

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have lots of exciting news and events to share with you from the last two weeks. Although reading, writing and counting will always be a central part of what we teach we are also keen that our pupils receive a wide and rich curriculum which inspires learning in other areas and teaches other life skills too.

Children's Mental Health Week has been celebrated this week. The theme this year was 'Express Yourself'. Children have learned that expressing yourself means telling and showing others what you feel, and have understood the importance of noticing and naming feelings in order to process emotions. A special day this week was Safer Internet Day. It is celebrated globally each year to promote the safe and positive use of digital technology for children and young people, and to inspire a national conversation about using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically, and creatively. Our digital leaders led assemblies and a discussion session took place in the classroom facilitated by teachers. Keep a look out on the school website for some top tips for staying safe online created by children across our Federation of schools!

We have been horrified by the news of the devastating earthquakes taking place early this week in Turkey and Syria. Our thoughts are with all those affected. Hackney is home to one of the largest Turkish and Kurdish populations in the country. We know that this awful event will have an impact on our school community, especially on those that have relatives or friends directly affected by the earthquakes. We will be raising money for the earthquake appeal fund and if you need further support, our learning mentor can be contacted via the school office.

If you have moved or changed your telephone number recently please make sure you have let the school office know. It is essential that we can contact you quickly in case of an emergency. A contact number and email for our office are on the back of this newsletter.

The first half of the Spring term seems to have gone by very quickly, the school closes for the half-term break today, Friday 10th February. The school re-opens for children on Monday 20th February at 8:55 am.

Thank you for all of your support.

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

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Reminder



Persistent absence and lateness will affect a child's achievement and progress in school.

Comprehensive research shows that there is a direct link between a child's level of school attendance and their level of school attainment.

Be on time at five to nine!

Creating Patterns

EYFS have been utilising their maths table to work on continuing patterns of repeating colours using cotton spools. This activity also supports their fine motor development as they practice carefully threading the spools onto the pipe cleaners.



Discussing Everyday Materials

Year 1 had a wonderful time at the Science Museum, linked to their half-term topic 'everyday materials'. There, they discovered, documented and discussed the different types of materials and their properties at the 'Objects and Stories' exhibition.



Back to 72 AD

Year 3 were taken back to 72 AD with a visit from a Roman soldier, Lucius Felix Silvanus dressed in full armour. He discussed life as a gladiator, led the children through a soldiers' drill and mock battle, taught them some Roman games, and showed them the food he ate and the way he bathed.





Doctors for a Day

EYFS had a visit from a professional doctor to learn about the profession. During the session, they learnt about the human body and explored the different types of medical equipment that doctors use such as a stethoscope.



Apollo Chamber Orchestra

Year 4 were excited to meet the Apollo Chamber Orchestra at The Regent Hall in Oxford Circus. They enjoyed listening to performances inspired by Austrian composer, Franz Haydn and various other classical music composers. It was an amazing experience.



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:
Wednesday 1st 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 24th February	<u>Family team building</u> : What games can I play at home to develop resilience and confidence?
Friday 3rd March	<u>Children's Mental Health Week</u> : How can I support my child's wellbeing through developing positive connections.
Friday 10th March	<u>Science</u> : How can I support my child's science learning at home?
Friday 17th March	<u>Belonging</u> : How can I ensure I tackle unconscious bias in myself and others?
Friday 24th March	<u>Easter Holiday Activities</u> : What activities can we try in the holidays and what local places can we visit?
Friday 31st March	Parent Coffee Morning & Reading Celebration Event
EYFS Parent/Carer Workshops	
Date	Focus
Thursday 16th March	<u>Writing</u> : How can I support my child to write for different purposes?

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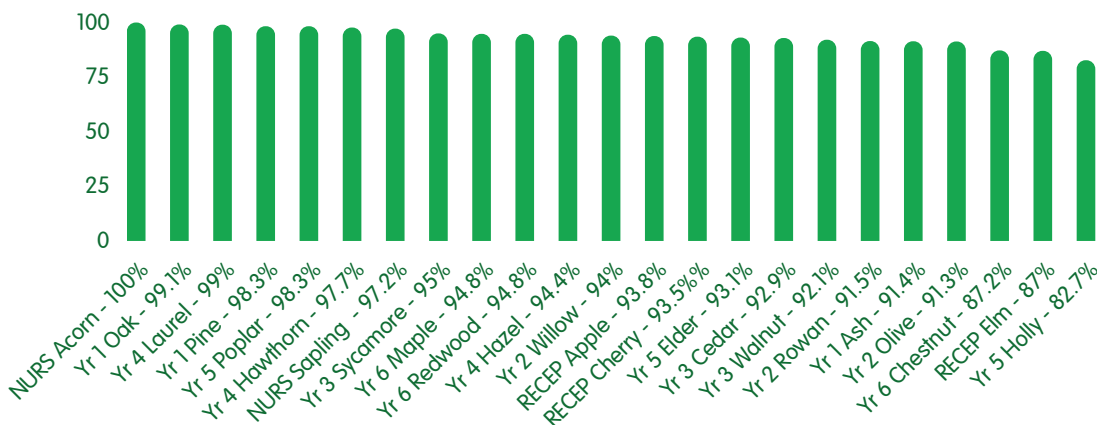
@orchard_of_imagination (EYFS)

Attendance

Children have only 190 school days in a year so coming to school every day makes a real difference!

The whole school attendance for the last week was 93.5%.

Well done to Nursery Acorn class, the weekly winner with 100%.



Scan to order school uniform



Scan for Hackney's cost of living crisis guide

