

### Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you have been able to book an appointment to meet your child's class teacher and look at books at our parents' evening which is due to take place on Thursday 11th December. Sharing learning outcomes with children gives them a chance to feel proud of what they do in school and know that you value learning as much as they do. You can book an appointment online or through the school office.

This week, we were delighted to welcome parents and carers from across the school to our special 'Parents into Learning' event. Families had the chance to step into the classroom and work alongside their children, exploring a range of fun and engaging learning activities. Thank you to everyone who came along and helped make the morning such a warm, positive, and memorable experience for our school community.

Now that it is getting dark much earlier in the evening, please make sure that you have made arrangements to pick up your child on time if they attend an after-school curriculum club or our after-school care club. If your child is in Year 4, 5 or 6 and you have given permission for them to walk home on their own, make sure that they know you are expecting them to walk straight home by the safest and most direct route, crossing the roads with care. Lots of jackets and bags have reflective strips and this will give some extra help and safety when negotiating the Hackney traffic. We are delighted that so many children arrive at school on scooters and bikes as this is an excellent way to get daily exercise. Our scooter and bike racks get full very quickly. Please help your child to show consideration to others by storing these safely and with care.

We have a number of end of term events approaching including sing-a-longs and for our Early Years children a traditional play. The dates for all seasonal events are displayed on gates, are on the school website and were sent home on the parent dates flier at the start of the half term. We had a high demand for pantomime tickets for Years 3 to 6 at the Hackney Empire and Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are being visited by a professional pantomime theatre company in December so that they do not miss out. Christmas Jumper and Christmas Dinner day will be taking place on the 12th December!

Thank you for your ongoing support.

**Ms Ruth Grover - Headteacher | Mr Stephen O'Brien - Executive Headteacher**

#### In this issue:

Headteacher's Letter  
Reminders  
EYFS Family Morning  
Gardening Workshop  
The Wallace Collection  
Federation Spelling Bee  
School Council  
Coffee Morning  
Attendance  
Term End and Start  
School Uniform Ordering

### Reminders

#### PE Kit

Please ensure children have the correct PE kit to take part in physical activity learning.



#### 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.



### EYFS Family Morning

EYFS enjoyed a morning with their parents and carers, talking about how much they have grown and all the new things they can do now, that they couldn't do as babies. Afterwards, the children and their grown-ups had fun exploring the classroom activities together.



### Gardening Workshop

Year 1 had a fantastic time at their gardening workshop this week. Children explored the different parts of a plant that they can eat, including the stem, leaves, seeds, fruit and even the roots! The highlight was heading into the garden to taste a selection of these plant parts.



### The Wallace Collection

Year 6 enjoyed a visit to The Wallace Collection. They learned how each painting tells a story and explored the connections between art and mythology. They uncovered the meanings behind different characters and symbols. They even showcased their sketching skills!



## Federation Spelling Bee

Pupils from across the federation took part in the Viridis Spelling Bee hosted at Orchard. Competitors demonstrated excellent spelling ability as they tackled challenging words. Southwold won the Lower Key Stage 2 round, while Orchard claimed both the Upper Key Stage 2 title and the overall trophy. Congratulations to all those who took part!



## School Council

Our school council team had a successful cross site meeting at Orchard Primary School this week. The teams from across the Federation shared ideas for future events and completed a learning walk of the school, where they looked at areas that they could focus on in future meetings.



## Key Dates

**Year 5 Seasonal 'Sing-Along'**  
Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 2:45pm

**Year 3 Seasonal 'Sing-Along'**  
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 2:45pm

**Winter Fayre**  
Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 3:30pm

**Year 4 Seasonal 'Sing-Along'**  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 2:45pm

**Year 2 Seasonal 'Sing-Along'**  
Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 2:45pm

**EYFS Production (AM Performance)**  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 9:30am

**EYFS Production (PM Performance)**  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 2:30pm

**Parents Evening**  
Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December - School closes at 1pm

**EYFS and KS1 Pantomime in school**  
Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December

**Christmas Jumper / Christmas Dinner Day**  
Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December

**Year 6 Seasonal 'Sing-Along'**  
Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 2:45pm

**Year 1 Seasonal 'Sing-Along'**  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at

## Coffee Mornings

Parents/Carers are invited to drop into our sessions on various themes which are held in Raven Room or the Lower Hall 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. EYFS Workshops are held separately. Please see the dates below.

Date	Focus
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	<u>Christmas Activities</u> : What activities can we try in the holidays and what local places can we visit? (Children can attend this coffee morning)

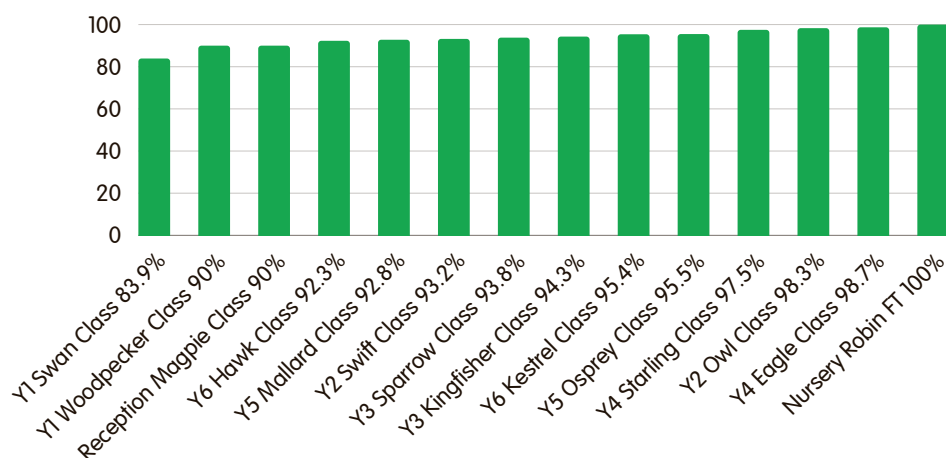
## Attendance

The whole school attendance for the last week was 93.7%.

Well done to Nursery FT Robin Class, last week's winners with 100%.

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 ends on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 1:00pm.

Please scan the QR code to view our 2025 -2026 term dates.



## School Uniform

Please scan the QR code to order school uniform.



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