

Friday 7th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back, half term holidays always seem to go so quickly, but I hope that you all enjoyed a restful break. I was lucky enough to spend a few days in Greece, where the weather was a little warmer!

Whilst the schools were closed to pupils last week, our site managers were in work and busy as ever. Sweeping and gathering leaves seems to be a never ending job at this time of year. Our gardeners in residence (Cassie and Alice) were also in harvesting the last of our vegetables and weeding our school gardens. The garden at Orchard is really starting to come together now and even has an 'orchard' of 6 apple trees!

Just before the half term the governors on our resources committee had their Autumn meeting. I am pleased to report that the federation continues to be in a fortunate position financially as we have a surplus (or carry forward). Being in a strong place financially means that we can continue to offer all the enrichment opportunities which make our federation unique, including: specialist music and Spanish teachers, gardening lessons to all year groups, cycling in Years 4, 5 and 6, chess lessons in Key Stage 2, residential trips to Tenerife, and a range of subsidised trips and after school clubs.

During the month of November the Viridis schools celebrate Black History. The theme this year is 'Standing Firm in Power and Pride'. The theme celebrates the strength, resilience, and contributions of Black people while encouraging continued progress toward a more inclusive future. While Black History Month offers a valuable opportunity to celebrate and spotlight the contributions of Black and Global Majority individuals and communities, our approach extends well beyond a single month. Black history is an integral part of British history and world history and it is therefore essential that it is woven meaningfully into the curriculum and life of the school all year round.

Please be reminded of the key dates for the academic year which can be found down the side of this update, and enjoy the selection of news items from across the schools in the federation below.

As always, I look forward to seeing you all on the different school gates in the coming weeks.

Kind regards,

Mr Stephen O'Brien - Executive Headteacher



Orchard

The Gardeners have been exploring the new outdoor classroom! They have been investigating the planting areas, discussing which plants will thrive best, and sharing ideas about what to grow next. From colourful flowers to tasty vegetables, they're making thoughtful decisions to keep the garden vibrant and full of life.



Southwold

A huge congratulations to the Southwold netball team for securing second place in a recent netball competition! They showed teamwork, determination and great sportsmanship throughout every match. Well done to Year 5 and 6, what an outstanding result!



Hoxton Garden

Children in Year 4 enjoyed their first workshop with the Apollo String Quartet. They performed a variety of pieces by Beethoven and Mozart. It was an incredible opportunity to experience live classical music and learn more about these iconic composers. They are looking forward for what's to come!



Autumn Term Parents Evening

Thursday 11th December - School closes at 1pm

End of Term Finish Date

Friday 19th December at 1:00pm

INSET Day

Monday 5th January

Children's Start Date

Tuesday 6th January

Work & Enterprise Week

wb Monday 26th January

School closes for Half Term

Friday 13th February at 3:30pm

Children's Start Date

Monday 23rd February

World Book Day

Thursday 5th March

Spring Term Parents Evening

Thursday 19th March - School closes at 1pm

End of Term Finish Date

Friday 27th March - School closes at 1pm

INSET Day

Monday 13th April

Children's Start Date

Tuesday 14th April

Science & Technology Day

Friday 22nd May

Science Fayre

Friday 22nd May