

Friday 22nd October 2021

In this issue: Welcome / JRSO training / Year 6 Visit to the Zoo / EYFS Exploring / International Week and International Evening / Parent Dates / Attendance

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week at Orchard we celebrated World Week and Democracy Day. World Week celebrates the diversity within our partnership of schools and creates opportunities to explore relevant global issues and for children to gain an understanding of themselves as global citizens. We were very excited to welcome flag dancers, Capoeira dancers, Bengali musicians, Kente Cloth artists, African drummers and Balanese story tellers into school to run workshops with children. We also elected the new members of our school pupil council, who meet weekly. Thank you all for your support during our day of international dress and also for joining us for our international evening, when so many parents were kind enough to contribute dishes from across the globe. Please do look at our 'proud to be' community video on our website which was made during World Week and celebrates the many different cultures that make up our family of three schools!

As the weather changes across the next few weeks, children will be bringing more items to school including hats and gloves as well as coats and jumpers. Please make sure that your children's things, even distinctive items, are named to give us the best chance of your children being reunited with any lost property.

During the first few weeks of the school year we have continued to ensure a focus on key skills such as reading confidently and with understanding as well as knowledge of key maths skills such as essential confidence in times tables recall. Please support us by making sure that children practise these at home by using Mathletics and Timestable Rockstars. You will also have received the half term holiday project information to support children in getting ready for the new half term of learning and we look forward to seeing the creative outcomes worked on at home when children return!

The first half term has gone by very quickly, with school breaking up for half term today, **Friday 22nd October**. Children return on **Monday 1st November 2021**. It is very important pupils arrive promptly to school at **8.55am** to ensure they do not miss the beginning of the school day.

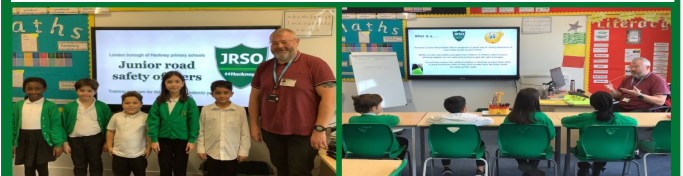
Thank you for your continued support.

Ms Aimee Walker
Headteacher

Ms Rachel Davie
Executive Headteacher

JRSO TRAINING

The Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs) had their first meeting this week. Max Moorcroft, a road safety officer from Hackney Council, visited to deliver training. He discussed the important role the JRSOs play in educating other children about staying safe on the road. We discussed a variety of initiatives and started to plan our first assembly for next term.



YEAR 6 VISIT TO THE ZOO

Year 6 had a lovely time visiting the London Zoo last week, where they attended a workshop looking at skeletons, fossils and also different models of animals. Exploring the zoo, children had the opportunity to see how animals adapt to their environment.



EYFS EXPLORING

In the Nursery, children have been exploring the size and composition of objects and materials. They have done this by using magnifying glasses to explore fallen autumn leaves, building skyscrapers with foam breeze blocks and separating small and large food items to feed mummy and baby bear.



PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU ARRIVE AT SCHOOL ON TIME SO THAT CLASSES ARE NOT INTERRUPTED.



WORLD WEEK

Last week, children participated in many activities from different cultures. We all enjoyed discussing our own cultural heritage, dressing to represent our culture and using our overall theme of 'movement' to gain an awareness of the various reasons people move around the world.



INTERNATIONAL EVENING

Thank you to everyone who supported our International Evening on Thursday last week. It was lovely to see our pupils sharing their class projects, seeing our community dance along to the steal pan band and getting to know each other through international cooking.



PARENT DATES

All parents are also invited to drop into our workshop sessions which are held in the Flexi Space at 9:15am on Friday. These are an opportunity to meet with other parents and get some practical tips on how to support your child with their learning from home.

Date	Focus
Friday 5 th November	Phonics and handwriting: How can I help my child to learn to read? How can improve my child's handwriting?
Friday 12 th November	Wellbeing: What does mental wellbeing mean and how do I speak to my child about this?
Friday 19 th November	Art: How do I find inspiration for creative art projects at home on a budget?
Friday 26 th November	ICT: What apps does my child use in school?
Friday 3 rd December	Christmas Holiday Activities: What activities can we try in the holidays and what local places can we visit?

KEY DATES

Autumn Term 2021

Staff Training Days:

Wednesday 1st, Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd September 2021

Children's Start Date:

Monday 6th September 2021

Meet the Teacher:

Monday 13th, Tuesday 14th and Thursday 16th September 2021

Bring a Dad/Significant

Male to School Day:

Wednesday 29th September 2021

World Week &

Democracy Day: Monday

11th October 2021 – Friday 15th October 2021

Half Term Holiday:

Monday 25th October 2021 - Friday 29th October 2021

Children Start Date:

Monday 1st November 2021

Parents Evening:

Thursday 9th December 2021

End of Term Finish Date:

Friday 17th December 2021 at 2pm

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Holcroft Road, London, E9 7BB
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ATTENDANCE

Coming to school everyday makes a real difference!
Whole school attendance for last week was **95.8%**. Well done to **Acorn FT**, the weekly winners with **100%**.

