



Friday 24th January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Somehow, we find ourselves halfway through the half term already. I have certainly been busy over the past three weeks, moving between the three schools to see all the excellent learning going on. I think there was one day when I managed to do 27,000 steps!

It has been a busy few weeks in terms of governance. Last week, myself and Victoria (our chair of governors) inducted a new parent governor and a governor from Hackney's 'Young Governor' programme. This week, we held a governor visit morning at Southwold, the theme for which was 'Behaviour and School Culture'. It was fabulous to see how calm the school was and to meet pupils who talked about their own experiences of attending a school in the federation. I'd like to say a big thank you to the pupils and staff at Southwold for helping to ensure that the morning went so well.

Next week, we have 'Work and Enterprise Week' to look forward to. Following feedback from pupils, we have included two new sectors of work this year; technology and creative. Learning about different careers in primary school supports our pupils to understand how the skills and knowledge they gain now will help them throughout their life and broadens their horizons about what they might become one day. This enrichment week always reminds me of my own career history and starting my first job picking potatoes on my uncle's farm. Whilst I have a slightly different role now, if you need to know anything about potatoes, look no further.

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 schools in the federation 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

Work & Enterprise Week

Week beginning Monday 27th January

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

Children's Start Date

Tuesday 22nd April

Bank Holiday

Monday 5th May

Families' Week

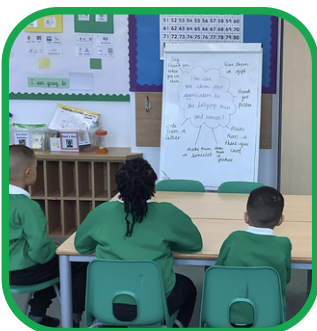
Week beginning Tuesday 6th May

Science & Technology Day

Friday 23rd May

Orchard

This week, the KS1 Junior Road Safety Officers gathered to discuss ways to show appreciation for the local School Crossing Patrol Officers. They discussed various ideas and decided to create thank you cards and letters, which will be delivered to the local team as a gesture of their gratitude!



Southwold

This term, the Eco Team got together to complete the Environmental Review. The Environmental Review forms part of the Green Flag application and supports us to see what we are doing well and our targets to work towards to make our school a greener place.



Hoxton Garden

Children in EYFS have settled and are engaging enthusiastically in their activities. Their role-play area has been transformed into a birthday celebration space, where children enjoy celebrating each other's birthdays. In the Maths area, they have been exploring measurement by comparing the sizes of dinosaurs!

