

### Dear Parents and Carers,

At Viridis, we value every child's ideas and believe their voices matter. Our Pupil Voice groups give children the opportunity to take responsibility, develop leadership skills and help improve school life for everyone. Through these groups, pupils learn teamwork, confidence and how to make positive changes in their community. We have a range of roles including Peer Mediators who help develop playground friendships, Librarians who promote a love of reading, Language Captains who help us learn Spanish, Junior Road Safety Officers who encourage safe travel and Digital Leaders who support safe and responsible technology use. These groups empower pupils to lead by example. Parents can find out more about their important work on our website.

You will often hear our staff saying that 'reading is the gateway to all learning'. We aim to change home reading books at least once a week (more often for younger children), and returning home readers to school will help us to do this. We make sure that children have a wide selection of books to choose from but the breadth of books available reduces when these are left at home. Please could you check for any school home reading books that may have slipped behind the sofa or under the bed, pop them in your child's book bag or give them directly to any member of staff during morning drop off.

Children are expected to know all of their multiplication tables by the end of Year 4, and they will benefit hugely from any support you can provide at home. Quick recall of times tables builds confidence and supports learning in many areas of maths. All children in Years 3 to 6 have been given a password to access Times Table Rock Stars, our online programme designed to make practising fun and engaging. Please encourage your child to use this regularly. You can also help at home by practising little and often while walking to school or at home. Chant tables together, use flashcards or spot multiplication in real life (e.g. "4 plates with 3 carrots each"). Short, frequent practice makes a big difference!

It just leaves us to wish you a wonderful half term break. We look forward to seeing the children returning with their holiday homework projects in just over a week. Please remember that school will reopen at the usual time of 8.55am on Monday 23rd February.

Many thanks for all of your support.

**Ms Felicity Headen - Headteacher**

#### In this issue:

Headteacher's Letter  
Reminders  
Train Ride  
Model Homes  
Surrealist Art  
Debate Mate  
Peer Mediators  
Coffee Morning  
Attendance  
Term End and Start  
School Uniform Ordering

### Reminders

#### School Start Time

School starts at 8.55am. Please ensure children arrive on time to line up and enter the school with their class teacher when the bell goes.



#### Book Bags & Reading Diaries

Remember book bags and reading diaries need to be brought to school every day. This teaches both responsibility and independence.



#### Train Ride

This week, Reception enjoyed a train ride to London Fields. They learned about the role of railway workers and how they help to keep everyone moving safely. They explored the station and developed a deeper understanding of how transport helps our community.



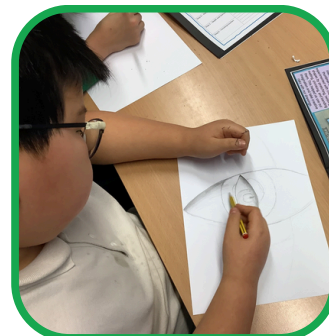
#### Model Homes

In Year 1 DT, children designed and created their own homes. They began researching ideas, designed their models, selected materials, and carefully made their creations. Finally, they evaluated their finished homes, reflecting on what worked well.



#### Surrealist Art

This week, Year 6 used their plan to create surrealist artwork inspired by Salvador Dalí. They explored dream-like imagery, unusual combinations, and symbolism, then added colour, texture, and detail to develop their ideas and show Dalí's influence.



## Debate Mate

Children in Debate Mate took part in the Primary Urban Debate League at John Scurr Primary School where they competed in two debates against other schools, winning both! They delivered well structured speeches, used impressive vocabulary, and demonstrated excellent debating skills.



## Peer Mediators

Our peer mediators worked hard to sort and store the new resources this week. The peer mediators on duty quickly got to work organising and leading activities during playtime. Their support helped ensure that the new equipment was used safely and that everyone had an enjoyable and active break time.



## Key Dates

### Children return to school

Monday 23rd February at 8:55am

### World Book Day

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March

### Year 2 Rowan Class Assembly

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 10:15am

### Year 5 Poplar Class Assembly

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 10:50am

### Parents Evening

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March - School closes at 1:00pm

### Year 2 Willow Class Assembly

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 10:15am

### Year 5 Elder Class Assembly

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 10:50am

### Easter Bonnet Competition

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March

### Year 5 Holly Class Assembly

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 10:50am

### Parents into Learning (DT Focus)

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 9:05am

### Lower School Parent Reading Celebration

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 9:15am

### Children break up for the Easter holidays

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March - School closes 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 6 <sup>th</sup> March	<u>Reading</u> : How do I develop reading for pleasure at home?
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	<u>Music</u> : How do we develop children's music skills from Reception to Year 6? (Children can attend this coffee morning)

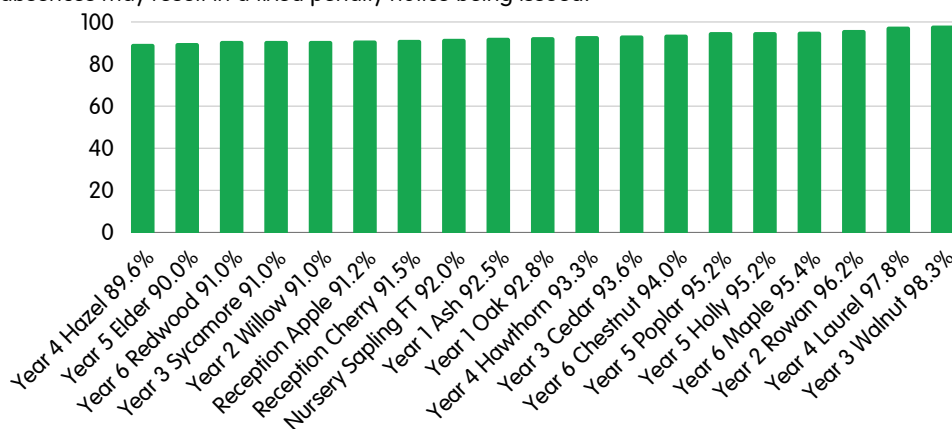
## Attendance

The whole school attendance for the last week was 92.9%.

Well done to Year 3 Walnut, last week's winners with 98.3% 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 spring term starts on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 8:55am.

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