

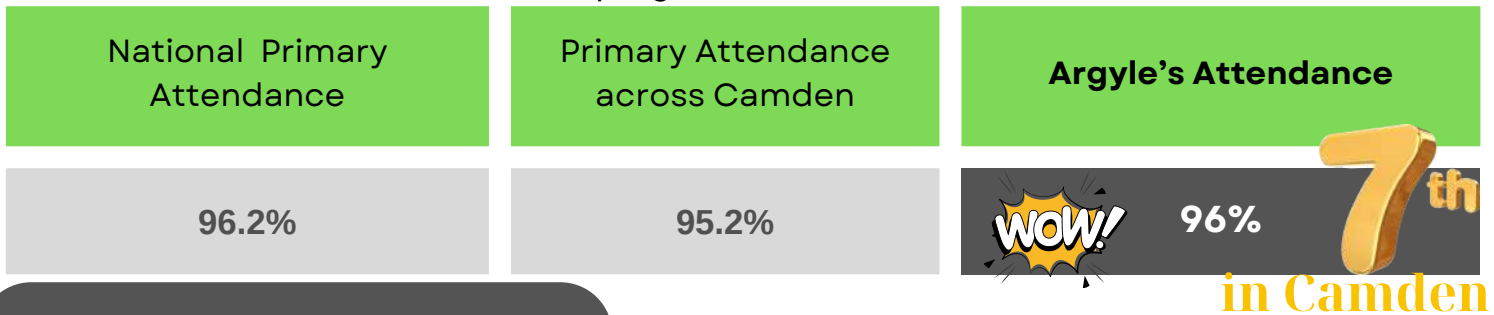


# NEWSLETTER



## Attendance Highlight

Every Monday Camden's Attendance and Children Out of School Service publish a list of school attendance and we track our progress.



## HEAD TEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents/Carers,

Our value for October is kindness. Children can surprise us by how kind they can be and how unkind they can be. By explicitly teaching about kindness and celebrating small acts of kindness we can help ensure that children are more often kind than unkind. The definition of kindness that we use with the children is: "The quality of being friendly, generous and considerate." We teach children that friendly greetings and warm smiles can make the school, their classroom and our community a kinder place. We teach them that being generous doesn't always mean the giving of gifts or material goods but can be the giving of time and help and company. We believe that the vast majority of children want to be liked and thought of as kind. If they make a mistake and are unkind, it is helpful for them to explicitly see that their careless comment or action was unkind and to understand how they can repair the situation. Explicit teaching of concepts, when linked to real examples of behaviour and real situations, can help children to reflect upon their words and actions and lead to a very kind community indeed. Do keep celebrating your children's kindness with them. Have a lovely weekend.

*J. Wade*  
Head Teacher

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

This month marks Black History Month and while as a school we teach Black History all year round, we recognise October as Black History Month across the UK. We have been sharing stories of significant figures in the Black community in line with the national theme of '**Changing Narratives**'. In an assembly this week we learnt about Benjamin Zephaniah, a Black poet from Birmingham who wrote many poems on kindness and respect which links to our value this month.

All classes in KS1 and KS2 will be learning the poem 'What do people need?' by Benjamin Zephaniah.

### Benjamin Zephaniah

Benjamin Zephaniah was born in Birmingham on 15<sup>th</sup> April 1958.

Benjamin said he cannot remember a time when he wasn't creating poetry. He did his first public performance of his poetry when he was just ten years old. Benjamin said his childhood was full of poetry and he remembers hearing his mum turn recipes into poems as she was cooking.

Benjamin had dyslexia. Dyslexia is a learning difficulty that can make it difficult to read and write. When Benjamin was young, less was known about dyslexia and Benjamin left school at the age of 13, unable to read or write.

#### Talk About It

Benjamin's full name is Benjamin Obadiah Iqbal Zephaniah. Do you have any middle names?



**What do people need?  
People need people,  
to please  
to tease  
to put you at ease,  
People will always need  
people.  
To make life appealing  
And give life meaning,  
It's useful to have other  
people.  
If you need a change  
To whom will you turn.  
If you need a lesson  
From whom will you  
learn.  
If you need to play  
You'll know why I say  
People will always need  
people.**

# YEAR 6



## British Museum Trip

On Wednesday, Year 6 went to the British Museum to see the exhibition 'Silk Roads' to find out more about their history topic on Early Islamic Civilisation. The exhibition tells the story of the many routes which crossed mountains and deserts, and navigated seas and rivers. It was not only objects, such as spices and cloth, which travelled along the networks, but also ideas and religions. The exhibition shows that objects travelled long distances: a small statue of the Buddha was unearthed on a small island in Sweden; glass from the Middle East reached Japan via China. Countries became connected by trade even if the people did not come into direct contact.

We saw a number of fascinating objects: pieces from the world's earliest chess set which were made in India and found in Uzbekistan' a very early copy of the Qu'ran, antique silk from China and a Christian cross with an Arabic inscription.



“

I really enjoyed seeing the Qur'an written in ancient Arabic. It felt like I was stepping back in time!. - Aizah

I was amazed to see the old chess pieces! Knowing they are the oldest in the world made it even more special. -

Aayan

”

# Year 5 Amethyst



This week in science, the children have been investigating the friction generated by different shoe soles that helps us to stop or slow down when we are on a swing.

The children tested different shoes using a Newton metre to measure the amount of force needed to drag each weighted shoe along a table.

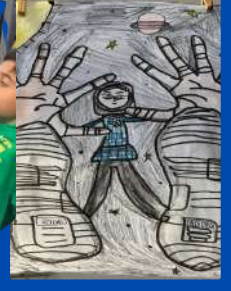
They considered the following questions:

## **Does each shoe require a different force to move it? Why?**

- The material of the sole is different.
- The material of the sole affects the amount of friction between the shoe and the floor.
- The amount of friction also depends on the tread on the sole.

The children had already looked carefully at their different shoe soles when creating a piece of art entitled falling through space, looking at the feeling of weightlessness experienced by astronauts

This lesson also enabled them to explore the technique of foreshortening in art.



# Year 3

Last Friday, Year 3 had an exciting trip to the Chiltern Open Air Museum, where they stepped back in time to experience life in prehistoric Britain. During their visit, the children learned about the Stone Age and Iron Age through hands-on activities. They practiced throwing spears, creating natural pigments, and building shelters with animal skins. They also tried their hand at turning sparks into fire, just like our ancient ancestors! In the Iron Age session, they churned butter, ground flour, and made delicious flatbread, giving them a real taste of life in early Britain. It was an unforgettable day of learning and adventure!



On Tuesday, Year 3 had a fantastic time visiting The Place, where they not only watched an amazing performance by the dancers but also participated in a creative movement workshop. They learned new techniques like travel, feature, turn, and stillness. We're excited to continue working with professionals from The Place during the spring term!



On Thursday, Year 3 had a fantastic time in the garden classroom! They explored what's growing in the garden, worked together to prepare the planting plots, and planted herbs. Over the coming weeks, they'll be responsible for caring for these plants as they watch them grow. It was a great day of teamwork and learning about nature!

# Year 2

We have had another great week in Year 2. It's Assessment Week so we have been doing some Maths and English tests amongst our other learning.

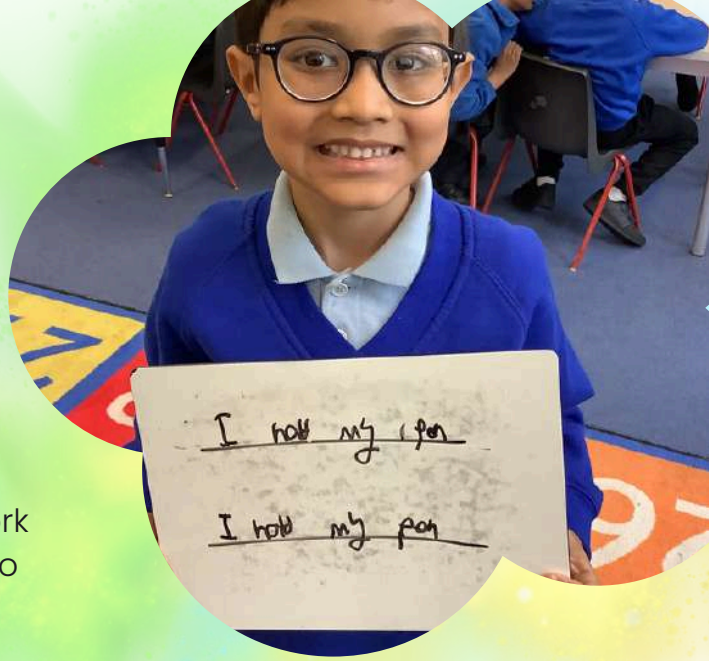
This week, the children have been doing their 'Hot Write', an independent write of 'The Lost Property Office'. They have been learning to edit their own work with a green pen, an important skill they'll continue to use as they go up in the school.

In Maths, we have started our new topic on Addition and Subtraction. This week's homework practice is some of this learning, as well as reviewing our last topic on Place Value. This is new learning for many children so do help them where they need it.

In our History lessons, the children have been absolutely fascinated by the story of Amelia Earhart and her mysterious disappearance. We have been predicting in class what may have happened to her which has captured the children's imagination and curiosity.

In Design and Technology, we have continued our 'Wheels and Axels' topic, with children designing their own vehicle in preparation for creating it using wheels and axels.

Next week is our highly anticipated trip to The Transport Museum. All parents and carers are invited so please let Ms Plumb or Ms Courtsley know if you would like to join.



# YEAR 1

To support their understanding of transport in history, Year 1 enjoyed their short excursion to St. Pancras Station and made some very interesting observations. Luqman pondered, **'Why is the train going to Paris?'** and Ahmed mused, **'People want to buy things here and this place is very fancy'**. Karim stated, **'People are visiting here and they need to get back to their country'**. Shortly after, the children were able to get on to platform 3 and waved to the passengers onboard a train heading to Nottingham.

In science, Year 1 made a months of the year wheel and identified which months were in each season.



## St Pancras Station

Jade class would firstly like to say a huge 'Thank you' to the train driver who allowed the children to observe closely how a train operates. We saw many trains arrive and depart from the platforms. We counted the number of carriages that makes the Eurostar.

Kaysan - **'There are 16 carriages on this train'**.

Maryam - **'There are 18 carriages on the other one - that's two more'**.

Ahmed - **'And that's why this one is longer (pointing to the longer train).'**

Today all the drivers on these train were amazing and many passengers too as they greeted us with a wave and a smile!

The children were buzzing with excitement and had many queries about how a train station works.

Hopefully all will be answered by the end of this Transport topic.





# RECEPTION



This week we have been reading 'Handa's Surprise'. In the story, a little girl called Handa puts seven fruits into a basket for her friend Akeyo but on her journey some animals come and take the fruits one by one. After reading the story the children then practised telling the story using story action words and created a story map.

In Religious Education we have read the story of Siddhartha and the Swan and we talked about how we should treat each other and toys with kindness in school. We discussed how we must take care of all living things especially when we are playing outside.

In maths, the children have been counting 3 amounts and subitising 2 and 3 amounts. The children can see 3 amounts easily because it can look like a triangle. Some children explored counting groups of three and found that 3 and 3 and another 3 make 9.

Next week we have our Speaking and Listening workshops on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, all parents have an invitation that tells you which day to attend.



I Can Sing A Rainbow



# NURSERY



In Nursery this week we continued with our topic of Nursery Rhymes and practised singing 'I can sing a rainbow', 'Miss Molly had a dolly', '3 little ducks' and 'If you're happy and you know it'. Please click on the QR code to enjoy singing 'I can sing a rainbow' and other rhymes with your child at home. The children have also started playing with the song box independently and making their own rhyme sessions together. Humayra led a few of her own song sessions this week! This week we read the book 'The Colour Monster', by Anna Llenas, which is about a friendly monster whose emotions are all mixed up. His best friend helps him to sort out and name his emotions by putting the different coloured emotions into jars. The children started learning about their own feelings this week. We thought about what it feels and looks like to be happy, sad, angry and scared, and we talked about what kind of things have made us feel like this in our lives. Micha said, "I feel happy when my sister plays with me", Zahra said, "I feel scared when my brother says boo!". We looked at the different emotions and built yellow town (where the people are happy), blue town (where the people are sad) and green town (where the people are calm).

We also learnt about shadows this week and how they are made. We had fun trying to create hand shadows and the children were great at finding other kinds of shadow in nursery. We talked about shadows at night time and how these can sometimes make us feel scared (this happens in the colour monster book), but we felt less scared when we experimented and found out how shadows are formed.

We also talked about the importance of family this week, and how our loved ones make us feel special, happy and safe. In stay and play this week, parents and children worked together to create their own colour monsters. Abdur said, "angry monster, 2 eyes". Elaura said, "I made a scary monster".



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## OCTOBER

Monday 14th

**Trip:** Year 1 visit The London Transport Museum from 9.30am - 2.30pm

Tuesday 15th

**Event:** Reception Speaking & Listening Workshop for parents from 9am - 10am  
- by invitation only

Wednesday 16th

**Event:** Reception Speaking & Listening Workshop for parents from 9am - 10am  
- by invitation only

**Trip:** Year 2 visit The London Transport Museum from 9.30am - 2.30pm

Thursday 17th

**Event:** Reception Speaking & Listening Workshop for parents from 9am - 10am  
- by invitation only

**Event:** Bloomsbury Publishers & Harry Potter event for Year 4 from 9am - 12pm

Friday 18th

**Trip:** Year 5 visit Google Headquarters from 10am - 12.30pm

Tuesday 22nd

**Trip:** Year 5 visit Coram Beanstalk Book Festival from 12pm - 3.30pm

**Trip:** Year 1 visit St Pancras Church from 9.45am - 11.15am

Wednesday 23rd

**Trip:** Year 4 visit The Thames Explorer from 9am - 3pm

**Trip:** Year 3 visit The Museum of Zoology from 9.30am - 12.30pm

Thursday 24th

**Event:** Year 6 Islamic Civilisation Assembly at 8.55am - Parents invite

Friday 25th

**Last Day of Autumn Term 1 - School closes at 3.15pm**

**Half Term Holiday - Monday 28th October - Friday 1st November 2024**

## NOVEMBER

Monday 4th

**Pupils return to school today - Please be in line at 8.40am**

# Attendance & Punctuality



Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Rec: Jet	91	91	90	83	86	93	
1 Jade	93	92	93	91	99	99	
1 Ruby	95	100	96	98	98	95	
2 Amber	86	95	94	91	99	92	
2 Opal	88	95	100	98	99	100	
3 Garnet	98	96	98	98	97	97	
3 Pearl	91	95	97	97	93	90	
4 Emerald	96	98	95	99	99	97	
4 Onyx	94	94	91	97	94	93	
5 Amethyst	99	98	99	97	93	93	
6 Sapphire	95	96	95	99	99	96	
Total	94	95	95	95	95	95	
Camden				95			

Congratulations to 2 Opal for attaining **100%** attendance this week. This is the second time this term they've achieved 100% attendance!

Well done to 1 Jade, 3 Garnet, 4 Emerald and 6 Sapphire for attaining or exceeding the target of **96%** attendance this week.

## Punctuality

This week **36** of sessions in the registers were marked as 'L' (Late).

Pupils should be in their line at **8.40am**, ready to go up to class and be marked into the register at 8.45am when school begins.

### "We are only a few minutes late" – Does it matter?

Being late for school reduces learning time and does not prepare your child with good daily habits.

- Arrival 5 minutes late every day = 3 days of learning missed each year
- Arrival 15 minutes late every day = 10 days or 2 weeks of learning each year.

## Reporting Absences

Parents should report any absences to the school office by calling 02078374590 before 9.30am.

Please do not leave messages on the answering machine. A member of staff may call you again to discuss the absence.

Please do not send emails to the admin inbox.

**Every School Day Counts**

# Attendance & Punctuality

## Attendance : We moved closer to the top this week

Every Monday, Camden's Attendance and Children Out of School Service share comparable attendance data, and we did even better than last week!

This week we placed **joint 7th** place (with Hampstead Parochial) out of **18** primary schools across Camden that are at or above Camden's average of **95.2%**. This ranking does not even take into account the schools that didn't meet the criteria, making our achievement even more impressive!

This week's attendance was a close one! Our school achieved a fantastic **96%** attendance rate, demonstrating the commitment of some of our families to maintaining strong attendance.

What makes this result even more impressive is how narrowly we missed climbing higher in the rankings. The school that came in 6th place had just **0.1% more attendance than us**, with a rate of 96.1%, the joint 4th place was 96.4% and third place was 96.5%.

**This shows how every single day matters when it comes to attendance!**

Once again, a big thank you to all the parents and pupils for prioritising regular attendance. Let's keep up the momentum and aim for an even better result next week.

**Remember, every school day counts!**

## Keep an eye on your child's attendance via ParentHub!

**How to do it:**

1. Open the App, click on 'Schools' at the bottom of the page.
2. Select the name of your child.
3. Check their attendance for the year or click on attendance to see the last two weeks of attendance.

be in school . . .  
**ON TIME**  
all day  
**EVERY DAY**