extend our lunch break, we can only do come dine with your child on a day when we have at least one year group out for the day.

Comic Relief—Friday 21st March

The school council voted for 'Wear it Funny'. This may include wearing odd socks, clothes back to front or inside out, clothes that are too big , funny sunglasses or hats and ties and/ or funny hair. This could be the style or the colour of their hair. We will have donation buckets on the playground. In class the children will have some mini comic talent shows. We haven't got any red noses on sale this year but you can buy them on Amazon.



MISSION GROVE

EASTER EGG HUNT

**FRIDAY 4TH APRIL
DURING SCHOOL HOURS**

£1 PER CHILD TO ENTER

Children can take part in a fun Easter egg
hunt on the school grounds

Includes a chocolate sweet for all
participants and an Easter Egg for the
winner in each year group

Proceeds go towards funding the school
playground works.





BAKE SALE NEXT WEEK!

Wednesday 19th March

Cakes and baked goods will be available to purchase in the playground after school.

Please donate cakes or baked treats (nut free) if you can or bring along some change on the day if you would like to enjoy some goodies and support school fundraising.

Thank you



VE Day Afternoon Tea

THURSDAY 8 MAY 2025, 2PM



TO COMMEMORATE THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF
VE DAY, MISSION GROVE SCHOOL IS HOSTING
AN AFTERNOON TEA. PARENTS ARE INVITED
TO JOIN THEIR CHILDREN TO CELEBRATE
THIS SPECIAL OCCASION

**JUST £5 PER PARENT
INCLUDES SCONE & JAM,
CAKES, SANDWICHES AND
TEA & COFFEE**

PAY ON PARENTPAY
ALL PROCEEDS GO
TOWARDS THE SCHOOL
PLAYGROUND WORKS



WALTHAM FOREST LIBRARIES

Autism SUPPORT GROUP

Group leader Surna Khan

Starting 10th March 2025

Every Monday
2-3pm
Community Room
Walthamstow library



Are you looking for a safe, welcoming space to connect with others in the autism community?

Walthamstow Library is launching a new Autism Support Group - a series of drop-in sessions designed for individuals with autism, their families, and carers. Group leader Surna Khan.

When? Every Monday from 10th March 2025

Time: 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Where? Community Room, Walthamstow Library

Who can attend? Everyone is welcome! (Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.)

These informal and friendly sessions offer a chance to share experiences, find support, and build connections with others in a relaxed environment. Whether you're looking for advice, a listening ear or simply a place to feel understood, you'll find a warm and inclusive atmosphere here.

Register your interest by clicking the link below or just drop in!

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/autism-support-group-at-walthamstow-library-tickets-1261204339129#:~:text=Are%20you%20looking%20for%20a,Group%20leader%20Surna%20Khan>

For more information, visit the library or ask a member of staff. We look forward to seeing you there!

WALTHAM FOREST ADULT LEARNING SERVICE



Help your child grow and thrive! Family Learning

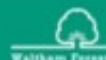


Our family learning programme delivers a variety of courses, workshops and events both in person, online and at different venues in Waltham Forest - courses and workshops are free for families.

List of upcoming courses / workshops

Course Code	Course Title	Venue	Date	Time	Day
FA0339C5	Create a woven pot	Leyton library	1.03.2025	1:00-3:00pm	Saturday
FA0409F1	Calm Parents, Calm Children - Parenting	Queens Road Family Hub	05.03.2025-02.04.2025	10:00 - 12:00pm	Wednesday
FA0113C4	Let's Explore Easter Arts and Crafts -	North Chingford Library	12.04.2025	12:30 - 2:30pm	Saturday
FA0303F1	Let's Explore Easter Arts and Crafts -	Leyton library	12.04.2025	12:30 - 2:30pm	Saturday
FA0256C4	Raising Confident and Resilient Children	The Junction Centre	30.4.2025 - 14. 5.2025	10:00 - 12:00pm	Wednesday

Enrol now through our website - www.lbwfadulthoodlearning.co.uk
For more information email adult.learning@walthamforest.gov.uk



COMMUNITY DROP IN

Our volunteers and partners can:

Provide information and support to navigate online forms.

Help residents to access benefits such as universal credit, council tax support, disability benefits.

Help with forms such as school admissions, blue badge, freedom pass and referrals for food banks.

Provide information on community activities, including health and well being activities, adult learning opportunities and family activities at family hubs.

We can support with access to services including, employment support, support for Carers, talking therapies and Early Help Link Workers.

For additional support queries please use the following:

For general WF council queries about parking, penalty charge notices, planning and building control, rubbish and recycling. [London Borough of Waltham Forest](http://www.london-borough-of-waltham-forest.gov.uk)

Call 02084963000

For Housing Advice - please email housing.advice@walthamforest.gov.uk

Apply for the LBWF housing register [here](#)

For [Waltham Forest Community Housing Advice](#)

Complex benefits queries and debt advice: [Citizens Advice Waltham Forest](#) 0300 330 1175

[Age UK](#) - 020 8558 5512

[Step Change](#) 0800 138 1111

[Legal Aid](#) - 0345 345 4345