

Parent Bulletin

Nurturing today's young people, inspiring tomorrow's leaders



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www.olivehackney.com

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Thank you for your feedback

We wish to thank all 194 parents who completed the survey providing us with very valuable feedback on our remote learning programme. This feedback has been shared and discussed with the Principal and senior leadership team.

It is clear that our parents have a very wide range of preferences for remote learning which are based upon their individual circumstances.

Most parents who completed the survey prefer 3 hours or more of LIVE lessons and prefer LIVE lessons rather than pre-recorded lessons or printed packs.

Three areas which were also mentioned frequently was the workload for pupils, difficulty in pupils working independently during off-screen tasks and the amount of screen time for young children each day. We have discussed these concerns with teachers and have made some adjustments which will come into effect from next week (Week 3 of lockdown).

We will send out another parent survey in next week's parent bulletin as your ongoing feedback is important to us.

Pupil Engagement in Week 2

Our top priority during the lockdown period is to ensure that all pupils are safe and continuing their learning. Here is a summary of this week's pupil engagement figures during lockdown:

Week 2	All Pupils	All Pupils %
Total Pupils	619	
Fully Engaged	469	75.8%
Partially Engaged	126	20.4%
Not Engaged	24	3.9%

The table below shows the pupil engagement figures from each year group. The best pupil engagement was seen in Years 4 and 5.

Week 2	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Fully Engaged	56.7%	74.2%	77.3%	72.2%	89.9%	83.3%	77.1%
Partially Engaged	32.2%	20.2%	19.3%	26.7%	10.1%	14.4%	25.0%
Not Engaged	11.1%	5.6%	3.4%	1.1%	0.0%	2.2%	3.6%

We are pleased that the number of pupils not engaged has reduced from 76 pupils to 24 pupils. As we are aiming for full engagement from all pupils, the parents of these 24 pupils will receive another phone call on Monday from a member of the senior leadership team and we will help to ensure we get these pupils fully engaged. We wish to ensure that no child is left behind during this national lockdown.

New SEN/D Email Account

We now have a dedicated email account for all queries related to pupils with special educational needs or disability. All emails go directly to our SENDCo (Ms. Fadaïro). Please only use it if your child is on the school's SEN/D register.

Email: send@olivehackney.staracademies.org

Message from Principal (Mr. Mirza)

Assalamu alaikum (peace be with you)

Alhamdulillah (praise be to Allah) we have more and more of our pupils engaged in the remote learning. I know that many of you have found remote learning difficult and each family has different circumstances. I empathise with you all.

Thank you to all parents for your hard work in supporting your families during Week 2 of the national lockdown. I pray that Allah (SWT) grants all of you with increased strength and patience during this challenging time.

Insha'Allah, we will continue to support families with laptops, resources and a food bank. If we can help you with anything else, then please do not hesitate to let us know.

Please accept my sincere apologies as many of you have experienced delays whilst trying to get through to the school office phone line. Unfortunately, the school office only has one phone line and so when someone is on the line, other callers experience what seems to be an unanswered call (continuous ringing). We are in the process of adding additional lines which should solve the problem soon.

Thank you for your ongoing cooperation and support. May Allah grant us all patience, protection and safety. Ameen.

Adjustments to Remote Learning

We will be making the following adjustments to our remote learning programme:

- All off screen tasks will be completely off screen. Pupils will not be required to access any PowerPoints or watch any videos from the class teacher during this time. Instead, pupils will have a range of mini tasks / projects that will be set at the start of the week. Pupils will be able to complete these creative tasks independently and will not be required to use a computer / screen at all.
- All teachers will add short comfort breaks in-between lessons to ensure that pupils are not in front of a screen for too long. Between Maths/Reading for Year 1, 2 and 6. Between English/Maths for Year 3, 4 and 5. Younger years will have regular comfortable breaks during every lesson.
- Science and one Foundation subject will replace two Reading sessions on the timetable from Week 4.
- Additional challenge tasks from different subjects will be added to each class TEAMS folder. These tasks are an optional extra for pupils who wish to complete them.
- Pupils will be given an opportunity to complete homework on Friday afternoons rather than having to complete it in the evening or weekends.

Microsoft TEAMS Passwords

If you have any problems logging into your child's TEAMS account, please email your child's class. Here is a link to all class email addresses: <https://bit.ly/3bL5rjI>

Reading

Reading remains one of the most important activities that pupils can take part in during the lockdown. Reading plays an important role in every stage of a young person's development. Learning new words and seeing them used in different contexts can help pupils to improve their vocabulary, as well as their language and comprehension skills. This in turn will help them to become more proficient writers, who can use and apply words with confidence, clarity and flair.

We wish to encourage all Olive pupils to read every day.

- All pupils should try to read books from our recommended reading lists for each year group. These have been compiled into the [Star Readers Primary Edition](#) (which includes recommended reading lists for pupils in Reception through to Year 6). All pupils are encouraged to participate in the Star Readers Challenge, which involves reading at least 10 books from the recommended reading list for their year group. View the reading lists here: <https://bit.ly/3oQF8eZ>
- Pupils should try to complete daily questions about the books they are reading in their reading record books. They should also complete a book review after reading each book. Please click on the follow links to access the daily questions and book review template and examples.
 - Daily questions to be completed in reading record book: <https://bit.ly/3iljLQI>
 - Example of daily questions completed in reading record book: <https://bit.ly/3nUNKJI>
 - Book review template (in WORD): <https://bit.ly/2XOMtzy>
 - Book review example: <https://bit.ly/39GwkSf>



If any pupils do not have a reading record book, then you can pick up a copy from the school office from Tuesday 9am.

'Order and Collect' Book Service

Many, if not all, of the books on the Star Reading list are likely to be available from your local libraries. Many libraries are now offering an 'order and collect' service. Two Hackney libraries are offering this service. Dalston C.L.R James and Stamford Hill Libraries are open on the following days:

- Dalston C.L.R James – 020 8356 8935: Wednesday and Saturday, 11am to 4pm
- Stamford Hill – 020 8356 1708: Tuesday and Thursday, 11am to 4pm

Please call your preferred Library (numbers above) during opening hours or email libraries@hackney.gov.uk. You will need to provide your membership card no., name and contact details. Once the book(s) has been found the library will contact you to book a collection slot. You can reserve up to ten books. Only stock held at one of the above libraries can be reserved for collection from that Library. Please take your own bags when collecting books as they are unable to supply them.

If you are not a member of your local library, please click link to join: <http://bit.ly/3sw8fGg>

Food Bank for Olive Parents

We launched our food bank last week. Thank you to all parents who donate items which have already benefited other Olive families. Please can we request that parents donate generously by dropping off non-perishable food items and/or cosmetics to our new building in a plastic bag, Monday – Friday (9am – 3pm).

We understand that families are going through challenging times. The food bank is open to all Olive families in need.

The address for the food bank is: **Olive School, 2 Lower Clapton Road, Hackney, London E5 0PA.**

Laptops

We have given out even more laptops (on loan) to families this week. If you have received a laptop (on loan) please ensure that you take good care of it as it remains the property of Olive school and we will ask for all laptops to be returned back to school once lockdown ends.

We will continue to provide many more laptops (on loan) to parents from Monday to ensure all pupils are engaged in the online LIVE lessons. For laptop requests please email info@olivehackney.staracademies.org with your child's name class and your contact number, please do not email the class email accounts or call in to the school office for laptops (email only). At this stage we can only provide one laptop per family. We ask that you do not request a laptop if you do not need it as this will deny other families who are in genuine need.

Video/Pictures for Twitter

Our Twitter account has been very active this week. Pupils have been recognized by their teachers through 'shout-outs'. Parents have also shared pictures and videos of their children working very hard at home.

If you wish to share a short video or pictures of your child(ren) whilst they are learning at home, please send to the class email account. Any video recording should be no longer than 10 seconds.

Please check out our Twitter account: https://twitter.com/olive_hackney

Extra Copies of Home Learning Books & Stationary

Parents can collect extra copies of home learning books, reading record books and pencils from the school office from Tuesday (9am – 3pm).

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





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Helping your child manage their feelings during lockdown

The announcement of the current lockdown and move to remote learning is particularly tough on young children. Being deprived of face-to-face contact with their friends, the loss of familiar routines and trying to navigate online learning, whilst being in the family home with lots of distractions, requires a large amount of resilience.

For many children who thrive on predictability and routine, the uncertain future can feel overwhelming. Reassure your child that they will cope, and that it is always good to experience managing change, as everyone will face many changes throughout their lives.

The upkeep of vital relationships will be of huge importance to many children, whether via the phone or online. You can help your child maintain these relationships by arranging calls with family and friends, where they can share news and see familiar and friendly faces.

Help your child to recognise when they are worrying about things which cannot be changed. They (or you) may notice that they are in a repetitive loop of worry which they may find hard to move away from.

Filling their mind with something to truly distract them from those thoughts can make a huge difference. If they struggle to talk about their feelings, they may find it helpful to write or draw about what is happening to them, or to find a hobby which can keep them engaged mindfully rather than worrying about the past or future.

The NHS has provided some useful ideas for parents and children to try as part of their '5 Ways to Wellbeing' initiative, which can be accessed [here](#).

Here are some other suggestions of ways you can support your child over the next few weeks:

- Together, set aside a time each day where they can talk about how they are feeling.
- Support your child to ensure that the PSHE remote lessons, online class assemblies and other pastoral elements of the remote learning class timetable are accessed whilst at home.
- Focus on things they can control and help them to manage their free time.
- Use journaling (either written, verbal or using art) as a way of understanding and developing their thoughts.
- Share your strategies for what helps you when you feel stressed or anxious.
- Use your daily exercise to get outside where possible – a walk in nature, a bike ride or other forms of outdoor activity are a good way of getting physical exercise and unwinding.
- Think about what you can celebrate – not just birthdays but achievements you have each made, such as meeting a target or completing a piece of work.
- Include them when supporting neighbours or family members. Although it may not be possible to see friends in person, help them to connect with others regularly.
- If your child is feeling anxious, encourage them to try simple breathing techniques such as breathing in for a count of four, holding their breath for a count of four and breathing out slowly for a count of seven.

Finally, please remember that your child's school is here to support you too.