



Friday 10th January 2025

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

Welcome to the first of my Executive Headteacher updates which will come out fortnightly (between the school newsletters). I want to start by welcoming everyone back from the holidays; I hope that you all had a lovely break.

Having worked in the federation for almost 15 years, I am fortunate enough to know many of the families that our schools serve. Many of you will know that I was previously headteacher at Hoxton Garden Primary School, followed by Southwold Primary School and more recently Orchard. I feel that this puts me in good stead to take on the role of Executive Headteacher. I also feel very lucky to be supported by three very talented headteachers; Ms Carr at Hoxton Garden, Ms Grover at Southwold and Ms Headen at Orchard. Collectively we have over 40 years of experience working at the Viridis schools!

On Monday we kicked the term off with an INSET day, which included professional development training for staff and pupil progress meetings where teachers met to discuss the progress of children in their classes. We then welcomed back pupils on Tuesday. It always amazes me seeing such high quality holiday homework projects coming in through the gate on the first day of the term. Thank you so much for helping your children to research their new topics, this will really help them in remembering lots of key facts about their History and Geography learning.

As well as news from me, these updates will also have all the key dates for the academic year down the side, and a selection of news items from across the federation at the bottom so that families can see what children at each of the schools have been up to.

I look forward to seeing you all on the different school gates across the week and wish you all health and happiness for 2025.

Kind regards,

**Mr Stephen O'Brien - Executive Headteacher**



**Key Dates**

**Work & Enterprise Week**  
Week beginning Monday 3rd February

**Safer Internet Day**  
Tuesday 11th February

**School Closes for February Half Term**  
Friday 14th February at 3:30pm

**Children's Start Date**  
Monday 24th February at 8:55am

**World Book Day**  
Thursday 6th March

**Parents Evening**  
Thursday 27th March

**School Closes for Easter Holiday**  
Friday 4th April

**Children's Start Date**  
Tuesday 22nd April

**Bank Holiday**  
Monday 5th May

**Families' Week**  
Week beginning Tuesday 6th May

**Science & Technology Day**  
Friday 23rd May

**Orchard**

Orchard's final bike bus of 2024 was the largest one yet with over 70 children, parents and carers! They were joined by Caroline Woodley, Mayor of Hackney for a brisk cycle from Frampton Park estate through Well Street Common. The bike bus runs every Tuesday from 8:30am.



**Southwold**

Children in Year 6 had the opportunity to dissect a lamb's heart during a Science workshop! They learned all about the heart, getting the chance to see the different chambers up close and discussed the importance of heart health and maintaining a healthy diet.



**Hoxton Garden**

Children in Year 2 have been learning about poetry. They were inspired by Roger McGough's poem 'The Sound Collector' and enjoyed a walk to the local high street to listen out and collect some sounds to use in their own poems.

