

FRIDAY 13TH FEBRUARY

NEWSLETTER



“There’s always a reason to smile, you just have to find it.”



012345678

This Week at James Dixon



One fortuitous day in 1988 Len Blomstrand brought his son for his first day at James Dixon primary school. Len has been a part of the school ever since that day.

On Thursday we celebrated his incredible contribution to James Dixon as our Chair of Governors with a special assembly attended by Len's family, our Local Councillors and members of the Governing Body.

In true James Dixon style we put on a musical extravaganza which included a violin solo, djembe drums, recorders and a steel orchestra ensemble as well as whole school singing.

We gifted Len with 38 balloons in James Dixon blue to mark his 38 years of dedication to our school. Thank you to the one and only Len Blomstrand!



PTA Quiz Night



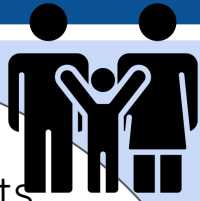
The PTA were on double duty last Friday - hosting a great quiz night whilst raising money for our school.

Mr. Entwistle, our charismatic quiz master, sparked some lively debate with his music round featuring the number one streamed songs of the past decade.

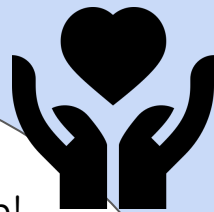
A wonderful time was enjoyed by everyone, including current parents, past parents, and even a few former pupils. Thank you and congratulations to everyone who made this event happen.



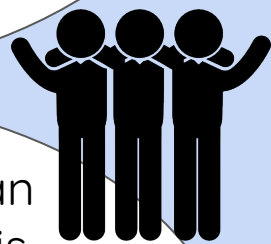
Pupil Leadership



Hi JD, this week was parents evening. Wooooo!
This is a time where your parents can find out how you, YES, you KIDS, whether you're good or bad. See you after half term!



Hey JD, happy half term!
On Friday, we had a wellbeing day where we got to wear our own clothes, do some Mes Amis and enjoy the last day of this half of the year! That's right, JD! You've now completed 50% of this school year!

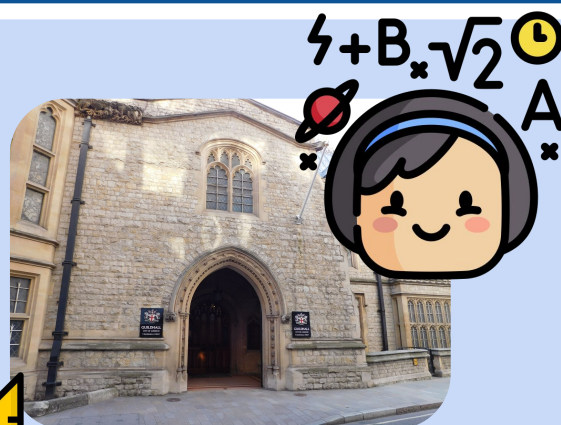
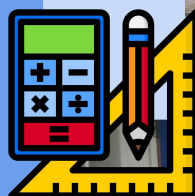


Hey JD! Hope you had an amazing last week of this term, we are now halfway through the school year! I'm so excited to tell you all about what I get up to during half term break!

Friday 13th February 2026

Christ's Hospital Maths Challenge

On Friday 6th February, four children from year 5 travelled with Mrs Salisbury and Shereen up to Guildhall in London to take part in a maths challenge run by Christ's Hospital School. The children took part in five different challenges, some included using their calculation skills, others included shape based tasks but all involved using their brains logically. A great afternoon was had by both the children and the adults!



Term Dates 2026

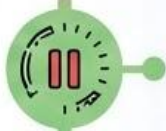


HELLO
SPRING

SPRING 2026



Term Starts:
Monday 5th
January 2026



Half Term:
Monday 16th
February - Friday
20th February 2026



Term Finishes:
Friday 27th March
2026 @ 2pm



HELLO
SUMMER

SUMMER 2026



Term Starts:
Tuesday 14th April
2026



Half Term:
Monday 25th May
- Friday 29th May
2026



Term Finishes:
Tuesday 21st July
2026 @ 2pm



HELLO
AUTUMN

AUTUMN 2026



Term Starts:
Wednesday 26th
August 2026
*(Bank Holiday
31st August)*



Half Term:
Monday 19th
October - Friday
30th October 2026



Term Finishes:
Friday 18th
December 2026
@ 2pm



Reception - Crystal Palace Park



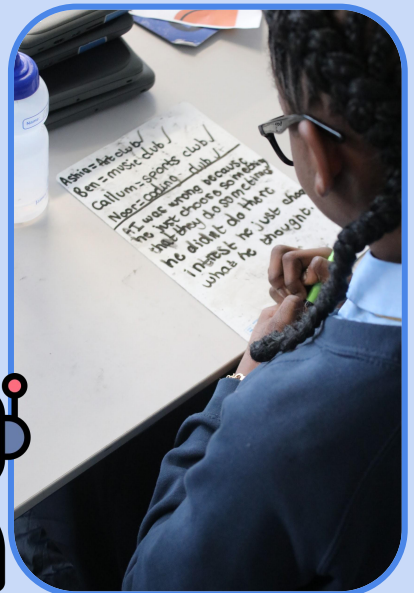
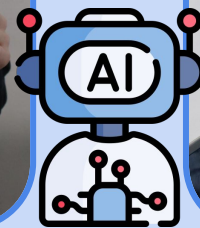
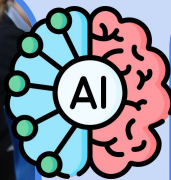
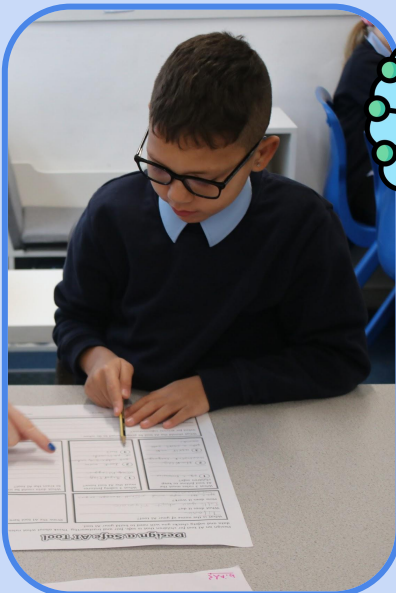
Reception children enjoyed a wonderful educational visit to Crystal Palace Park, exploring the grounds, observing the famous dinosaur sculptures, and learning about prehistoric life in a natural setting.

A fantastic day of discovery and fun!

Safer Internet Day



This week, we celebrated Safer Internet Day with a focus on the "smart" world of AI. Throughout the school, we learnt how to be "AI Aware" by thinking critically about what we see online, how to spot AI-generated content, and why it's vital to keep personal details private.



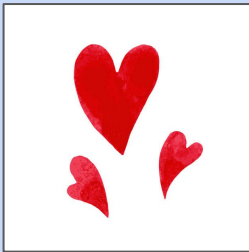
We encourage you to chat with your child about the clever tech they use and remind them that while machines are smart, nothing beats a human's intuition and safety-first mindset.



Children's Mental Health Day

What a wonderful day of colour and smiles. Thank you for all the generous donations!

In the afternoon we paired with our Mes Amis class to join in with a wellbeing activity. Some of us did mirror yoga, buddy bunting, nature mandala, trace and decorate amongst other things. Hopefully we all managed to finish the day feeling happy and relaxed and ready to start half term!



Curriculum Focus - RSE

*R*ELATIONSHIPS, *S*EX & *H*EALTH *E*DUICATION

When it comes to relationships, puberty and human reproduction, children's heads are probably not empty - but they may be full of myths and half truths. Our focus is on building healthy attitudes and positive relationships.

What should children know about relationships?

1. What a positive, healthy, caring, safe relationship looks and feel like
2. How to speak up and get help when a relationship does NOT feel healthy, positive and safe
3. How to make and maintain positive relationships.
(Online and offline relationships)

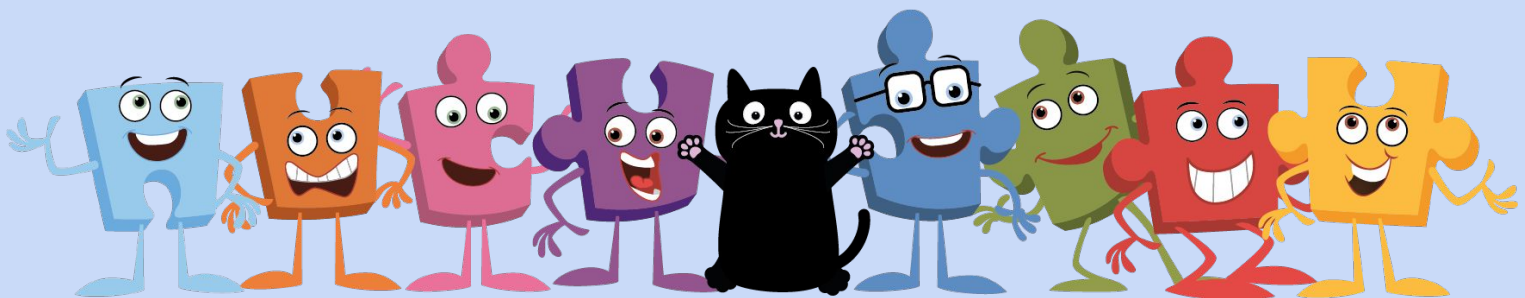
What should children know about puberty?

(This is statutory Health Education and pupils cannot be withdrawn from it)

- Correct names for parts of the body
- How their bodies will change during puberty
- How to manage these changes
- Why these changes need to happen
- How and where to ask for help if needed

What does the guidance say about Sex Education?

The Department for Education continues to recommend that all primary schools should have a sex education programme tailored to the age and physical and emotional maturity of the pupils...drawing on knowledge of the human life cycle set out in the National Curriculum for Science.

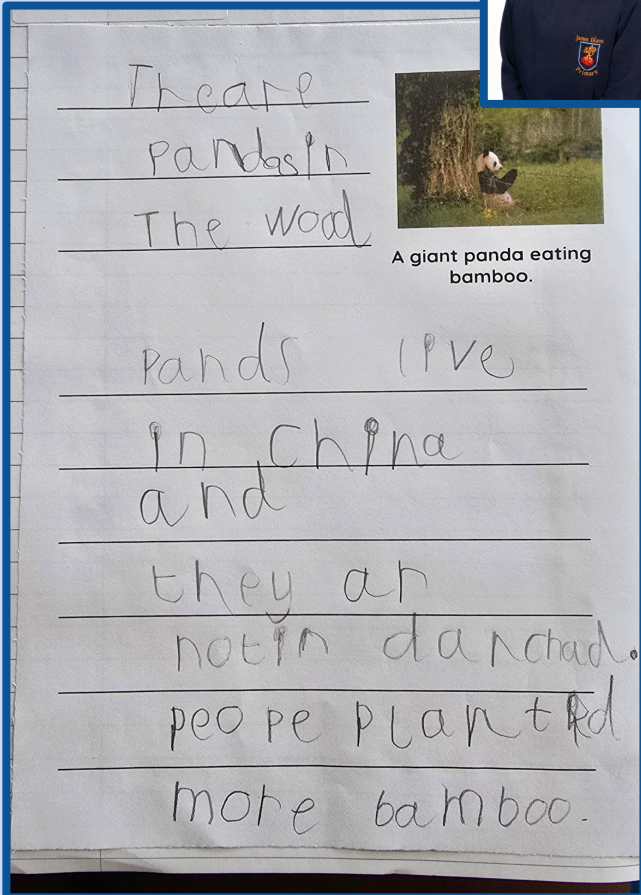




Exciting Writing!



A Diary Entry by Henry



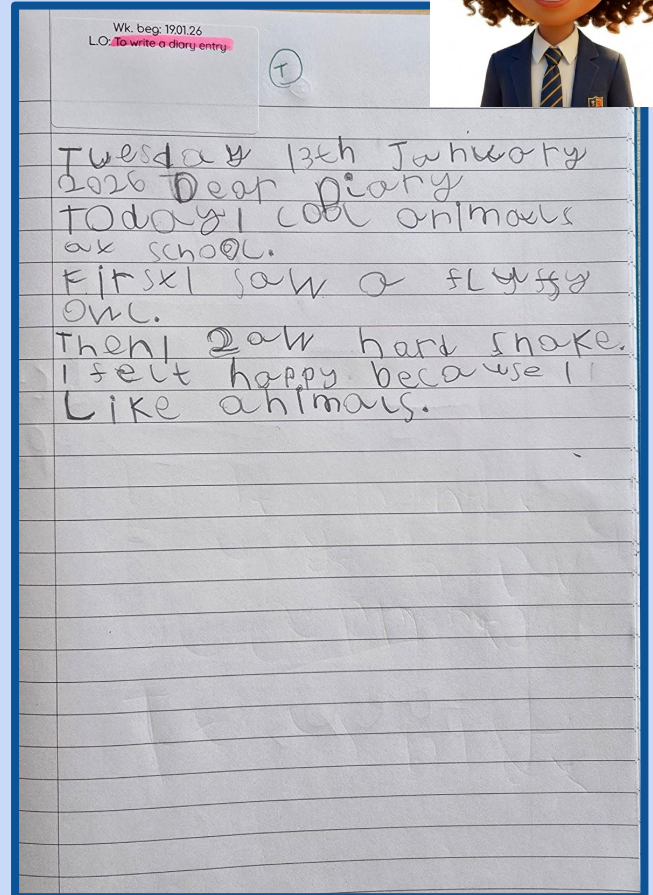
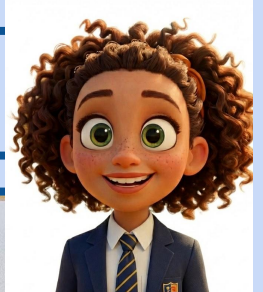
There are Pandas in the wood.

Pandas live in China and they are not endangered.

People there planted more bamboo.



A Diary Entry by Anna.



Tuesday 13th January 2026

Dear Diary,

Today I saw cool animals at school. First I saw a fluffy owl. Then I saw a hard snake. I felt happy because I like animals.

'... I felt happy because I like animals ...'

Sustainability

How to Have a Sustainable Winter Part 4: The Heat-Wrap

The Goal: Keep the warmth in your home and the carbon out of the air.

The Challenge: Master your curtains and your thermostat.

Why it matters: Closing curtains at sunset acts like a "hug" for your house, keeping the heat you've already paid for exactly where it belongs.

Action: Turn the thermostat down by just 1°C and put on your favorite cozy sweater.



Book Recommendation

The Invisible String by Patrice Karst is a modern classic that offers profound comfort to readers of all ages. The story introduces a heartwarming concept: an unbreakable string made of love that connects us to our dear ones, no matter how far apart we are. It is an essential tool for soothing separation anxiety, loneliness, or grief. This gentle, reassuring tale is a beautiful reminder that we are never truly alone.



Composition of the Week



[Click here to listen](#)

Maria Callas - Habanera from Bizet's Carmen

Genre: Opera

Composed in: 1875

Carmen is an opera in four acts by the French composer Georges Bizet. The opera is in French and was first performed in 1875. There were 62 musicians in the orchestra during its first run! *Carmen* has been widely acclaimed for its brilliant of melody, harmony, atmosphere, and orchestration.

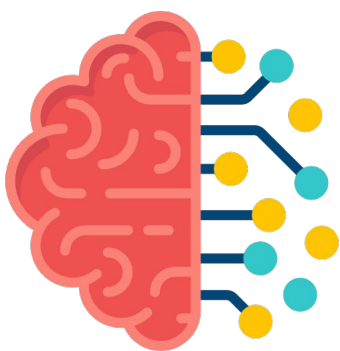
Online Safety

Essential Resources for Families

Source smart, browse safe



Common Sense Media



Best For: Independent reviews by parents and kids to see if a movie, game, or app is age-appropriate.

<https://www.common sense media.org/>

STEM WEEK

FAMILY FUN MATHS

Week Beginning: | **2nd March** | See timetable below

IN THE HALL

Join your child to play fun, logical and challenging maths games.

| | Monday 2nd March | Tuesday 3rd March | Wednesday 4th March | Friday 6th March |
|-------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 9:00-9:40 | Year Two | Year Five | Year Four | |
| 13:10-13:50 | | Year Three | Year One | Year Six |

Please complete the form to confirm whether you will be attending.

[Click here for the google form](#)

Weekly Attendance

Be here every day, all day!

92%

| Year Group | Attendance |
|-------------|------------|
| Curious | 97% |
| Adventurous | 94% |
| Confident | 89% |
| Honest | 99% |
| Respectful | 89% |
| Energetic | 81% |
| Expressive | 96% |
| Reflective | 92% |
| Resilient | 94% |
| Considerate | 88% |
| Kind | 96% |
| Capable | 96% |
| Cooperative | 91% |

James Dixon
Primary



Next week's achievers

Home learning

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Honest | Emilyn |
| Respectful | Emir |
| Energetic | Amarise |
| Expressive | Maya |
| Reflective | Jude |
| Resilient | Finn |
| Considerate | Zahara |
| Kind | Chira |
| Capable | Mahalah |
| Cooperative | Safa |
| Colourful Class Star of the Week | AJ & Ezra |

Dates for your diary

| <u>Mon 16th February</u> | <u>Tue 17th February</u> | <u>Wed 18th February</u> | <u>Thur 19th February</u> | <u>Fri 20th February</u> |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| <p><u>HALF TERM</u></p> | <p><u>HALF TERM</u></p> | <p><u>HALF TERM</u></p> | <p><u>HALF TERM</u></p> | <p><u>HALF TERM</u></p> |
| <p><u>Mon 23rd February</u></p> <p>Little Coders Yr 1-2 3.00 pm</p> <p>Mini athletics Rec-Yr 1 3.00 pm</p> <p>Nature Makers Rec-Y 1 3.00 pm</p> <p>Tennis Club Yr 1-6 3.00 pm</p> <p>Drama Club Yr 1-3 3.00 pm</p> <p>Football Club 3 pm</p> | <p><u>Tue 24th February</u></p> <p>Mini athletics Yr 2-3 3.00 pm</p> <p>Drama Club Yr 4-6 3.00 pm</p> | <p><u>Wed 25th February</u></p> <p>Cheerleading Club Yr 2-6 7.45 am</p> <p>Gymnastics Club Rec-Yr 6 3.00 pm</p> <p>Code Camp Yr 3-6 3.00 pm</p> | <p><u>Thur 26th February</u></p> <p><u>Achievement Assembly (invited parents only)</u> 10.10 am</p> <p>Creative Writing Club Yr 3-6 3.00 pm</p> <p>Taekwondo Club 3.00 pm</p> <p>Steel Pan Club Yr 3-4 3.00 pm</p> | <p><u>Fri 27th February</u></p> <p>Dance Club Rec-Yr 6 7.50 am</p> |
| <p><u>Monday 2nd March</u></p> <p><u>Family Fun Maths</u> Yr 2 9-9.40 am</p> <p>Little Coders Yr 1-2 3.00 pm</p> <p>Mini athletics Rec-Yr 1 3.00 pm</p> <p>Nature Makers Rec-Y 1 3.00 pm</p> <p>Tennis Club Yr 1-6 3.00 pm</p> <p>Drama Club Yr 1-3 3.00 pm</p> <p>Football Club 3 pm</p> | <p><u>Tuesday 3rd March</u></p> <p><u>Family Fun Maths</u> Yr 5 9-9.40 am</p> <p><u>Family Fun Maths</u> Yr 3 1.10-1.50 pm</p> <p>Mini athletics Yr 2-3 3.00 pm</p> <p>Drama Club Yr 4-6 3.00 pm</p> | <p><u>Wednesday 4th March</u></p> <p><u>Family Fun Maths</u> Yr 4 9.00-9.40 am</p> <p><u>Family Fun Maths</u> Yr 1 1.10-1.50 pm</p> <p>Cheerleading Club Yr 2-6 7.45 am</p> <p>Gymnastics Club Rec-Yr 6 3.00 pm</p> <p>Code Camp Yr 3-6 3.00 pm</p> | <p><u>Thursday 5th March</u></p> <p>Creative Writing Club Yr 3-6 3.00 pm</p> <p>Taekwondo Club 3.00 pm</p> <p>Steel Pan Club Yr 3-4 3.00 pm</p> | <p><u>Friday 5th March</u></p> <p><u>Family Fun Maths</u> Yr 6 1.10-1.50 pm</p> <p>Dance Club Rec-Yr 6 7.50 am</p> |

James Dixon
Primary





The Green Crew

GARDENING & NATURE CLUB

FOR CHILDREN 10 & UNDER ACCOMPANIED BY A CARER / PARENT

Come on in!

FIND OUT MORE:

0744 4579 277

PENGE EAST COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
EMAIL: PECACOMMUNITYCENTRE@GMAIL.COM

JOIN THE GREEN CREW!

Who is the Green Crew?

The Green Crew is a free, fun gardening and nature club for primary school age children, run by volunteers from Penge East Community Association (PECA)



What does the Green Crew do?

The Green Crew connects children to nature and gardening through hands-on creative activities such as:

- 🌱 Planting seeds and bulbs and watching them grow
- 💧 Watering and caring for plants
- 🐦 Watching garden birds and other wildlife
- 🏠 Learning about swifts, as part of PECA's 'Make Penge a swift town' project
- 🌱 Exploring the changing seasons
- 🐛 Creating mini habitats for outdoor creatures
- 🍷 Harvesting fruit and vegetables
- ☀️ Learning about sun, rain, soil, and how things grow
- 🎨 Getting crafty with nature-themed art using paint, clay, and collage.

We also take part in exciting citizen science projects, like the Big Garden Birdwatch. This Spring/Summer we'll be joined three times by Ema, who will run Forest School activities (dates below).

Who can join the Green Crew?

All primary school children are very welcome, and must come along with a parent or carer. Younger siblings are welcome too - there's toys and games for little ones. Please dress for outdoor fun - we provide gloves and tools!

When & where do we meet?

- 🕒 At weekends
- 📍 Penge East Community Centre



Come to one session or as many as you like — no need to book, just turn up. It's free! Free refreshments for everyone. 🍷 😊

Spring/Summer 2026 date and times:

| | |
|---|---|
| Sun 25 Jan: 10.30 am – 12.30 | Sat 9 May: 10.30- 12.30 (Forest School) |
| Sat 7 Feb: 10 – 12 | Sat 23 May: 10.30 – 12.30 |
| Sun 22 Feb: 10- 12 (Forest School) | Sun 7 June: 10.30 – 12.30 (Forest School) |
| Sun 8 March: 10 – 12.30 | Sun 21 June:10.30 – 12.30 |
| Sat 18 April: 2.pm – 4pm | |
| More diary dates: 10 May – Community Open Day; 31 May – Welcome the swifts home picnic! 20 June - (part of Penge Festival); Celebrate all that's green about Penge (Name coming soon!) | |