

### Dear Parents and Carers,

Since we returned to school in January, there have been some fabulous trips and events taking place. These have included a Florence Nightingale workshop to support children in Year 1 becoming immersed in their History learning and Year 3 exploring the Science Museum to learn even more about their topic on Forces. Most of all we have enjoyed inviting our parents/carers into the school to talk about their careers during 'Work and Enterprise Week', as well as those who have attended our interactive coffee mornings and class assemblies. We would like to thank you for your continued support. Please have a look at the published parent dates or the school website to stay up-to-date with everything that has been happening in school and all that we have planned for our pupils.

You will often hear our staff saying that 'reading is the gateway to all learning'. We aim to change home reading books at least once a week (more often for younger children), and returning home readers to school will help us to do this. We make sure that children have a wide selection of books to choose from but the breadth of books available reduces when these are left at home. Please could you check for any school home reading books that may have slipped behind the sofa or under the bed, pop them in your child's book bag or give them directly to any member of staff during morning drop off.

Children are expected to know all of their multiplication tables by the end of Year 4 and they will benefit hugely from any help that you can give from home. We have given all children in Years 3 to 6 a password to access an online programme to help them learn their times tables called Times Table Rock Stars. Please encourage them to use this, as well as practise with you when you see the opportunity.

It just leaves us to wish you a wonderful half term break. We look forward to seeing the children returning with their holiday homework projects in just over a week. Please remember that school will reopen at the usual time of 8.55am on Monday 24th February.

Many thanks for all of your support.

**Ms Felicity Headen - Headteacher | Mr Stephen O'Brien - Executive Headteacher**

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### Reminders

#### School Shoes

Reading for 15 minutes each day supports fluency, comprehension and vocabulary development. Making this part of a daily routine at home also ensures children develop a love of reading!



#### Punctuality

School starts at 8.55am and we expect all children to be on time in order that learning time is not lost.



### Spotting Transport

EYFS went on a local walk as part of their transport topic. They observed various types of transport, from cars to buses. They discussed the different ways people travel and identified different vehicles. They even enjoyed a spot of birdwatching as they saw a parakeet!



### Clay Sculptures

This week in Art, Year 1 have worked on developing their skills using clay. They created their own animal sculptures using modelling techniques such as pinching and rolling. They then added further detail developing their fine motor skills.



### Sutton Hoo

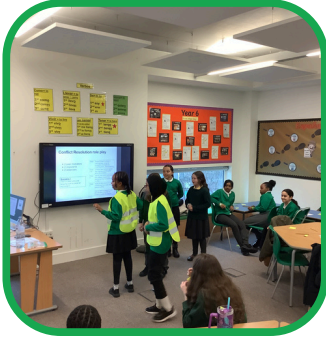
This week, children in Year 4 enjoyed a visit to the British Museum. The Museum provided them with tablets and they took part in an interactive tour of the Sutton Hoo artefacts in relation to their Anglo-Saxons learning. It was a very fun and informative trip!





## Peer Mediators

This week, peer mediators from across the federation met at Orchard for their peer mediator training. They enjoyed a fun and interactive session where they role played scenarios. They also had thoughtful discussions on ways that they can positively resolve conflict in the playground.



## Dr Bike

Mechanics oversaw a check at Orchard this week, repairing over 35 bikes! They conducted thorough checks including brake tests, chain maintenance and general safety inspections to ensure the bikes were safe for the roads. All pupils, parents and staff are welcome to bring their bike in for our next check-up.



## Key Dates

### Children break up for half term

Friday 14th February at 3:30pm

### Children return to school

Monday 24th February

### World Book Day

Thursday 6th March

### Olive Class Assembly

Thursday 13th March at 10:30am

### Elder Class Assembly

Thursday 13th March at 11:00am

### Maple Class Parents Evening

Thursday 20th March

### Willow Class Assembly

Thursday 20th March at 10:30am

### Poplar Class Assembly

Thursday 20th March at 11:00am

### Parents Evening

Thursday 27th March - School closes at 1pm

## Coffee Mornings

Parents/Carers are invited to drop into our sessions on various themes which are held in the Flexible Space 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.

Date	Focus
Friday 7th March	<u>Whole School Values</u> : How are values, including British Values, incorporated into our curriculum?
Friday 21st March	<u>Music</u> : What does the music curriculum look like at Orchard? (Children can attend this coffee morning)
Friday 4th April	<u>Easter Holiday Activities</u> : What activities can we try in the holidays and what local places can we visit? (Children can attend this coffee morning)

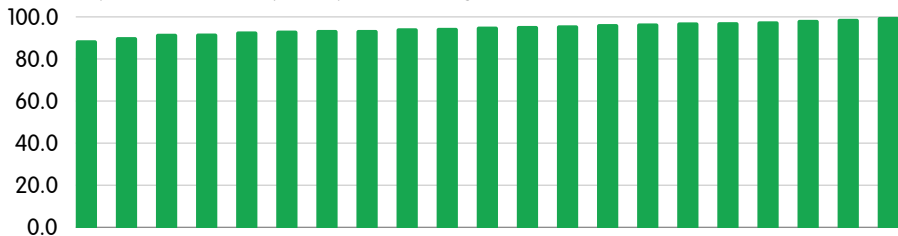
## Attendance

The whole school attendance for the last week was 95.2%.

Well done to Year 6 Chestnut Class, last week's winners with 100% attendance.

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 spring term starts on Monday 24th February 2025 at 8:55am.

Please scan the QR code to view our 2024 -2025 term dates.



## School Uniform

Please scan the QR code to order school uniform,



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