

Dear Parents & Carers,

Thank you to all parents who have attended end of term events including the Winter Fayre and Sing Alongs. Our three school choir has been performing at various events including a Hackney wide celebration at the Town Hall. We are very proud of the commitment to music in our school and the many talented musicians we have. A huge thank you to our music teacher, Mrs Batup for her preparation and hard work. Instrumental lessons start again in the Spring Term 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. From January 2020, we will be working with a new catering provider and a copy of the Spring Term menu will be sent to you early next week. If you think you may be eligible for free school meals, please visit our school office and the admin team will support you in checking.

Thank you to all parents who completed the parent survey during our recent parent consultation evening. We had an excellent response with 316 returned to us. This is the best response we have ever had and supports the school in ensuring parent voice is heard and responded to. We will share more news on this in the new year.

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.

We wish you all a very safe and happy holiday!

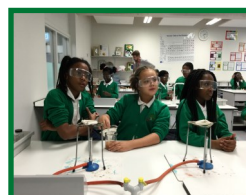
Ms Rachel Davie
Headteacher

SECONDARY SCIENCE



Year 5 had the opportunity to visit Mossbourne Victoria Park Academy last week. The children got to use a variety of equipment in the science lab including bunsen burners, funnels and filter

paper, to name a few. The children conducted experiments and used lots of different scientific language. They had an amazing time, with some of the children saying science is the best subject ever!



CROSS SITE SCHOOL COUNCIL



Orchard hosted the first cross site School Council meeting of the academic year last week. School Council representatives from both Hoxton and Southwold were present. It was a great opportunity to

share the key actions from all three sites and discuss priorities for the year ahead. The Orchard School Council led a purposeful learning walk and peers gave their feedback on the learning environment around the school.



ACTIVE EARLY YEARS

The children in Nursery have been enjoying taking part in physical activities in the outdoor area. They have been practising their aim by throwing beanbags into nets, exploring different ways of jumping by crossing the hoop 'bridge', and taking part in team games using our new hockey equipment. We set a new physical challenge for the children every week.



ART AMBASSADORS

Our Arts Ambassadors took their ambassadorial duties beyond the school walls when they were invited to the Town Hall to help judge a Windrush Generation memorial artwork.



It was a fantastic opportunity for Orchard pupils to be opinion formers at a local community level and make decisions that will last for future generations. Well done ambassadors!



Y6 SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOP

During a Sustainability workshop, Year 6 participated in a range of activities related to climate change. They were appointed as 'Change Agents' and were taught about the dangers of pollution. The children have been studying sustainability as part of their half term topic and keen to share their knowledge and suggestions for local, national and global improvements.



COFFEE MORNINGS

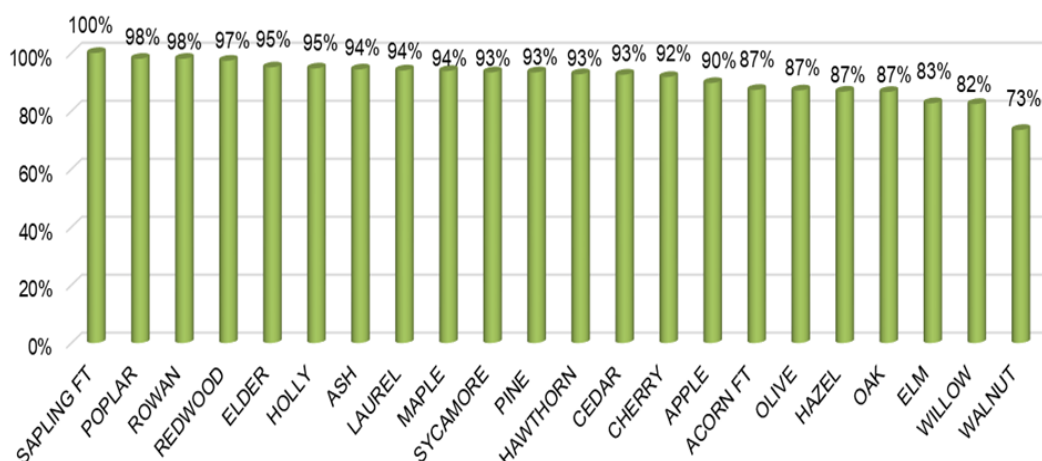
Thank you to all our parents who continue to attend our Friday morning reading sessions in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. It is fantastic to see so many parents regularly attending.

Our coffee mornings are **each Friday at 9.15am** in the **Flexi Space**. These focus on different topics each week and are linked with our curriculum. Please join us!

Friday 10th January	Maths: Strategies to support children to learn their times tables and recall them quickly
Friday 17th January	Reading: Strategies to support reading at home (including games to support learning phonics)
Friday 24th January	Music: Learn to play an instrument with your child (Children will be attending this morning with their parents.)
Friday 31st January	PSHCE: How we prepare children for the wider world and what it means to be a Stonewall School
Friday 7th February	Behaviour and Relationships: Strategies for developing positive behaviour and sibling relationships
Friday 14th February	Speech and Language: How to use technology to support communication and language

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 **91.02%**
Well done to **Sapling Class** the weekly winners with **100%**



Key Dates

Autumn Term 2019

End of Term Finish Date:
Thursday 19th December
at 2pm

Spring Term 2020

Start Date:
Monday 6th January

Half Term Holiday:
Monday 17th to
Friday 21st February

Staff Training Day:
Monday 24th February

Parents Evening:
Thursday 26th March

Finish Date:
Friday 3rd April at 2pm

Summer Term 2020

Start Date:
Monday 20th April

Bank Holiday:
Friday 8th May

Half Term Holiday:
Monday 25th May to
Friday 29th May

Parents Evening:
Thursday 2nd July

End of Term Finish Date:
Friday 17th July at 2pm

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