

Dear Parents & Carers,

We hope that our special edition newsletter finds you and your family safe and well. At such a difficult time, staying in touch and remembering our school community is important for pupils, parents and the staff.

Teachers are committed to making weekly touch base calls in KS1 and to tracking home learning tasks in KS2 which we hope you are finding useful. Many of you have sent in photographs of the fantastic work you have been undertaking. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has offered support and asked questions that have allowed learning to continue with such positivity. We are very proud of all Orchard pupils and parents for continued commitment to home education.

You will have received over the recent break a copy of your child's Spring Term report which we hope you have had time to read. Home learning tasks continue to be uploaded to the website weekly to support you in setting ongoing tasks. We have also noticed an excellent uptake of Timestable Rockstars, Mathletics and children accessing Google Classroom which are excellent tools for KS2 pupils to work with greater independence.

Today we have reached seven consecutive weeks of absence from school. It is as important now, as from the start, that routines are kept to and a structure is in place that support you and your children's emotional health. Things such as a structured time each day for physical exercise, work time, screen time, meals, getting up and going to bed can all help to ease pressures in the day.

We are very much looking forward to the time when pupils can return to school full time but until then, please remember our offices are open each day and we are here to support you throughout the period of closure. Don't forget you can change home reading books in the parent room library any time of the day. We ask that you respect social distancing and only one person attends school site to do this.

Thank you for your on-going support.

Ms Aimee Walker
Headteacher

Ms Rachel Davie
Executive Headteacher

TEACHER TALES



Teacher Tales

Have you visited the Teacher Tales page on our website? Each week we upload a new video of a different Orchard teacher sharing one of their favourite stories with you. Please look out in the coming weeks for your class teacher.

GARDENING

Key worker pupils attending school have been watering and weeding the garden regularly to make sure that it is maintained and that the crops we have planted earlier in the year are thriving.



HOME LEARNING EMAIL

If you would like to send completed home learning tasks into school please do so by emailing: orchardhomelearning@vs.hackney.sch.uk. Please remember to include your child's name and class name in the title of the email. All work will be shared with the class teacher so that they can see the fantastic learning happening at home.

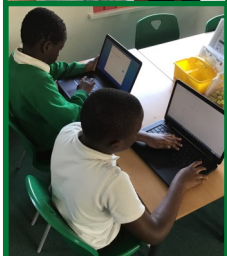


**HAVE YOU DOWNLOADED THE HACKNEY SAFER SCHOOLS APP?
IT IS FREE TO ALL PARENTS!**

CHILDREN ACCESSING SCHOOL



Our school is currently open for children of key workers. Each day they complete a range of key skills tasks including timestables and handwriting, alongside maths, reading, science and humanities.



Each afternoon they take part in learning activities based on current curriculum learning. Some of these experiences have included: animation, gardening, art projects linked to books they have read and textile designs linked to a holiday homework project.



ONLINE SAFETY

Daily routines have changed, with many children spending more time online to access home learning or keep in touch with their friends. Now more than ever, it is important for everyone to know how to stay connected and stay safe online.

Here are three top tips!

1. Create a family media agreement including areas of the house where technology can and cannot be used, time limits for chat and approved apps or programmes.
2. Balance 'screen' time and 'green time' to teach equal importance of digital learning and physical exercise.
3. Learn together about online safety. Childnet has guidance for parents and



KEY DATES

Spring Term 2020

Children's Start Date:

Monday 6th January

Half Term Holiday:

Monday 17th to

Friday 21st February

Staff Training Day:

Monday 24th February

Children's Start Date:

Tuesday 25th February

Parents Evening:

Thursday 26th March

Finish Date:

Friday 3rd April at 2pm

Summer Term 2020

Children's Start Date:

Monday 20th April

Bank Holiday:

Friday 8th May

Half Term Holiday:

Monday 25th May to

Friday 29th May

Children's Start Date:

Monday 1st June

Parents Evening:

Thursday 2nd July

End of Term Finish Date:

Friday 17th July at 2pm

Autumn Term 2020

Children's Start Date:

Monday 7th September

Half Term Holiday:

Monday 26th -

Friday 30th October

Children's Start Date:

Monday 2nd November

Parents Evening:

Thursday 10th December

Finish Date:

Friday 18th

December at 2pm

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A SPOTLIGHT ON... TIMESTABLE ROCKSTARS



When it comes to times tables, speed AND accuracy are important – the more facts your child remembers, the easier it is for them to do harder calculations.

Times Table Rock Stars is designed to help children master the times tables through a variety of games.

The Garage is best for getting quicker at a few facts. Players get 10 coins per question.

Studio the questions can be anything from 1×1 up to 12×12 and children receive a rockstar status based on the speed of response across their last ten games.

Soundcheck has 20 questions each with a 5-second time limit. Players earn 5 coins per correct answer.

Coins mean the avatar can be upgraded!