

Friday 22nd January 2021

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Dear Parents and Carers,

A big thank you to the whole school community for the support, understanding and resilience shown as we have again adapted our learning model to take account of a partial school closure. While a small number of pupils continue to access onsite provision, the majority of the school are learning from home. We understand the challenges in managing learning at home and our structure is designed to ensure pupils can consolidate and reinforce their knowledge and skills through website learning tasks and Google Classroom in Key Stage 2. The telephone calls with the class teacher are designed to support an opportunity to ask questions or discuss top tips for making home schooling the best it can be and we hope you are finding these as useful as the teachers are.

You should have now had the opportunity to collect a resource pack from the school to support your child in recording their learning and offered an opportunity to visit the school library to change home reading books. Appointments can be made by calling the school office if you need additional resources for working at home or need to make a further change to reading books across the coming weeks. Don't forget that the school office can also print paper packs of the weekly home learning tasks for you!

The website continues to be our main communication at this time. Clicking the 'school closure' link on the home page will take you straight to the most up to date information and this can be viewed on a mobile phone, tablet or PC. The school will continue to ensure text message 'quick links' are sent to highlight when new content has been added.

Our recent parent survey analysis has now been completed and we received 211 responses in total. The outcomes have shown the majority of parents are very pleased with our school provision. Some of the highlights from the survey include:

- 96% agreed the school provides a good education
- 95% agreed that teachers work hard and teach well
- 93% agreed the newsletter is informative
- 92% are happy with their child's progress

Thank you for your continued support.

Ms Aimee Walker
Headteacher

Ms Rachel Davie
Executive Headteacher

YEAR 6 PICASSO

Year 6 children on site have explored how to develop different shades of blue to create work in the style of Pablo Picasso from his 'blue period'. First, they drew self portraits, then planned what shade of blue was needed and then painted. Year 6 also discussed how the different shades of blue can create different types of moods.



EYFS DINOSAURS

This week in Early Years, children have been reading the book '*Dinosaur Police*' which has inspired different learning activities. They have created police vehicles in our construction area to retell the story, ordering words to write sentences from the story and using different materials to create rubbings of dinosaurs.



YEAR 5 GARDENING

Before Christmas, Holly Class undertook a gardening workshop at school. During this session, children searched through the soil to find a range of insects and other small creatures, which they then sketched and wrote about in class.



**TIMETABLES ARE AVAILABLE ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE TO HELP STRUCTURE THE DAY
KEEPING THE SAME ROUTINE WILL HELP STAY ON TOP OF HOME LEARNING!**



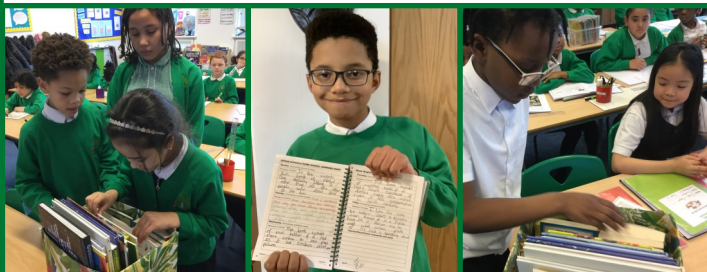
LEARNING AT HOME

Thank you to all our families who have taken the time to share photos of their children learning at home. If you have any home learning you would like to share please send to: orchardhomelearning@vs.hackney.sch.uk



READING DIARIES

Before Christmas, children across several classes had the opportunity to choose prize books for their whole class, after achieving 100% on their reading diary trackers. This means that every child in class completed their diary each day of the week. Their chosen books now have new homes in each classroom for the children to explore and enjoy.



COFFEE MORNINGS AND DROP INS

Coffee Morning sessions will be every 2 weeks in the Spring Term, with Nursery and Reception holding specific Coffee Morning sessions twice a half term. All sessions will be video presentations that will be shared on the school website. A text alert with a link will be sent so that you can easily access the session!

| Date | Focus |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Friday 5 th February | Writing: Find out how you can encourage your child to write creatively |
| Friday 26 th February | Maths: What is fluency, reasoning and problem solving? |
| Friday 12 th March | Speech and Language: Using stories to develop vocabulary |
| Friday 26 th March | Homework: Strategies to support your child's homework routine |

Parent Drop In sessions will be held every second Friday. Although we will not be able to meet in groups, we will be able to offer you an opportunity to meet with a member of the inclusion team to answer any questions you may have or sign post you to any community resources or services that might be helpful to you. Please call the school office to book an appointment.

TOP TIPS FOR HOME LEARNING

Remote education ensures continuous learning outside the classroom. For parents and carers, remote education isn't always straightforward and there can be a number of things to consider in order for this to be successful. Our teachers have identified their top tips for home learning!

- Establish routines and expectations by following the learning timetable
- Establish times for physical activity, quiet and reflection each day at set times
- Choose a good place to learn in the home that is quiet and without distraction.
- Keep in touch with teachers through the weekly calls
- Help pupils 'own' their learning by asking questions and encouraging a 'have a go' attitude



KEY DATES

Spring Term 2021

Staff Training Day:
Monday 4th January
Children's Start Date:
Tuesday 5th January
Work & Enterprise Week:
Week beginning 18th January
Half Term Holiday:
Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February
Children's Start Date:
Monday 22nd February
Science & Technology Day (with Science Fair): Friday 19th March
Parents Evening:
Thursday 25th March
End of Term Finish Date: Thursday 1st April at 2pm

Summer Term 2021

Children's Start Date:
Monday 19th April 2021
Families' Week:
Starts Monday 26th April 2021
Bank Holiday:
Monday 3rd May 2021
Half Term Holiday:
Monday 31 May 2021 – Friday 4 June 2021
Children Start Date:
Monday 7th June 2021
Staff Training Day:
Friday 25th June 2021
Keeping Healthy Week (including sports day):
Starts Monday 28th June 2021
Parents Evening:
Thursday 8th July 2021
End of Term Finish Date:
Thursday 22nd July at 2pm
Staff Training Day:
Friday 23rd July 2021

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