

Friday 21st November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It really does feel like November this week, the chill in the air has certainly made itself known! With temperatures dropping sharply this week, we encourage everyone to bundle up and stay cosy by wearing a coat, hats, gloves and scarves.

Regular attendance is one of the most important parts of helping pupils to learn and thrive. To help everyone stay healthy and reduce the spread of colds, we encourage pupils to support good hygiene habits. Simple steps, like washing hands with soap, using tissues to catch coughs and sneezes, keeping hands away from faces and staying home only when genuinely unwell, can make a big difference. By arriving at school on time, practising good hygiene and being ready to learn, our pupils give themselves the best chance to achieve and thrive!

A number of people have told me that I look tired these last days... and that would be because Orchard were visited by Ofsted this week. This marks my third Ofsted inspection since becoming Executive Headteacher less than a year ago. This was one of the first inspections under the new 2025 framework. I want to share my heartfelt thanks to our whole school community. Over a two busy days, the five inspectors spent time in classrooms, spoke with pupils and staff and saw first-hand the warmth, ambition, and hard work that define our family of schools. I was incredibly proud of the way our children approached the experience, with their usual enthusiasm, and confidence. I was equally proud of the professionalism and dedication shown by every member of staff. Whilst I am not able to share the outcome of the inspection at this stage, I can tell you that we are extremely pleased!

December will be a busy and exciting month with our performances, sing-alongs and winter fayres. The dates for these events can be found on both the Autumn 2 parent dates and the school websites.

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



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

INSET Day

Monday 13th April

Children's Start Date

Tuesday 14th April

Science & Technology Day

Friday 22nd May

Science Fayre

Friday 22nd May

Orchard

Year 6 explored plant reproduction in their gardening lesson. They took part in a hands on flower dissection where they examined the different parts of a flower. Then they created their own detailed images of a lily labeling the parts to reinforce their new learning.



Southwold

Pupils in Year 6 graduated from Goldsmiths University as part of the IntoUniversity program. They had a tour of the campus and learnt about the founder before ending the week with a memorable graduation ceremony.



Hoxton Garden

Hoxton Garden Digital Leaders took part in a valuable workshop hosted by accounting firm Deloitte. They learnt all about cyber security and being safe online. They then delivered assemblies to the rest of the school to share their new knowledge.

