

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for coming to meet with your child's class teacher this week. It is so important that children get to share their learning with you. If you were unable to attend and have not managed to meet the class teacher since then, please contact the school office so that they can make a new appointment for you. We hope also that the new 'report card' which was sent home was helpful in knowing how best to support your child at home. Don't forget that we run a number of themed drop-in sessions for parents to support knowledge of learning in school. Events planned for the Spring Term will be found on the 'Parent Dates' document which will go out at the end of term.

Thank you to all parents and carers who have attended end of term events including the Sing-Alongs and the Winter Fayre. Events like this wouldn't be possible without our fantastic school community, so thank you for helping to make them such a success. Whilst on the subject of parent events, we would like to remind families that schools, are bound by a legal and professional duty to remain politically impartial. We respectfully request that parents remain sensitive to others in our community who may hold different views, and support us in promoting harmony, mutual respect, and inclusion for all members of our school community.

Our three-school choir has performed 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 teachers, Ms Davison and Ms Isik for their 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, 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, but it also 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.

Children will be starting new topics in the Spring Term and we will be sending home homework packs and activities to help preparation. We have seen some fantastic research and creative homework projects made in previous holidays and hope that some time can be made during this holiday also.

Thank you for your support this term, we wish you a happy and safe holiday and look forward to seeing you in the new year. Children return to school for the Spring Term on Tuesday 6th January 2026 at 8.55am.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Ms Felicity Headen - Headteacher | Mr Stephen O'Brien - Executive Headteacher

In this issue:

- Headteacher's Letter
- Reminders
- Literacy Game
- Viking Ships
- Gardening Workshop
- Junior Road Safety Officers
- Winter Fayre
- Coffee Morning
- Attendance
- Term End and Start
- School Uniform Ordering

Reminders

End of Term

Term finishes on Friday
19th December at 1.00pm.
School re-opens for all
children on Tuesday 6th
January at 8.55am.



Literacy Game

This week, EYFS explored their phonics knowledge through an engaging literacy game. The children identified, read, and wrote a range of focus sounds. The game encouraged teamwork, active learning, and lots of lively discussion!



Gardening Workshop

This week, Year 1 took part in an exciting gardening workshop. They had the opportunity to head outdoors to explore and observe leaves, paying close attention to their shapes, textures, and colours. Once they had collected a variety of leaves, the children used crayons and paper to create beautiful leaf imprints.



Viking Ships

This week, Year 5 built Viking longships. They followed their plans carefully and used a range of materials, joining techniques and creative skills to meet their design goals. The children showed brilliant teamwork, resilience and pride as they brought their designs to life.



Junior Road Safety Officers

This week the JRSOs in KS1 met up and brainstormed ideas for future road safety competitions. They would like to hold a 'Be bright stay safe' poster competition. KS2 JRSOs worked together to come up with lyrics for Orchard's road safety song to bring road safety awareness.



Winter Fayre

Our Winter Fayre was a success, bringing together families, friends, and festive cheer. Children enjoyed a visit from Santa and his helpful elf and the festive fun included a ball pit, face painting and more. It was a memorable day that truly captured the spirit of Christmas!



Key Dates

Year 1 Seasonal 'Sing-Along'

Monday 15th December at 2:45pm

EYFS Production (AM Performance)

Thursday 18th December at 9:30am

KS2 Pantomime at Hackney Empire

Thursday 18th December (tickets only)

EYFS Production (PM Production)

Thursday 18th December at 2:45pm

Children break up for the holidays

Friday 19th December at 1:00pm

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.

Date	Focus
Friday 19 th December	<u>Christmas Holiday Activities</u> : What activities can we try in the holidays and what local places can we visit? (Children can attend this coffee morning)

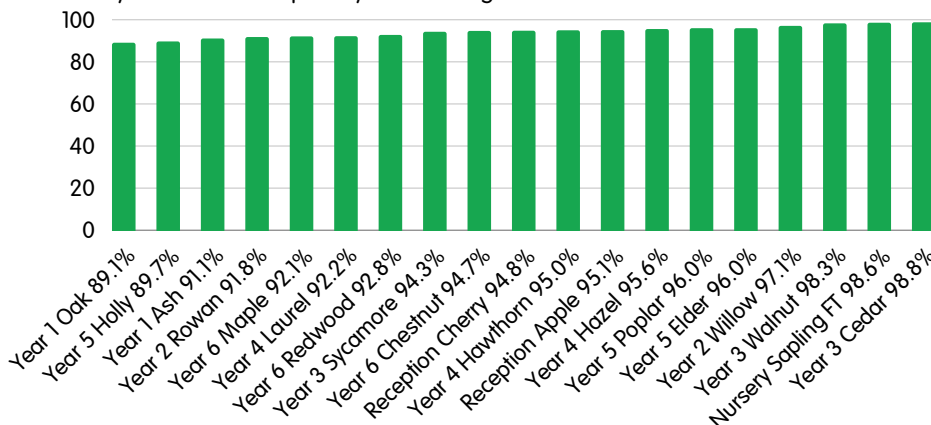
Attendance

The whole school attendance for the last week was 93.7%.

Well done to Year 3 Cedar Class, last week's winners with 98.8% 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 autumn term ends on Friday 19th December at 1:00pm.

Please scan the QR code to view our 2025 -2026 term dates.



School Uniform

Please scan the QR code to order school uniform,



Orchard Primary School
Holcroft Road
London
E9 7BB



020 8985 7785



@orchardprimary



www.orchard.hackney.sch.uk