

## Dear Parents & Carers,

We hope that you have been able to enjoy one of our end of term performances and Christmas sing-a-longs. It is a very busy time of year for our music teachers so a big thank you to them for all of their efforts. We are very proud of the commitment to music in our school and the many talented musicians we have. Our three school choir has been performing at various events and we look forward to holding our second Viridis music festival next year. Instrumental lessons start again in the second week back after Christmas and if you would like your child to gain from the many benefits of learning a musical instrument then 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, it 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.

Despite the many sweet treats around at this time of year, we continue to ask that if children bring a packed lunch to school their lunch boxes contain a healthy and nutritious meal that will help them retain concentration in the afternoon. We do not allow children to have fizzy drinks, chocolate bars or crisps in our dinner hall and ask that you provide healthy alternatives such as low sugar juice, chopped vegetables and dried fruit instead.

Please make sure that children continue to read and practise key maths and writing skills over the holidays, whether it is writing a letter to Santa or playing card games and adding up the scores. Term ends at 2pm on Friday 21st December and we will be teaching our full timetable until then. Children return on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January at 8:55am.

We wish you all a very safe and happy holiday.

Ms Rachel Davie  
Headteacher

Mr Stephen Hall  
Executive Headteacher

## MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Key Stage 2 Choir have been busy spreading Christmas cheer. They raised £71 for the school council charity singing outside Tesco on Well Street. The Choir have also sung at Homerton Hospital and the school Winter Fair. Thank you to everyone who has come to our Christmas sing a long assemblies to join in the festive cheer. In other

music news, Etana from Year 5 took part in a 'Classical meets Jazz' orchestral performance at the Royal Festival Hall. She was playing with other young children from across Hackney and with professional musicians from the London Symphony Orchestra. Miss Gale was delighted to see her perform in such a wonderful venue and she wowed the audience with her fantastic violin skills!



## PRINTMAKING

This term Year 2 have been developing their printing skills in art and have been focusing their learning on the artist William Morris. They went to The William Morris Gallery to explore his paintings and tapestries. They took part in a printing workshop in which they used printing blocks and ink to create artwork inspired by nature.



**AUTUMN TERM ENDS ON FRIDAY 21ST DECEMBER AT 2PM**  
**CHILDREN RETURN ON MONDAY 7TH JANUARY 2019**

## HEART SURGEONS



Year 6 took part in a heart dissection workshop, which was truly unique learning experience. The children were taught about the functions of a heart, the different anatomy of the heart and roles they play. They were also taught how to safely dissect a lamb's heart and identify the main artery.

## HENRY VIII

Year 5 Holly performed beautifully in their assembly about Henry VIII and his six wives, with a fantastic song at the end to help them remember the wives. They did so well, and we are very proud of them. Class assemblies will be starting again in January, with each class holding one assembly each term. Please look on the website for dates.



## CROSS COUNTRY

A team of girls and a team of boys from Orchard took part in our second cross country race at



Hackney Downs, competing with other Hackney schools. Some of the children improved on their finishing positions from last week. They are now back in training and looking forward to their next race in January!

## SPRING TERM COFFEE MORNINGS

As well as our **Friday morning stay and read** sessions for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, all parents are invited to drop into our sessions on various themes which are held on the ground floor at 9:15am. We have organised new themes for Spring 2019. Tea and coffee are provided!

Date	Focus
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Maths:</b> Take away strategies to support your child with their Maths learning/times tables
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Writing:</b> Find out how you can encourage your child to write creatively
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Speech and Language:</b> Find out how to improve your child's speech and language skills
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	<b>Road safety:</b> Find out how we can shape the attitudes and behaviours of children and young people to be responsible passengers, pedestrians and cyclists

### Key dates

**Autumn Term 2018**

**End of Term Finish Date:**  
Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 2pm

**Spring Term 2019**

**Start Date:**

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019

**Half Term Holiday:**

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> to

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February

**Staff Training Day:**

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February

**Children Return**

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February

**Parents Evening:**

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March

**Finish Date:**

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April at 2pm

**Summer Term 2019**

**Start Date:**

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April

**Half Term Holiday:**

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May (Bank

Holiday) to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May

**Keeping Healthy Week**

**(including sports day):**

Starts Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June

**Parents Evening:**

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July

**End of Term Finish Date:**

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July at 2pm

**Autumn Term 2019**

**Start Date:**

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September

See our website for up to date events.

You can also follow us on Facebook & Twitter!

## ATTENDANCE

Children have only 190 school days in a year so coming to school everyday makes a real difference! Whole school attendance for last week was **95.3%**  
**Well done to Sycamore Class**, the weekly winners with 100%

