

# 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**

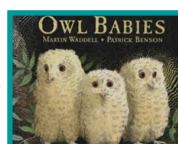
Issue 2 Spring Term 2026

Friday 16th January 2026

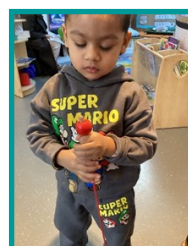
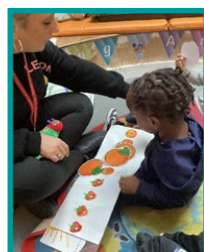
## Elm Children Get Creative

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.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Spring Term:

Half term:  
Mon 16 Feb – Fri 20 Feb

End of Term:  
Friday 27 March

### Summer Term:

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April

### Please Remember:

Holidays are not authorised during term time. Unauthorised holidays could result in penalty charges being issued to each parent/carer with parental responsibility.



## SUPER STARS



Elm  
Pine  
Cherry  
Holly  
Maple  
Willow  
Palm  
Banyan  
Olive  
Cedar  
Mahogany  
Eucalyptus  
Sequoia

Khaleela  
Dion  
Ilya  
Grace  
Hamilton  
Zahra  
Albie  
Neva  
Asheena  
Yusuf  
Abdullah  
Maria  
Aysha B

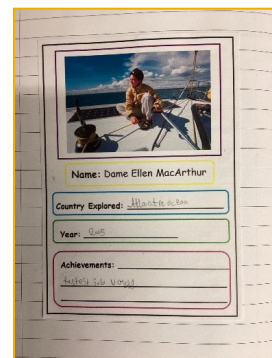
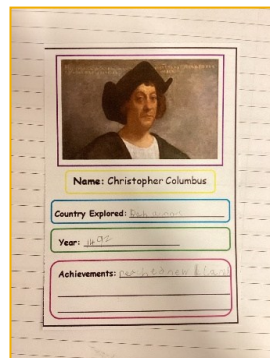
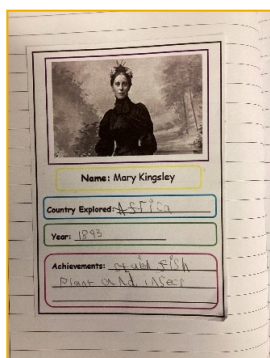
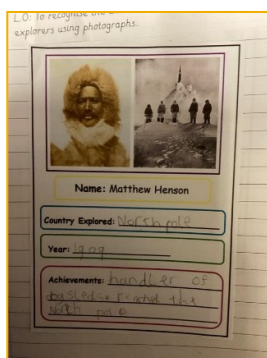


## The Great Explorers

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](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-and-managing-specific-infectious-diseases). **These say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't.**

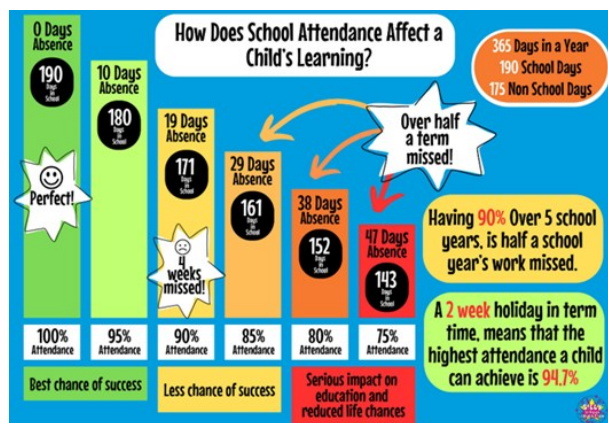
If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day. Let them know that your child won't be in and give them the reason. If your child is well enough to go to school but has an infection that could be passed on, such as a cold sore or head lice, let their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



[NHS – Is my child too ill for school](https://www.nhs.uk/health/Is-my-child-too-ill-for-school)

[NHS – How to keep my child healthy](https://www.nhs.uk/health/How-to-keep-my-child-healthy)



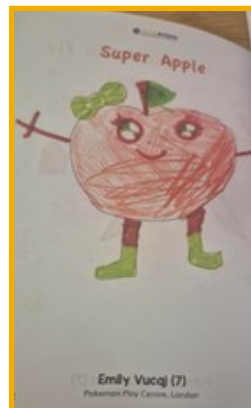
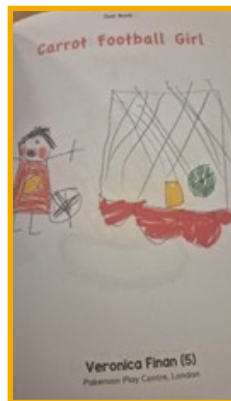
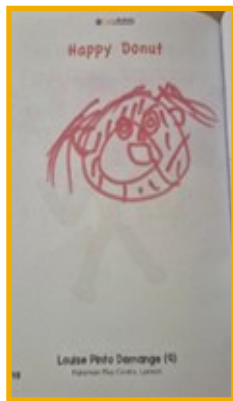
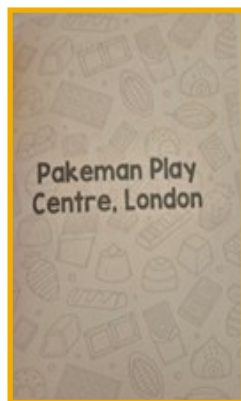


## Attendance and Punctuality

| 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](mailto:brightstart@islington.gov.uk)  
Bright Start South 020 7527 4089  
Bright Start North 020 7527 8441

**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

Family Hubs, Start for Life





## Occupational Therapy Advice during Stay & Plays:

**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.**

- **Hornsey Road Children's Centre**  
Thursday 8th January (2 - 3.30pm)
- **Bemerton Children's Centre**  
Thursday 22nd January (1.30-3pm)
- **New River Green Children's Centre,**  
Friday 23rd January (9.30 - 10am)
- **Willow Children Centre**  
Friday 30th January (4 - 5pm)
- **Conewood Children's Centre**  
Wednesday 2nd February (3.30 - 5.00pm)
- **Golden Lane Children's Centre**  
Thursday 12th February (3.45 - 5.00pm)

Scan the QR code for more information and dates.

Family Hubs, Start for Life





## Early Communication workshop at Under 1s Stay and Play

**For Parents / Carers of children 0 - 12 months**

**Come and meet a Bright Start Speech and Language Therapist at these under 1s Stay and Play 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.**

**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**  
Conewood Children's Centre

Scan the QR code to always access the updated dates





## Speech and Language Advice during these sessions:

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

**Andover Community Centre**  
Thursday, 15th 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)

Scan the QR code to always access the updated dates


[brightstartcentral@islington.gov.uk](mailto:brightstartcentral@islington.gov.uk) 0207 527 8485




## 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




## 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-1478020591749?aff=oddtcreator>

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