

THE PAKEMAN PRESS

Thank you for taking the time to read this weekly newsletter.
We hope you will find its contents useful.



Pakeman
Primary
School

Issue 2 Spring Term 2026

Friday 16th January 2026

Elm Children Get Creative

Children in Elm have been very busy since the start of the new term using stories as a stimulus for learning.

They began by reading *Owl Babies*, a story which helps children to explore feelings of anxiety around leaving their parents and carers when starting school.



They have also been using *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* to help them sort food into different categories and to discuss and consider healthy food choices.



Both stories provided great art opportunities - the children have created a super display and made homes and worms to eat using playdough.



SUPER STARS



Elm	Khaleela
Pine	Dion
Cherry	Ilya
Holly	Grace
Maple	Hamilton
Willow	Zahra
Palm	Albie
Banyan	Neva
Olive	Asheena
Cedar	Yusuf
Mahogany	Abdullah
Eucalyptus	Maria
Sequoia	Aysha B

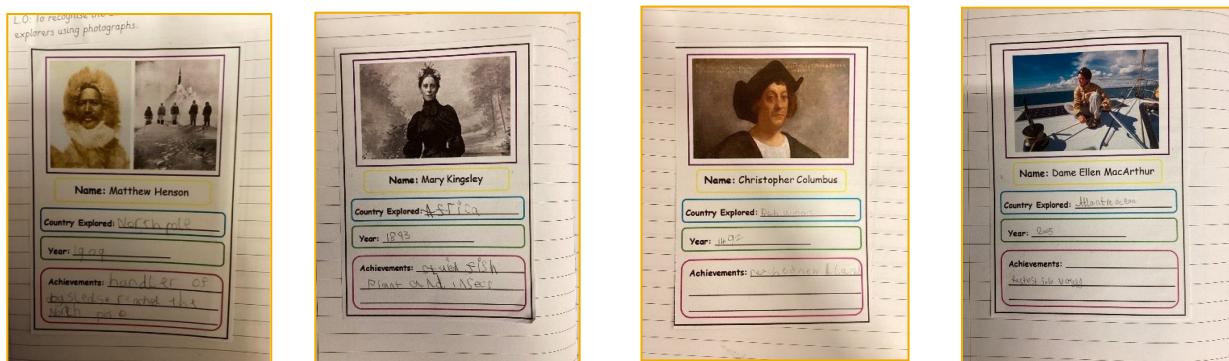


The Great Explorers

KS1 have started their new book in Literacy, *The Great Explorer* by Chris Judge. The children were excited to welcome the character, Tom, who answered their many questions about his adventure to the North Pole to find his dad.



In History, the children are learning about several famous explorers. They have created a great set of trading cards for Mary Kingsley, Christopher Columbus, Matthew Henson and Dame Ellen MacArthur, showcasing what facts they have learned about each explorer.



A Great Achievement



Latifa in Sequoia class had a great achievement in maths last week. She was the first Y6 child to reach 40/40 in her arithmetic SATs practice test! Well done!



Is My Child Too Ill For School?

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school, nursery or playgroup when they're unwell. There are government guidelines for schools and nurseries about [health protection and managing specific infectious diseases at GOV.UK](#). These say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't.

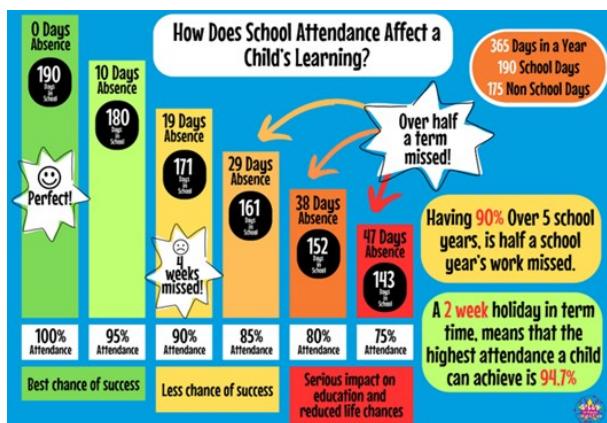
If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day. Let them know that your child won't be in and give them the reason. If your child is well enough to go to school but has an infection that could be passed on, such as a cold sore or head lice, let their teacher know.



Is my child too ill for school?

[NHS – Is my child too ill for school](#)

[NHS – How to keep my child healthy](#)

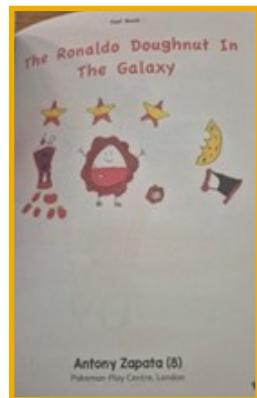
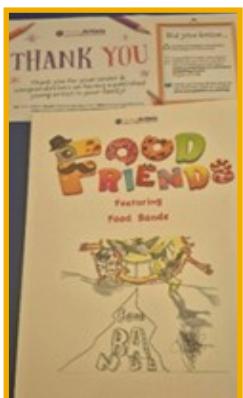


Attendance and Punctuality

Year Group	Best Attendance	Most Improved	Best Punctuality
EYFS & KS1	Holly Class	Under 95%	Elm Class
KS2	Mahogany Class	Under 95%	Over 3 lates

Playcentre Illustrators

Last term, a group of children at playcentre entered a drawing competition. They had to design and name a food character. We have just discovered that these children have had their art work published in a book. Very well done to our published illustrators!



Thank You and Goodbye

Sadly, this week we are saying goodbye to Natalie. We would like to thank her for her commitment to Pakeman since 2019 and for the really positive difference she has made to so many children and their families during her time in our school. We wish Natalie the very best in the future as she explores new opportunities.




Social Communication Team Therapy & Play Session

A drop-in session for children under 5 who:

- Are waiting for assessment with the Social Communication Team (SCT)
- Or
- Have a diagnosis of Autism

What the sessions offer:

- A welcoming, inclusive place for children with social communication differences, **who are not yet in school**
- Child focused activities facilitated by the Bright Start Team and supported by the Social Communication Team
- A relaxed and friendly space for you and your child to play together.
- The opportunity to ask questions, get support and meet other parents and carers.
- Access to advice, strategies & signposting from Bright Start & the Social Communication Team.

brightstart@islington.gov.uk
Bright Start South 020 7527 4089
Bright Start North 020 7527 8441

Family Hubs, Start for Life
Whittington Health NHS Trust **ISLINGTON** For a more equal future

Term time only

Tuesdays, 10-11:30am
Family Hub South at Bemerton Children's Centre N1 0DX

Thursdays, 10-11:30am
Family Hub North at Hornsey Road Children's Centre N7 7EN

Occupational Therapy

Advice during Stay & Plays:

- **Hornsey Road Children's Centre**
Thursday 8th January (2 – 3:30pm)
- **Bemerton Children's Centre**
Thursday 22nd January (10:30–3pm)
- **New River Green Children's Centre**,
Friday 23rd January (9:30 – 11am)
- **Willow Children's Centre**
Friday 30th January (4 – 5pm)
- **Cowenwood Children's Centre**
Wednesday 2nd February (3:30 – 5:00pm)
- **Golden Lane Children's Centre**
Thursday 12th February (3:45 – 5:00pm)

Rebecca, our Family Hub Occupational Therapist, will be available to talk to families about their child's daily activities e.g. eating, tooth brushing, toileting, sleep.

Scan the QR code for more information and dates.

Family Hubs, Start for Life Whittington Health NHS Trust **ISLINGTON** For a more equal future

Monday, 26th January 1:30 – 3pm
Archway Children's Centre

Wednesday, 25th February 9:30-11am
Bemerton Children's Centre

Tuesday, 17th March 10 – 11:30am
Cowenwood Children's Centre

Come and meet a Bright Start Speech and Language Therapist at these sessions!
The Speech and Language Therapist will share information about early communication development and give you some ideas on ways you can support your child's communication development and play skills.

NHS Whittington Health NHS Trust **ISLINGTON** For a more equal future




Speech and Language

Advice during these sessions:

Andover Community Centre
Thursday, 19th January (10:00 – 11:30am)

Hornsey Road Children's Centre
Thursday, 22nd January (2:00 – 3:30pm)

Willow Children's Centre
Wednesday, 28th January (10:00 – 11:30am)

North Islington Nursery
Tuesday, 3rd February (4:00 – 5:00pm)

Archway Children's Centre
Monday, 9th February (10:00 – 11:30am)

Jennifer Fuentes Perez, Bright Start Speech and Language Therapist, will come and share tips and ideas to support children's communication and language development.

Scan the QR code to always access the updated dates

NHS Whittington Health NHS Trust **ISLINGTON** For a more equal future

brightstartcentral@islington.gov.uk 0207 827 8465

Bright Start Islington

Take a visit to your local Bright Start Stay and Play session to experience creative activities and much more. There are plenty on offer across the borough, at different times on each day of the week.

Search through the [Bright Start Timetable](#) and take your pick.





PAKEMAN PTA MEETING

Tuesday, January 20
2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Event planning for 2026



NHS Whittington Health NHS Trust

Building Joint Attention & Interaction
A Speech and Language Therapy Parent Workshop

An online workshop for parents of children (18 months – 5 years) who are **not yet speaking** or **only using a few words**, offering practical tips to develop shared attention and interaction through play and daily activities.

Please register to one of the following dates:

Wednesday, 24th September 2025 10:30 – 11:45am
Thursday, 5th February 2026 12:00 – 1:15pm
Wednesday, 13th May 2026 10:30 – 11:45am

Delivered online on Microsoft Teams

Scan the QR code or use the link below to register
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/building-joint-attention-and-interaction-tickets-1478093591749?aff=oddtdtcreator>

Places are limited. You will receive an email with the link once you register.

Any questions? Speak to a Bright Start Practitioner or Bright Start Speech and Language therapy team on 0203 316 1897

A full colour version of this newsletter can be found on our school website at: www.pakemanprimary.co.uk