

Viridis Schools Executive Headteacher Update

Friday 7th February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been almost a year since myself and Ms Davie undertook our study visit to Vancouver in Canada (funded by Erasmus+ money). One of the most powerful aspects that we took away from the trip was the use of storytelling in schools to build a common identity and to connect people. I hope that you will have seen our 'Staff Stories' displays at each school, but you can now also see a selection of staff stories on each of the school's website:

<https://www.orchard.hackney.sch.uk/about-us/about-orchard/staff-stories/>
<https://southwold.hackney.sch.uk/about-us/about-southwold/staff-stories/>
<https://hoxtongarden.hackney.sch.uk/about-us/about-hoxton-garden/staff-stories/>

The trip was also an opportunity to form new friendships and connections with school leaders within Hackney. I feel very fortunate to have made some new life-long friends!

Recently we were able to find out our indicative Reception numbers for September 2025. I'm pleased to say that numbers are stable across the three Viridis schools. I am hopeful that these numbers will translate into new pupils come September. Thank you for all that you do to spread the word about what fabulous places our schools are, word of mouth really is so important when families are choosing schools.

Last week we published our term dates for the 2025-2026 academic year and the school websites have been updated accordingly. We understand that flights and holidays are cheaper during term time, but please try to book travels around the school holiday dates. Children should only be absent from school during term time for exceptional circumstances.

Please be reminded of the key dates for the academic year, which can be found down the side of this update. Please also enjoy the selection of news items from across the Viridis schools below.

As always, I look forward to seeing you all on the different school gates in the coming weeks.

Kind regards,

Mr Stephen O'Brien - Executive Headteacher



Key Dates

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 at 1:00pm

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

To celebrate Work and Enterprise Week, Sapling Class took a trip to the local green grocers. Whilst shopping, children were very curious and asked the shop keeper many questions. They loved paying with coins and getting the receipt and change.



Southwold

To celebrate Work and Enterprise Week, children from Year 3 enjoyed a workshop with a Head Chef from Nourish. Under their supervision, children chopped vegetables and fruit, ready to be served at lunch time. They also learned about the importance of food hygiene.



Hoxton Garden

For Work and Enterprise Week, Year 1 enjoyed a visit from local police officers and were keen to find out about how they serve and support the community. The children learned about the officer's different roles and the various items carried or used to fulfil their job effectively.

