



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! We hope that you enjoyed the half term break. Thank you to all parents who supported children with the homework projects in preparation for the upcoming learning this half term, particularly learning important topic-based words. A broad, rich vocabulary; the words we recognise and know how to use allows a child to understand and enjoy the things they read, to learn about the world around them, and to express themselves and their thoughts so that people will listen. Research suggests that a strong vocabulary in childhood is linked to future success and happiness, both at school and in later life. Look out for the curriculum newsletter which was sent home in book bags last term for an overview of the curriculum coverage. This will help you to continue talking about school learning with your child at home.

This week we have had the finals of our Federation Spelling Bee competition with finalists from all three schools travelling to Orchard Primary School to put their spelling skills to the test. Children were given words to spell correctly out loud. This has caused much excitement amongst the children and we are looking forward to hosting more Federation-focused competitions later this year.

This half term you will receive your child's termly report at Parents' Evening on Thursday 7th December 2023. This will give more information about achievements so far, as well as learning targets for the upcoming term. Letters inviting you to parents' evening along with details of the online booking system will be sent home in the coming two weeks. We are keen to make sure that all parents meet with class teachers and discuss their child's progress, as well as take up the opportunity to look through their workbooks and celebrate their hard work. If you are finding it difficult to make an appointment, please call the school office who will be happy to help you. School contact details can be found on the reverse of this newsletter.

We work very hard to be a smart school where children can feel proud. An important part of this is our school uniform. As the weather gets colder please remember that children are expected to wear black school shoes and not boots as these are not safe when they are moving around the school and in the playground. If you would like your children to wear boots when travelling to and from school then they must also bring their school shoes to change into when they arrive. At different points in the day, children may remove jumpers which can easily be misplaced in busy classrooms. As well as making sure all uniform has your child's full name, please can you also check that items belong to your child and have not been picked up by accident. We ask that any items that are not yours be returned to class and to their rightful owners the next school day.

Our Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs) have been talking about road safety and have identified some important reminders for our community. Children learn by watching adults, so please help us to set a good example by taking care whilst crossing the road and remind your child of these basic road safety messages: always stop, look, and listen whilst crossing the road, always find a safe place to cross the road such as zebra crossing or puffin crossing, always hold your child's hand whilst walking and crossing the road.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

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

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School Shoes

Smart shoes for school please. We expect children to wear comfortable black school shoes. No boots or trainers please!



Cycling Survey

Is your child interested in joining a once weekly 'bike bus', which is an organised group cycle ride to school every Tuesday? If so, please scan the QR code below to complete a brief survey. Our Cycling Champions will then be in touch.



Exploring Cultures

As part of world week, EYFS discussed different countries around the world. Children were able to identify the country they were from using the map they made. Some children dressed up in their own cultural outfits. They also enjoyed engaging in a Bollywood dance workshop.



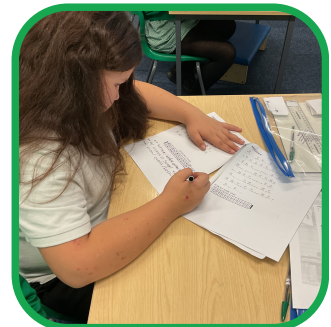
Charcoal Cave Drawings

Year 3 proudly presented their charcoal cave drawing outcomes. Throughout the term, pupils have experimented with different types of charcoal and paper to create different effects. This included exploring how many different types of lines they can draw, such as: thick, thin, jagged and blurred.



World War Two Learning

Year 6 had a fantastic online workshop learning about what went on at Bletchley Park during the Second World War. They found out how British intelligence intercepted and deciphered Axis communications, and even had a go at code breaking.



Reading Champions Meeting

Three members of our Year 5 cohort have officially become Orchard's Reading Champions after attending the launch at Hackney Town Hall. There they learned about their role and met the other Champions from across Hackney. They even met, author, Sav Akuz.



Eco Team Plant a Tree

The Eco Team planted a tree in Victoria Park with the Tree for Cities initiative. They were taught about the impact on the environment and the importance of caring for the future of London. The children helped with the digging and planting.



Key Dates

AUTUMN TERM (2) 2023

Nursery and Reception DT Morning - in classrooms

Tuesday 7th November all day.
(Parent helpers welcome from 9:00am)

Years 1 & 2 DT Day - in classrooms

Tuesday 7th November all day
(Parent helpers welcome from 12:45pm)

Year 3 DT Day - in classrooms

Thursday 9th November all day
(Parent helpers welcome from 12:45pm)

Years 4, 5 & 6 DT Day - in classrooms

Thursday 9th November all day
(Parent helpers welcome from 2:00pm)

Year 3 Walnut Class Assembly - 9:05am

Year 1 Ash Class Assembly - 10:30am

Year 5 Poplar Class Assembly - 11:00am

Thursday 16th November in the New Hall

Odd Socks / Anti-Bullying Day - in school

Friday 17th November all day.

Year 3 Sycamore Class Assembly - 9:05am

Year 1 Pine Class Assembly - 10:30am

Year 5 Holly Class Assembly - 11:00am

Thursday 23rd November in the New Hall

Year 3 Cedar Class Assembly - 9:05am

Year 1 Oak Class Assembly - 10:30am

Year 5 Elder Class Assembly - 11:00am

Thursday 30th November in the New Hall

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 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 3rd November	<u>Phonics</u> : What are the different Phases of phonics and how can I support my child at home?
Friday 10th November	<u>Behaviour</u> : How does the school promote a culture of kindness?
Friday 17th November	<u>Spelling and Vocabulary</u> : How do I help my child to learn their spellings ready for their weekly spelling test? (Children can attend this coffee morning)
Friday 24th November	<u>Wellbeing</u> : What tools and strategies can I teach my child to support their mental health?
Friday 1st December	<u>Eco</u> : How do we teach children about sustainability? (Children can attend this coffee morning)
Friday 8th December	<u>Christmas Holiday Activities</u> : What activities can we try in the holidays and what local places can we visit? (Children can attend this coffee morning)
EYFS Workshops (9:00am start)	
Thursday 23rd November	<u>Maths</u> : How can I develop my child's mathematical understanding at home?

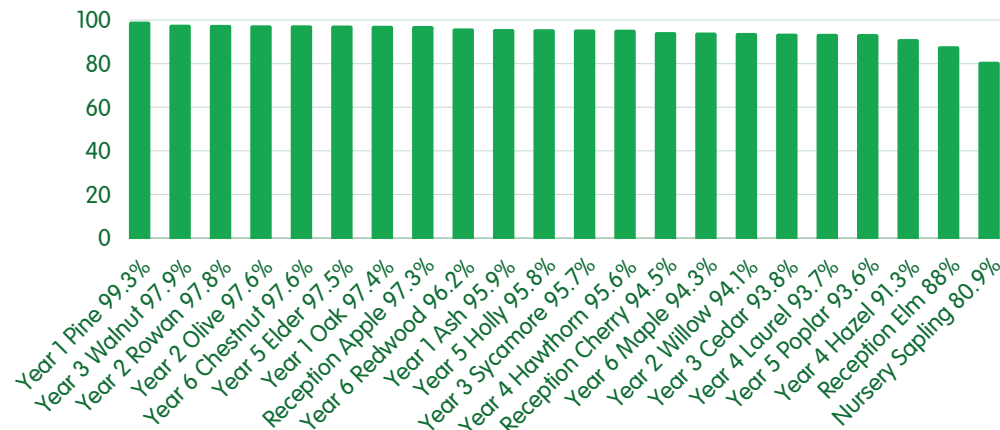
Attendance

The whole school attendance for the last week was 95%.

Well done to Year 1 Pine Class, last week's winner with 99.3%.

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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