

## Travelling Abroad During Holidays

The winter holidays will start in just two weeks' time from **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020**.

We wish to discourage any parents who are considering travelling abroad this winter. If you travel abroad, you are likely to have to self-isolate for two weeks when you return back, which will have a negative impact on your child(ren)'s education. We recommend that any travel plans be delayed until next year when travel restrictions will hopefully be lifted.

It is important for all parents to note that the winter holidays end on **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020**. All pupils are expected back at school on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021**.

Please remember that every day at school counts and all parents must ensure that their child(ren) do not miss any days from school.



## Is your child safe online?

As many children have had to self-isolate and with the school holidays fast approaching, we would like all parents at Olive School to be extra careful in ensuring that all of their children are safe whilst going online:

- It is important that you know exactly what your child is doing online.
- Children must never be allowed to use any devices whilst alone in their bedrooms.
- You may wish to install monitoring apps on all devices in the home which allow you to restrict the amount of time that your child spends online and also allows you to monitor your child's activity online.
- Please ensure that you have the usernames and passwords for all accounts so that you can monitor your child's online activities.
- Please discuss online habits with your child(ren). They must be aware of the dangers of speaking to strangers online.
- Children must be reminded that anything they say online is the same as saying it in person. They must be respectful and responsible at all times.

Please click on this link to learn about **Internet safety for children** and **7 tips for parents**: <https://bit.ly/3oub7kp>

## Applying for Free School Meals & Pupil Premium

We wish to encourage parents to apply for Free School Meals if they are eligible. Please remember that applying for Free School Meals also enables the school to receive the Pupil Premium grant. Please click on the below link for further information and details on how to apply:

<https://education.hackney.gov.uk/content/apply-free-school-meals>

## Message from Principal (Mr. Mirza)

Assalamu alaikum (peace be with you)

I pray that you are all well.

Many of you will be wondering why you did not see me all week. Unfortunately, on Tuesday morning, a member of my household tested positive for Covid-19 which resulted in me having to self-isolate. I went immediately to get tested and alhamdulillah (praise be to Allah) the result came back negative. This means that whilst I may catch Covid-19 at home, I have not passed it on to anyone else as I did not have Covid-19 when I was last at school on Monday. I plan to take another Covid-19 test next week Monday, but I am well, alhamdulillah (praise be to Allah) and should be back at school from *Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020*, insha'Allah. In the meantime, I am working from home. Thank you for your du'as and very kind messages of support.

Many thanks to all parents for taking part in the parent-teacher meetings last week. Although brief, I hope you found the meetings useful.

Thank you also to parents who joined Ms. Nou for the Year 6 SATs workshop on Monday and parents who joined me for the New Building Parents' Working Group meeting this morning. Please try to join me next Friday for the Faith & Character Education Parents' Working Group meeting.

We have just two weeks to go until the winter holidays.

Please encourage your child to:

- attend school every day (unless required to self-isolate)
- participate fully and actively in online lessons if they are isolating at home
- complete homework on time and to the best of their ability
- continue to read as widely as possible, every day, using their home reading books and also books from the Star Readers series.

I wish you all a restful and safe weekend. Wa'assalam.

## Attendance Figures

This week's attendance is **96.8%**, which is the slightly higher than last week but still slightly lower than our target of **97.1%**. Well done to Year 2, 3 and 5 for exceeding our whole school attendance target of **97.1%**.

Year 1 attendance is particularly low this week.

Year Group	% Attendance
Reception	96.2%
Year 1	94.3%
Year 2	98.7%
Year 3	97.4%
Year 4	96.5%
Year 5	97.9%
Year 6	96.5%

### One Admin office

Please note that we have now permanently closed the admin offices at both the Cazenove Road and NCC/UTC sites. All admin staff are now based at the Lower Clapton Road site (new building) only. If you need to contact the school for any reason, please only use the following contact details. Please delete any old school numbers from your phone:

**Tel:** 020 7112 2459

**Email:** [info@olivehackney.staracademies.org](mailto:info@olivehackney.staracademies.org)

**Address:** 2 Lower Clapton Road, Hackney, London E5 0PA

All forms and letters should be sent to the main office only using the above details.

If your child is late to either of the Cazenove Road and NCC/UTC sites, please press on the intercom system and a member of the senior leadership team will assist.

### Cars & Safety at the NCC/UTC site

Another reminder to all of our parents whose children are based at the NCC/UTC site. When you drop-off your child, please try as much as possible to not park in Basing Place itself - there is a build-up of cars happening daily which is affecting how easily the coaches can access the school at the beginning and the end of the day. There have also been a number of instances this week where cars are mounting the pavements and are not being driven responsibly outside of the school gate which puts the safety of the children and other adults at risk.

### Faith & Character Education Parents Working Group

Here is a reminder about the upcoming online *Faith & Character Education* Parents working group meeting with Mr. Mirza (Principal) and others:

- **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020, 8:45am – 9:30am**
- Join group: <https://bit.ly/35zlvyb>

Once you have registered, you will receive a Zoom link 1-2 days before the meeting.

### Coach & Lunch Payments

A reminder to ensure that full coach and lunch payments are made as soon as possible before this week's deadline of **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020**.

### Reporting Medical Absences

All medical appointments which result in absence from school require a letter. It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to notify the school of all absences as soon as possible and to provide copies of any appointment letters. Please can we avoid our admin staff having to chase up any parent to find out reasons for their child's absence.

### Emergency Contact Details

Please can you notify the school office of any changes to your emergency contact numbers or change of address immediately. It is very important that our records are kept up to date.

### Virtual Open Evening for Reception Class 2021

We are pleased to invite you to our Virtual Open Evening for Reception Class 2021.

- Date: **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020**
- Time: **5:00pm – 6:30pm**

Due to current restrictions we will be holding our open evening online. You will be given the opportunity to meet the Principal, Mr. Mirza, all members of the senior leadership team, and gain an insight to school life at Olive School Hackney. We will also hold a Q&A session to give you an opportunity to have your questions answered.

Registration closes on **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

Please register using the link below:

<https://bit.ly/3lkpOo6>



### Festive Winter Gift Programme

Following on from the letters you received in last week's parent bulletin, here is a reminder of all the key dates:

- **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020** – socially distanced bake sale for children at the NCC/UTC (Years 2-5) only. Parents can start bringing in food donations from **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020**.
- **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020** - Last date for handing in Shoe Boxes. We will then organise the distribution of them to the local homes and Salvation Army. Please hand the shoeboxes in to your child's class teacher only.
- **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020** – socially distanced bake sale for Lower Clapton Road (Reception-Year 1) and Cazenove Road (Year 6). Parents can start bringing in food donations from **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020**.
- **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020** - we will support St. Joseph's Hospice by getting children to come into school wearing their own clothes for a donation of £1. This will be paid and collected via ParentPay.