

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for coming to meet with your child's class teacher last week. It is so important that children get to share their learning with you. If you were unable to attend and have not managed to meet the class teacher since then, please contact the school office so that they can make a new appointment for you. We hope also that the termly report which was sent home was helpful in knowing how best to support your child at home. Don't forget that we run a number of themed drop-in sessions for parents to support knowledge of learning in school. Events planned for the Spring Term can be found at the back of this newsletter.

Thank you to all parents who attended end of term events including the Winter Fayre and Sing Alongs. Our three-school choir has performed at various events including a Hackney wide celebration at the Town Hall. We are very proud of the commitment to music in our school and the many talented musicians we have. A huge thank you to our music teachers, Ms Isik and Ms Eskulics for their preparation and hard work. Instrumental lessons start again in the Spring Term and if you would like your child to gain from the many benefits of learning a musical instrument, please ask at our reception desk for an application form. Some lessons have a waiting list but learning an instrument not only brings a lot of pleasure, but it also helps develop concentration, listening skills, patience, social skills and memory. We subsidise all lessons with an even cheaper rate for those eligible for Pupil Premium Funding and loan instruments to allow practise at home.

Children will be starting new topics in the Spring Term and we have sent home homework packs and activities to help preparation. We have seen some fantastic research and creative homework projects made in previous holidays and hope that some time can be made during this holiday also. Events in the Spring Term include our Work and Enterprise week and Safer Internet Day, as well as lots of planting and sowing in our school garden, lots to look forward to!

With the cost of living continuing to rise, these are extremely difficult and uncertain times for everyone. Trying to get the correct information about which support and services are available to you and what you can access or are entitled to is not always straightforward; this can make the process very confusing. Please visit our website which holds information about local services and support available.

Thank you for your support this term, we wish you a happy and safe holiday and look forward to seeing you in the new year. Children return to school for the Spring Term on Wednesday 4th January 2023 at 8.55am.

Mr Stephen O'Brien - Headteacher | Ms Rachel Davie - Executive Headteacher

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Reminder



CHILDREN MUST COME TO SCHOOL IN FULL UNIFORM AND SMART BLACK SHOES!



THE SPRING TERM STARTS ON WED 4TH JANUARY 2023 AT 8:55AM AND LEARNING STARTS STRAIGHT AWAY. BE ON TIME AT FIVE TO NINE!

Footprints in the Snow

EYFS experienced the snowy weather across the school's grounds this week. They loved listening to the sound of the snow crunching underneath their feet and observed different foot prints, including a fox's one. They also discovered that Mr Ott, our Site Manager's footprint was the biggest.



Christmas Jumper Day

To support the charity 'Save the Children UK' children in Year 2 and across the school wore their Christmas jumpers and donated £1. 'Save The Children' is a UK based charity which helps millions of children living in poverty each year.



Buddhist Centre Visit

This term, Year 5 visited the London Buddhist Centre, with is a temple in East London and the main base for the London Triratna Buddhist community. Here, they learnt about the history and symbols of Buddha. They were also able to experience meditation, which is a practise within Buddhism.



Christmas Crackers and Lunch

On Friday the 9th of December, we had our Christmas Jumper Day and a lovely Christmas lunch to celebrate the festive season. The children in EYFS really did enjoy coming together to pull some Christmas crackers with their peers, and to enjoy a wonderful Christmas themed lunch.



Hackney Council Carol Concert

Last week Orchard's Year 5 and 6 choir were invited to take part in the Hackney Council Carol Concert with the Salvation Army. They joined students from Southwold and Hoxton Garden to celebrate Christmas and bring a little festive cheer to Hackney. It was a lovely experience and the choir did a wonderful job.



Key Dates

SPRING TERM 2023

Staff Training Day (SCHOOL CLOSED):
Tuesday 3rd January 2023

Children's Start Date:
Wednesday 4th January 2023

Work & Enterprise Week:
Monday 23rd January - Friday 27th January 2023

Safer Internet Day:
Thursday 9th February 2023

Half Term Holiday:
Monday 13th February - Friday 17th February 2023

Children's Start Date:
Monday 20th February 2023

World Book Day:
Thursday 2nd March 2023

Parents' Evening:
Thursday 23rd March 2023

End of Term Finish Date:
Friday 31st March 2023 (SCHOOL CLOSES at 2pm)

Coffee Mornings

Parents/Carers are invited to drop into our sessions on various themes which are held in the Flexi Space at 9:15am on a Friday morning. These are an opportunity to meet with other parents as well as learn more about what the school does and get some practical tips on how to support your child with their learning from home.

Date	Focus
Friday 6th January	<u>Maths</u> : How can I support my child with their Maths homework?
Friday 13th January	<u>Writing</u> : What can I do at home to help my child develop their writing?
Friday 20th January	<u>MFL</u> : What do children learn in Spanish and how can language learning be supported at home?
Friday 27th January	<u>Music</u> : What does the music curriculum look like at our school?
Friday 3rd February	<u>Physical Education</u> : What do the opportunities for Physical Education look like throughout my child's time at school?
Friday 10th February	<u>ICT</u> : What are children expected to know in ICT?
EYFS Parent/Carer Workshops	
Date	Focus
Thursday 26th January	<u>Speech and Language</u> : How can I use stories to support my child's language?

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www.orchard.hackney.sch.uk

@orchard_of_imagination (EYFS)

Scan to order
school uniform



Scan for
Hackney's cost of
living crisis guide



Attendance

As a school we take punctuality very seriously and we are proud that our children are at school and in their class lines at 8.55am. This means children have a settled and uninterrupted transition into the school, and teachers are able to ensure the day starts promptly. Thank you for your continued support!

Whole school attendance for the last week was 89.5%.

Well done to Year 4 Laurel class, the weekly winners with 94.8%.

