Orchard Primary School

HIGHLIGHTS

13th November 2026

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! We hope that you enjoyed the half term break. Thank you to all parents who supported children with the homework projects in preparation for the upcoming learning this half term, particularly learning important topic-based words. A broad, rich vocabulary; the words we recognise and know how to use allows a child to understand and enjoy the things they read, to learn about the world around them, and to express themselves and their thoughts so that people will listen. Research suggests that a strong vocabulary in childhood is linked to future success and happiness, both at school and in later life. Look out for the curriculum newsletter which was sent home in book bags last term for an overview of the curriculum coverage. This will help you to continue talking about school learning with your child at home.

Next week we are celebrating 'Anti-Bullying Week' across our schools. This is an important time for our pupils to celebrate kindness, respect, and friendship. It helps everyone understand that bullying, whether in person or online, is never okay, and that small actions can make a big difference. Throughout the week, pupils will take part in activities that encourage empathy, teamwork and inclusion, reminding us all that we each have a role in making our school a safe and happy place for everyone. We feel proud of the school environment we have created where every child feels valued and supported.

We work very hard to be a smart school where children can feel proud. An important part of this is our school uniform. As the weather gets colder, please remember that children are expected to wear black school shoes and not boots as these are not safe when they are moving around the school and in the playground. If you would like your children to wear boots when travelling to and from school then they must also bring their school shoes to change into when they arrive. At different points in the day, children may remove jumpers which can easily be misplaced in busy classrooms. As well as making sure all uniform has your child's full name, please can you also check that items belong to your child and have not been picked up by accident. We ask that any items that are not yours be returned to class and to their rightful owners the next school day.

This half term you will receive your child's 'Autumn Report Card' at Parents' Evening on Thursday 10th December 2026. This will give more information about achievements so far, as well as learning targets for the upcoming term. Letters inviting you to parents' evening along with details of the online Arbor booking system will be sent home in the coming weeks. We are keen to make sure that all parents meet with class teachers and discuss their child's progress, as well as take up the opportunity to look through their workbooks and celebrate their hard work. If you are finding it difficult to make an appointment, please call the school office who will be happy to help you. School contact details can be found on the reverse of this newsletter.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Ms Felicity Headen - Headteacher **Rachael Carr - Interim Executive Headteacher**

Reminders

School Shoes

Smart black shoes for school please. School uniform items can be purchased from Mapac. To order, please scan the QR code on the next page or visit our school website for the link.



Book Bags & Reading Diaries

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



Icy Adventures

EYFS have started their new topic, Deserts and Icebergs! They are exploring environments, with a focus on cold places and what life is like in icy surroundings. They have been enjoying hands-on activities, including learning about fishing and making marshmallows.



Whatever Next!

In Literacy, Year 1 have been reading Whatever Next! Last week they explored Baby Bear's emotions, and this week, the children had the opportunity to bring the story to life through role-play and acting. They had lots of fun taking on different roles and retelling the story!



Exploring Hinduism

This half term, Year 4 have been learning about Hinduism in RE. They have explored the importance of the sacred symbol Aum (Om) and discovered how it represents Brahman, the ultimate reality and universal spirit in Hindu belief.



Spelling Bee

Congratulations to our KS2 pupils who have successfully competed in their year-group Spelling Bee competitions! Through their hard work and excellent spelling skills, they have secured a place in next week's highly anticipated Federation Spelling Bee Final. Well done to everyone who took part, and we wish our finalists the very best of luck!



Cross Country League

A huge well done to all the children who took part in the first Hackney Cross Country race! The children showed fantastic determination, resilience and enthusiasm as they tackled the challenging mile-and-a-half course. Everyone gave their best effort and demonstrated brilliant sportsmanship throughout!



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 4th December	Christmas Holiday Activities: What activities can we try in the holidays and what local places can we visit? ((Children can attend)
Thursday 17th December	Parent Reading Celebration Event (EYFS and KS1)
Date	**EYFS Workshop**
Friday 20th November	Phonics: How can I support my child to develop their phonics skills?

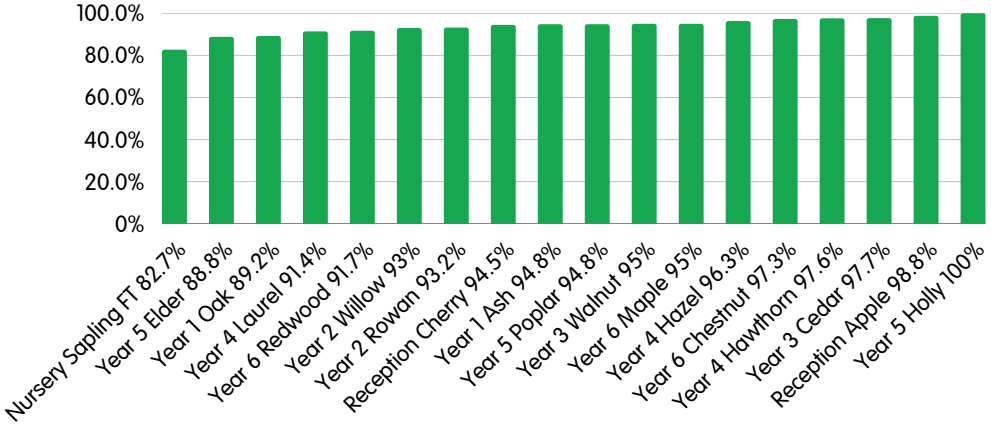
Attendance

The whole school attendance for the last week was 94.4%.

Well done to Year 5 Holly, 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.



Key Dates

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

Year 6 Seasonal Sing-Along
Monday 7th December at 2:55pm

Year 5 Seasonal Sing-Along
Tuesday 8th December at 2:55pm

Parents Evening
Thursday 10th December - School finishes at 1pm

Term End and Start

The second half of the autumn term ends on Thursday 17th December at 1:00pm. 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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