



Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week children across the school joined in with a number of key events to shine a spotlight on anti-bullying. The theme was 'Make A Noise About Bullying'. During the week there was an 'Odd Socks Day' where adults and children wore odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique. Through assemblies and class PSHE lessons, children learnt and reinforced their understanding of what bullying is, the difference between bullying and unkindness and what the role of a bystander means. Our school takes any allegations of bullying very seriously and we have a zero tolerance approach. Staff ensure that allegations are dealt with quickly. We are proud to be a Stonewall Champion School and adopt the 'no bystanders' approach of "if you hear it, stop it" to tackle any language or actions used in a derogatory way.

We hope you will now have booked your parent consultation appointment in order to discuss your child's first term of the new academic year. You will have received a letter home with instructions explaining how to book online or alternatively, please call the school office who will be able to support you. Learning at home continues to be of high importance, and ways in which you can ensure your child is maximising their learning opportunities in school include making sure there is time for reading every day, practising times tables (counting in steps for younger children) and practising the spellings that are sent home every week in Years 1 to 6.

We work very hard to be a smart school where children can feel proud. An important part of this is our school uniform. Please remember that children are expected to wear black school shoes and not boots as these are uncomfortable when sitting on the carpet and can compromise safety when playing on equipment outside. Please also ensure children are bringing a book bag to school rather than a large rucksack as space in classrooms for storage is limited. Book bags can be purchased through our uniform supplier: <https://www.mapac.com>.

Children have accessed a range of trips and workshops across this term to enhance their learning experiences. We regularly post news on social media to share what we have been doing. If you have not already done so, please follow us on Twitter and Facebook to see weekly updates on all the exciting things going on in our school! Links to our pages can be found on the reverse of this newsletter.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

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

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Reminders

Smart Shoes to School

Children are expected to wear smart black school shoes to school and not boots.



School Start Time

School starts promptly at 8.55am. Please support your child by ensuring they arrive on time and ready for learning.



Making Homes and Habitats

EYFS have been busy making different types of homes for people and habitats for a range of different animals. To construct the homes, some children have used playdough to represent cement and blocks to represent bricks. Whereas other children have been using playdough and different types of natural materials to make a habitat for animals.



Comparing Animals

In Science, Year 1 have been exploring different animal groupings and categories. By identifying, comparing and describing the animals' patterns and structures, they have successfully been able to sort them into their correct groups; fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. Through this exercise, they identified that many animals share the same characteristics.



Spanish iMovie Presentations

In Spanish, Year 6 have been writing exciting descriptive sentences about Orchard Primary School using some of the words and phrases they have been learning over the last few weeks. Linking this with their IT learning, they have made use of iPads to create their own iMovie presentations, ready to share with our Spanish partnership school.





Sports Ambassadors

The Sports Ambassadors have been enjoying their new roles. In KS1, children have been supporting their teachers by taking registers and bringing the equipment to PE lessons. In KS2, the children have been supporting their peers in class by leading PE lesson warm-ups and modelling key skills and behaviours.



Cross-Site School Council

Last week, School Councillors from Orchard, Southwold and Hoxton Garden met for their first Cross-Site School Council meeting of the year. The councillors discussed matters arising, shared best practise from their schools and suggested ideas for future meetings and events before conducting a mini learning walk.



Key Dates

AUTUMN TERM (2) 2023

Parents' Evening - School Finishes at 1:45pm
Thursday 7th December

Winter Fayre - New Hall
Monday 11th December at 3:30pm.

EYFS, Year 1 & 2 Pantomime - in school
(Pupils Only)
Wednesday 13th December in the afternoon.

Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 Pantomime - Hackney Empire
(Ticket Holders Only)
Thursday 14th December in the afternoon.

Parent Reading Celebration for EYFS, Year 1 & Year 2
Friday 15th December at 9:00am

Festive Jumper Day & Lunch
Tuesday 19th December all day.

Last Day of Term
Wednesday 20th December
School finishes at 2:00pm.

INSET Days
Thursday 21st December 2023
Monday 8th January 2024

Children Return to School
Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 8:55am.

Coffee Mornings

Parents/Carers are invited to drop into our sessions on various themes which are held in the Flexible Space at 9:15am on a Friday morning. These give you an opportunity to meet with other parents as well as to 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 8th December	Christmas Holiday Activities: What activities can we try in the holidays and what local places can we visit? (Children can attend this coffee morning)

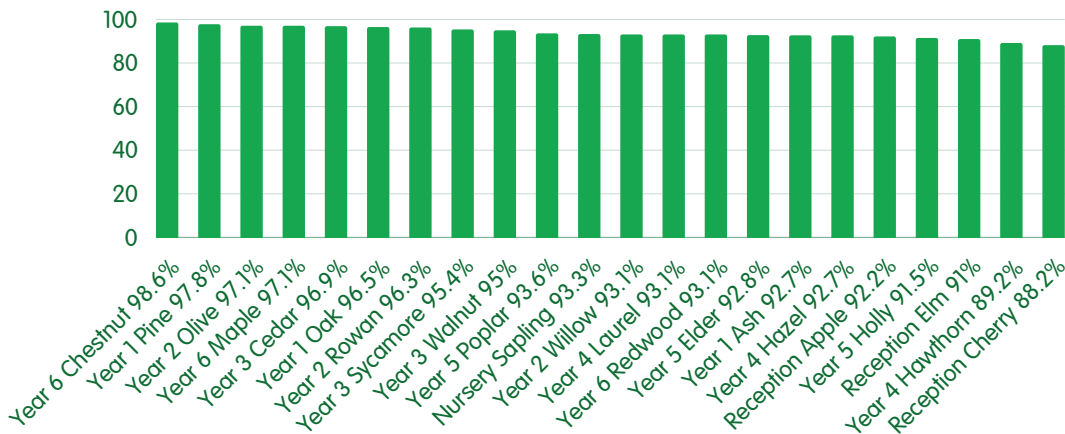
Attendance

The whole school attendance for the last week was 93.7%.

Well done to Year 6 Chestnut Class, last week's winner with 98.6%.

Attending school every day makes a real difference.

Please remember that WE DO NOT AUTHORISE HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME and unauthorised absences may result in a fixed penalty notice being issued.



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Scan the QR code to view
the 2023 - 2024 term dates.

