

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we have been celebrating the wonderful world of books. A range of different activities have taken place as part of our World Book Day including a book swap and peer reading where our older children read alongside our children. Children and staff dressed up as their favourite book characters and assemblies were held to celebrate the many familiar book characters and to make links between books and authors. A big thank you to staff and parents for making this a special day for children. Learning to read and enjoy books is an essential part of being a great learner and we make it our mission to make sure that every child is a confident and fluent reader by the time they leave us to start secondary school. Please help us with this by making sure that children read the books that they borrow from school every day and fill in details of what they have read in their home school diaries. There are some top tips and questions in the diaries to help parents when hearing or reading with children at home!

We invest in annual subscriptions for Mathletics and Times Table Rock Stars online learning programmes so that children in Years 1 to 6 can access them at home as well as at school for free. All children have their own password to log on to the site (usually in their home school diaries). These programmes offer fun and interactive ways to learn key reading and maths skills such as phonics, times tables and number bonds so please encourage your children to access these!

A sense of belonging for our school community is something we are very proud of. As part of this, we have a school uniform as a symbol of pride and togetherness. We hope that having a uniform also makes it easier for parents in the morning when getting ready for school. To be fair to everyone we insist that all pupils wear our uniform every day and we have tried to keep the costs as low as possible to make sure that it is not a financial burden to families. Please remember that we expect all children to wear black school shoes, not boots or sandals and we do not allow jewellery to be worn for safety reasons. Children also need a designated PE kit which should be brought in on PE days.

On Thursday 21st March 2024 we are holding our Spring Term Parents Evening, when you will have the opportunity to meet your child's class teacher, look at work books and discuss the termly report. You should have received a separate letter inviting you to this, however if you have missed this please contact our admin team who will book an appointment time for you.

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

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Reminders

School Shoes

Smart black shoes for school please.



Road Safety

Road safety is an issue that affects everyone, we all need to use the roads whether we are adults or children. Most of us use the roads every day as pedestrians, cyclists, drivers or passengers on public transport. It is absolutely vital that we all have the knowledge we need to safely travel on the road, especially when travelling with young children. Please revisit key messages around safe road crossing every time you are travelling with children.

Look Up!

EYFS enjoyed stepping into the story 'Look up'. On a trip to the local park, they explored what they could see in the sky. They used their binoculars to look up and were able to spot lots of things including aeroplanes, birds and clouds. EYFS were able to write sentences about what they could see and enjoyed talking about it with their friends!



Plant Assembly

Ash Class thoroughly enjoyed performing in their class assembly. They worked really hard all week to remember their lines and learn the lyrics to their song. The theme of the assembly was their Science topic 'Plants'. In science they have been looking at different types of plants and labelling the different parts of the plant.



Earthquakes

On their trip, Year 3 had the chance to deepen their knowledge of their current geography topic: earthquakes. The children enjoyed learning all about tectonic plates the huge impact that their movement has had on our planet. They were fascinated by the interactive displays, especially the earthquake simulation!





Junior Road Safety Officers

The Junior Road Safety Officers met this week to update the school's road safety poster. They thought about the important rules we must adhere to in order to stay safe outside, such as walking with an adult if you are younger and watching the roads carefully. They then created child friendly posters that display key messages for our pupils.



Cross Country Runners

Ten Year 5 children participated in a cross-country league with other schools in Hackney. They competed in long-distance races and achieved good times in all their races. They ran distances of 2.5km and showed a lot of stamina and strength. Well done to all these children who worked well as a team and represented Orchard Primary School so well.



Key Dates

Year 5 Elder Class Assembly - New Hall
Thursday 14th March 2024 at 11:00am

Year 3 Cedar Class Assembly - New Hall
Thursday 14th March 2024 at 9:05am

Year 1 Oak Class Assembly - New Hall
Thursday 14th March 2024 at 10:30am

Parents' Evening (School finishes at 1:45pm)
Thursday 21st March 2024

Lower School Parent Reading Celebration
Friday 22nd March 2024 at 9:15am

Easter Bonnet Competition
Monday 25th March 2024

Early Years Design and Technology Day
Tuesday 26th March 2024 at 8:55am

Years 1 and 2 Design and Technology Day
Tuesday 26th March 2024 at 1:30pm

Year 3 Design and Technology Day
Wednesday 27th March 2024 at 1:30pm

Years 4, 5 and 6 Design and Technology Day
Wednesday 27th March at 2:00pm

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. These allow you 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. EYFS Workshops are held separately. Please see the dates below.

Date	Focus
Friday 15th March	<u>Easter Holiday Activities</u> : What activities can we try in the holidays and what local places can we visit? (Children can attend this coffee morning)

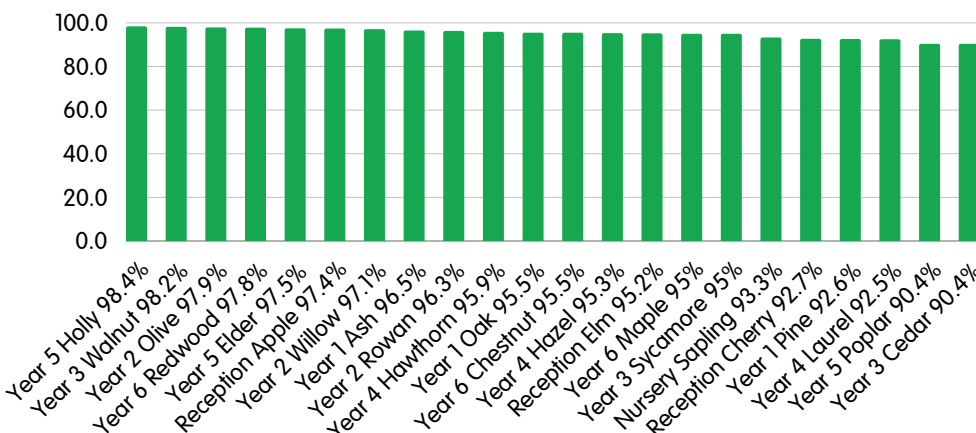
Attendance

The whole school attendance for the last week was 95.2%.

Well done to Year 5 Holly class, last week's winners with 98.4% attendance.

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.



Term End and Start

The second half of the spring term ends at 2.00pm on Thursday 28th March 2024, and the Summer Term starts at 8:55am on Monday 15th April 2024. All holidays must be booked out of school term time to avoid penalty fines.



School Uniform

Please scan the QR code to order school uniform,



Orchard Primary School
Holcroft Road
London
E9 7BB

020 8985 7785

@Primary_Orchard

@orchardprimary

www.orchard.hackney.sch.uk

@orchard_of_imagination (EYFS)

