

Friday 19th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the first Executive Headteacher of the academic year. I want to start by welcoming everyone back from the holidays; I hope that you all had a lovely break. With my tan quickly fading, the summer break seems like a distant memory!

You will see that there have been a number of works happening over the summer. At Orchard there is a new school garden complete with an outdoor classroom, it has already been used for gardening lessons which started last week. At Southwold we have moved around some of the classrooms to create a new 'Arts Wing' housing the music room and library. Meanwhile at Hoxton Garden we have had works done in the library to make it an even more fantastic learning space for the children. I want to say a huge thank you to Ms Shore and our team of site managers for all their hard work over the break.

You will have seen that we are trying something new with contributions for trips and workshops this year. Instead of asking for voluntary contributions across the year, we are asking for one voluntary contribution of £20 per child at the start of the year. Asking for a contribution now will help the schools to manage the cost of trips/enrichment and makes it possible for all pupils to participate in these opportunities which enhance the learning that takes place inside of the classroom. Please note that this is entirely voluntary.

Last of all, it's been a busy few weeks down in Early Years with all our new children joining in Nursery and Reception. All three of our Early Years provisions are graded as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted, a testament to our fabulous staff and the excellent offer that we have. I also want to say welcome and thank you for choosing us to any pupils joining in other years groups, particularly those families joining Orchard from St Dominic's.

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

Kind regards,

Mr Stephen O'Brien - Executive Headteacher



Bring A Significant Male to School Day
Wednesday 24th September

World Week & Democracy Day
wb Monday 13th October

School Closes for Half Term
Friday 24th October at 3:30pm

Children's Start Date
Monday 3rd November

Autumn Term Parents Evening
Thursday 11th December - School closes at 1pm

End of Term Finish Date
Friday 19th December at 1:00pm

INSET Day
Monday 5th January

Children's Start Date
Tuesday 6th January

Work & Enterprise Week
wb Monday 26th January

School closes for Half Term
Friday 13th February at 3:30pm

Children's Start Date
Monday 23rd February

World Book Day
Thursday 5th March

Spring Term Parents Evening
Thursday 19th March - School closes at 1pm

End of Term Finish Date
Friday 27th March - School closes at 1pm

Orchard

This week, Year 6 have been working on their fine motors skills, stretching and running. They engaged in a range of activities to prepare for their basketball unit in PE. They are keen to get on the basketball court next week and work on their passing and dribbling skills!



Southwold

Southwold Choir had their first rehearsal of the school year in the new music room. Each week, children will prepare for performances throughout the school year, singing songs from a range of genres. Today they began learning songs in preparation for International Evening!



Hoxton Garden

Year 3 have been learning the place value of 3 digit numbers. They used a place value chart and dienes to represent different 3 digit numbers. They also looked at how they can partition 3 digit numbers in different ways. They enjoyed working together to present their learning using concrete resources.

