

Friday 14th March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can't believe that we are midway through the second half of the Spring term. The evenings are getting longer, and the recent warm weather and blue skies have been a welcome sight.

It's at this point in the year when we start to plan ahead for September staffing. We recently surveyed the staff and I am pleased to tell you that all teaching staff that completed the survey indicated that they plan to stay next academic year. For the first time I can remember, we may find ourselves in a situation across the federation where we have too many teachers!

As a school improvement partner for Hackney Education and an inspector for Ofsted, I get to visit many schools across London. These visits give me opportunities to magpie best practice that I see in other schools. They also allow me to reflect on the provision across our federation. As I walk around our schools, I am always struck by how well our pupils behave and the courtesy that they show to both their peers and adults. One of our non-negotiables is to say 'Good Morning/Afternoon' or 'Hello' to anyone that we meet or pass. Visitors always comment on how polite our children are.

We have a busy few weeks across the schools. Orchard had a visit this week from an assessor from the Leading Parent Partnership Award. Southwold is hosting the Federation Timestable Championship next week and Hoxton Garden are welcoming school leaders from a Suffolk school to showcase their best practice.

Please be reminded of the key dates for the academic year, which can be found down the side of this update, and 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

Parents Evening

Thursday 27th March - School closes at 1:00pm

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

School Closes for May Half Term

Friday 23rd May at 3:30pm

Children's Start Date

Monday 2nd June at 8:55am

Keeping Healthy Week

Week beginning Monday 23rd June

Parents Evening

Thursday 10th July - School closes at 1:00pm

End of Term Finish Date

Friday 18th July - School closes at 1:00pm

Orchard

Last week children in EYFS enjoyed celebrating Pancake Day by making pancakes out of playdough. They used natural resources such as petals and leaves to create toppings. The children then joined in a fun pancake race! It was a day full of creativity and excitement!



Southwold

This week, Peer Mediators met to discuss their roles and how they can continue to support pupils in the playground. They shared mantras such as, 'Listen to both sides of the story', 'Don't solve the problem, help to solve the problem', and 'Be kind to everyone!' It was wonderful to see how enthusiastic the children were.



Hoxton Garden

World Book Day was an activity packed adventure! The day began with parent reading followed by an assembly. The afternoon started with the mad teacher book dash and finished with peer reading. It was a real pleasure to see all the children and adults taking the time to read together and celebrate their favourite stories.

