

Friday 5th February 2021

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Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you are all safe and well. As we finish the fifth week of lockdown, we would like to thank both children and parents for your continued efforts, energy and focus on home learning. We have seen many, many examples of excellent outcomes sent to our home learning email as well as through Google Classroom in KS2. Keep up the good work! Do follow our social media accounts for Twitter and Facebook detailed on the back of the newsletter to see live updates across the week.

Safer Internet Day takes place on the 9th February and the theme this year explores the topic of 'reliability'. The internet has an amazing range of information and opportunities, but knowing how to separate fact from fiction and understanding reliable information from harmful information is very important. The day will focus on knowing what to trust online and support children to challenge their understanding of different sources of information. Content is available on our home learning main page for those of you learning at home.

We have seen an excellent response to our Times Table Rockstar competition with many children improving their scores through repetition and practise. Knowing multiplication facts, or times tables, is a really important core skill for children to develop during their primary education. These facts, and the linked division facts, will help them to work out fractions, written calculations and, later, with work on algebra. Children are expected to know all of their multiplication tables by the end of Year 4 so make sure to plan in three minutes each day to rehearse as this will help develop instant recall.

As you will no doubt have seen the Government have announced that schools could reopen from 8th March at the earliest and that we will get two weeks' notice of any changes. We, like you, will be informed of what will be happening closer to the time. We do not get any prior information of the arrangements made or what the intended return will look like. As always, as soon as we have more information we will communicate this to you at the earliest opportunity.

Thank you for your continued support through this time.

Ms Aimee Walker
Headteacher

Ms Rachel Davie
Executive Headteacher

HOME LEARNING

Thank you for sharing all your fantastic photos and videos, showcasing your home learning. Please remember to send these to:

orchardhomelearning@vs.hackney.sch.uk



YEAR 5 CYCLING

This half term, Year 5 are taking part in weekly cycling sessions. All pupils have thoroughly enjoyed the sessions they have received so far. They are practising a range of essential cycling skills such as: balancing, changing gears on the move, increasing and reducing speed, as well as braking safely.



YEAR 4 SPANISH

Over Spring 1, Year 4 pupils accessing site have explored different Spanish vocabulary related to resources and equipment in class. Last week they learned to recognise the gender of a noun and placed nouns in the appropriate group.



CHILDREN AGED 5 AND OVER SHOULD AIM FOR AN AVERAGE OF AT LEAST 60 MINUTES OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY A DAY ACROSS A WEEK. WHAT WILL YOU BE DOING TODAY?

YEAR 1 RE

This half term, Year 1 have been learning about Hinduism. As part of these sessions, the children looked at religious artefacts and discussed why they are important to Hindu's. The children were able to make links to their prior learning about celebrations during their Reception year at school. Across their time in primary school children build knowledge about six world religions to support their understanding of our diverse community.



YEAR 3 & 4 CHESS



Last week, Year 3 and 4 children accessing school site took part in a chess session. They learned new moves and discussed strategies that they could then apply to their own game when playing against an opponent. Research shows that chess improves children's concentration, problem-solving, critical and creative thinking alongside maths skills and long term memory!

COFFEE MORNINGS AND DROP INS

We hope you have been enjoying our coffee mornings this term. New content is added weekly to the website page and these can be watched anytime! We would love to hear any feedback you have so please do let us know through the school admin email if there is content you would like to see in the coming weeks!

Date	Focus
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

We are continuing to offer **parent drop** in timeslots to families virtually across the continued partial closure. From home learning to setting routines we are here to support you. Please call the school office if you would like to book an appointment!

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

This week (the 1st and 7th February) is Children's Mental Health Week. Unlocking Potential (our therapeutic support service) have provided some materials linked to the theme 'Here and Now' which can be accessed through our home learning page of the website. As adults, there are ways we can support our children to give them the best chance to stay mentally healthy.



Be there to listen. Regularly ask how they're doing so they get used to talking about their feelings and know there is always someone to listen if they want it.

Take what they say seriously. Listening to and valuing what your child says, without judging their feelings, in turn makes them feel valued.

Build positive routines. We know it still may not be easy, but try to reintroduce structure around regular routines, healthy eating and exercise. A good night's sleep is also really important!

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

Orchard Primary School,
Holcroft Road, London, E9 7BB
Tel: 020 8985 7785
Fax: 020 8986 3748
Email:
adminorchard@vs.hackney.sch.uk