

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of our first half of the Autumn term, we would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been a great start to the new academic year. The past eight weeks (yes eight weeks!) have flown by, filled with lots of exciting learning.

We would also like to apologise again for the inconvenience caused to families on Tuesday following damage to part of our alarm system by a contractor working on the school site. A decision to close a school is extremely rare and never taken lightly. However, following consultation with Hackney Education, we felt it was necessary to close the school as a precaution while the extent of the damage was assessed, with the safety of our pupils and staff our absolute priority. We are pleased that we were able to reopen the school the following day. Thank you for your patience, understanding and support.

Each week the headteachers in the federation take a tour of one of the three school sites. Walking around the schools this term, it's been great to see our learning spaces full of colour, creativity and excellent work on displays. Classrooms and corridors celebrate the hard work and imagination of our pupils. Our high quality learning environments are one of the things that make our schools the special places that they are.

We also celebrated Democracy Day across the school! Each class voted for their new class and school council representatives. Year 6 pupils worked especially hard, creating posters and flyers and giving speeches as they campaigned to become Head Boy and Head Girl. It was a brilliant example of democracy in action, showing one of the key British Values we learn about in school. Pupils learned the importance of having a voice, making fair choices and respecting others' opinions. Well done to everyone who took part and voted!

Looking ahead to the second half of the Autumn term, highlights will include our annual Christmas performances and sing-alongs (more information to follow!) and lots more opportunities for parents to get into school to see the fantastic learning taking place. A little reminder to complete your child's holiday homework project with them and to remember to read lots of the coming week. We wish you a happy and safe half-term break and look forward to welcoming the children back to school at 8:55am on Monday 2nd November.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Ms Felicity Headen - Headteacher

Rachael Carr - Interim Executive Headteacher

In this issue:

Headteacher's Letter
Reminders
Trick or Treat
Upcycling
Afrobeats Dance
Harvest Festival
Junior Road Safety Officers
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.



Lost Property & School Uniform

If you have misplaced a jumper, lunchbox or other item, please call into the school office who will show you to the lost property cupboard.



Trick or Treat

This week in EYFS, the children have been learning all about Halloween traditions! They had lots of fun taking turns to knock on the door and say, "Trick or treat!" before receiving a surprise! What a fantastic way to learn about Halloween through play!



Upcycling

This week, Year 1 learned all about plastic pollution and the importance of protecting the planet. The children upcycled old water bottles into plant pots, giving them a new lease of life! What a fantastic way to learn about caring for our environment.



Afrobeats Dance

As part of World Week, children had a fantastic time taking part in an Afrobeats dance workshop! The children explored Afrobeats dance, learning new rhythms and movements. It was a wonderful way to learn about another culture while staying active!



Harvest Festival

A huge thank you to all our parents, families and members of the community for your generous food donations for our Harvest Festival! We have been overwhelmed by your kindness and support. The food bank will be collecting the donations to help local families in need. Orchard and the School Council thanks you for making such a difference!



Junior Road Safety Officers

Junior Road Safety Officers attended their induction with the Hackney Road Safety Team, where they received training on how to promote road and cycle safety within our community. They also had the opportunity to meet with the Metropolitan Police to learn more about their role in keeping our roads and local community safe.



Key Dates

PTA Meeting

Friday 6th November at 2:30pm

Individual Photographs

Thursday 12th November

Anti-bullying Day

Monday 16th November

Sibling Photographs

Tuesday 17th November

Year 5 Poplar Class Assembly

Tuesday 17th November at 10:50am

Year 3 Cedar Class Assembly

Tuesday 24th November at 10:15am

Year 5 Holly Class Assembly

Tuesday 24th November at 10:50am

Year 3 Walnut Class Assembly

Tuesday 1st December at 10:15am

Year 5 Elder Class Assembly

Tuesday 1st December at 10:50am

Winter Fayre

Friday 4th December at 3:30pm

Parents Evening

Thursday 10th December - School finishes at 1pm

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 th November	<u>Handwriting</u> : How can I help my child to develop fluent handwriting? (Children can attend)
Friday 4 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)
Thursday 17 th December	Parent Reading Celebration Event (EYFS and KS1)
Date	EYFS Workshop
Friday 20 th November	<u>Phonics</u> : How can I support my child to develop their phonics skills?

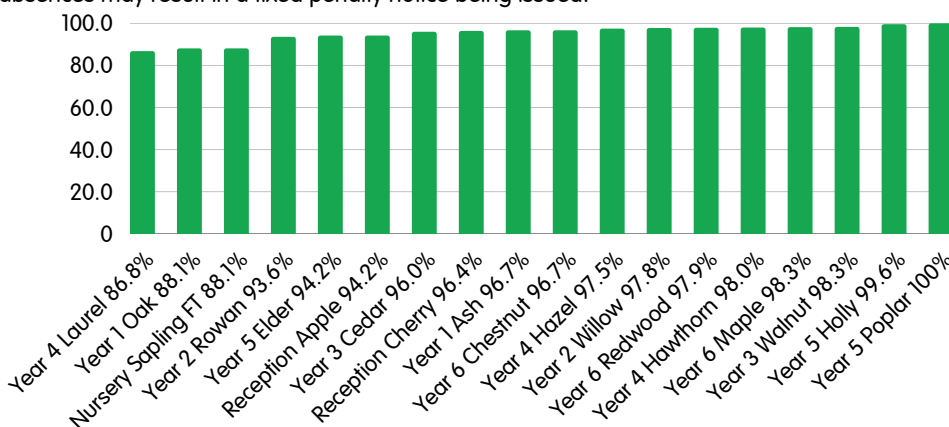
Attendance

The whole school attendance for the last week was 91.0%.

Well done to Year 5 Poplar, last week's winners with 100% 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 starts on Monday 2nd November at 8:55am. Please scan the QR code to view our 2026 -2027 term dates.



School Uniform

Please scan the QR code to order school uniform,



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