

Parent Bulletin

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Saturday 20th March 2021

7 Shaban 1442 AH

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Issue: 128

Update on School Sites

1. As you might recall, the planning condition on the permanent site for the school (Lower Clapton Road) restricts pupil occupation to one-year group (90 pupils) per academic year. Lower Clapton Road is currently occupied by reception and year one pupils, and these year groups will be joined by a new cohort of reception pupils entering the school in September 2021.
2. Pupils in year 6 currently occupy the Cazenove Road site. This site will no longer be used by the school once these pupils leave the school in the summer.
3. The Department for Education (DfE) had planned to build temporary accommodation on the Brooke Road site (on land next to the BSix College). However, the delivery of this site has been significantly delayed, due to the contractor entering administration last summer (mainly related to the Covid-19 pandemic). Due to current market conditions, it is proving extremely challenging to continue and to complete the delivery of this site with another contractor.
4. Pupils in years 2 to 5 currently occupying the New City College (NCC) site were due to move to the Brooke Road site in September. However, as it will not be possible to deliver Brooke Road on time, the DfE has taken the decision to abort the Brooke Road site. A number of alternative options have been explored.
5. In light of the decision to abort the Brooke Road site, the DfE has agreed an extension with NCC to continue the use of this site. As a result, there are ongoing discussions with the DfE about continuing the provision of coaches to the site for future years.
6. The school, DfE and Star Academies recognise the importance in moving as many pupils as possible to the Lower Clapton Road site. We are working to submit a planning application to Hackney Council to explore the possibility of increasing the number of pupils at the Lower Clapton Road site. The application will be subject to a planning committee decision (expected in July). We will keep you updated.
7. In light of the planning application, please can we remind parents to continue following the school's code of conduct on travelling to the Lower Clapton Road site. Not doing so could seriously weaken our case for allowing more pupils to move to the site in September 2021.

Assessment Week

All pupils will be sitting end of Spring term assessments next week (Reading, Writing and Maths). Year 2 will sit Mock SATs papers. Please ensure your child prepares for these tests by getting enough sleep at night, eating breakfast in the morning, remaining positive and attending school every day on time.

Message from Principal (Mr. Mirza)

Assalamu alaikum (peace be with you)

We have had a good second week back. Pupils are settled and have adjusted very well to the transition back to school.

It was a real pleasure to take part in the parent seminar and coffee morning this week. Thank you to all the parents who took part. Looking forward to next week's coffee morning.

Next week is very important for us to assess how much progress all pupils have made. We will use this information to revise our Summer term planning so that it takes account of any gaps in learning. We will provide you with a Summer term curriculum newsletter at the start of next term. We will also arrange for teacher/parent meetings to take place straight after the holidays so that you have an update on your child's progress and targets for the summer term.

There are just two weeks to go until the end of term holidays. Have a great weekend. Wa'assalam.

[CLICK HERE](#) to watch my assembly from Monday.

Attendance

Attendance was **0.4%** lower than last week (**96.8%**) and just short of our target of **97%**. Please note that unannounced home visits will be made by members of SLT to any pupils who are absent from school.

Day	% Pupils Present
Monday	97.5%
Tuesday	97.3%
Wednesday	96.5%
Thursday	96.7%
Friday	96.2%

Parent Seminar: Mental Health & Wellbeing

Thank you to all the parents who took part in the parent seminar on Thursday with Mr. Mirza (Principal) and Mr. Johnson (Psychotherapist). [CLICK HERE](#) to watch the seminar.

Parent Coffee Morning: Special Educational Needs

Thank you to all the parents who took part in the parent coffee morning on Friday with Mr. Mirza (Principal), Ms. Fadairo (SENDCo) and Laura Boniface (Specialist Speech and Language Therapist). [CLICK HERE](#) to watch the full recording.

School Office Updates

Please email attendance@olivehackney.staracademies.org for any changes to your child's collection by **1pm latest**.

- Laptop returns by appointment only – Admin office will contact parents to book a return time.
- Final week to pay for coaches & lunches (deadline 26/3)
- Thank you to parents who have bought in medication and signed care plans, however we have a few more medications to come in and care plans to sign.

Parent Coffee Morning: Somali Parents' Working Group

We are pleased to invite you to our next parent coffee morning focusing on the Somali parents' working group. The coffee morning will be hosted by Mr. Mirza (Principal) and is open to all parents.

Date: Friday 26th March 2021 **Time:** 10am – 11am

Zoom link: [CLICK HERE](#)

Meeting ID: 815 1636 0579 Passcode: 12345

National Day of Reflection

- A National Day of Reflection is being held on **Tuesday 23 March** to mark the anniversary of the UK's first Covid lockdown. Spearheaded by charity Marie Curie, the day has received political backing and support from hundreds of community and charitable organisations.
- The commemorative day aims to encourage people to pause and reflect on the nation's collective loss, support those who've been bereaved and hope for a brighter future.
- The date symbolises the first anniversary of when the Prime Minister announced the first national stay-at-home order on 23 March 2020.
- A minute's silence will be held at noon to remember those who've lost their lives. At 8pm, people are being asked to create a nationwide 'beacon of remembrance' on their doorsteps by beaming phones, candles and torches into the night sky. Prominent buildings and landmarks will also be illuminated across the UK.
- Alongside the minute's silence and doorstep vigil, the day is also expected to see community-led activities take place, such as virtual assemblies, choirs and services.
- Marie Curie will be hosting a series of online events throughout the day. Schools can view the programme and register for the free online talks and conversations by [CLICKING HERE](#).
- A list of suggested activities is provided below. Schools should make suitable arrangements to mark the day.

Our school will take part by:

- Joining the minute's silence at 12 noon on 23 March and unite and share in a moment of reflection to honour loved ones who have died.
- Creating a dedicated reflection area on all three sites.
- Writing cards and sending letters to those who continue to those suffer in isolation in care homes, sheltered accommodation etc.
- Encouraging staff and pupils to light up the night with candles and torches at 8pm on 23 March to remember those who have died and support those who are grieving.

Ballet to Poetry Lessons

We are pleased to announce that all Reception pupils will take part in weekly ballet lessons from next week (every Wednesday). The lessons will be delivered by *Grace & Poise Academy*, the world's first Muslim Ballet School with a Unique ballet to poetry syllabus. The Academy is founded upon a passion for child development and raising the Muslim community to make a positive impact in the world. For further information please visit:

<https://www.graceandpoise.co.uk/>

Supporting your Child's SEND Learning and Development at Home

Here is a FREE course for parents and carers of children with special needs and disabilities (SEND). Attending the course will help you to support your child's SEND learning and development at home.

What will you learn on the course?

On this course you will be:

- learning to support your child in their learning activities, including homework
- gaining insights into how children learn developing knowledge and skills to support learning activities
- improving your understanding of how behaviour can impact learning
- building your confidence and ability as a parent and carer by reflecting on your own experiences and those of others

How will the course be delivered?

This five-week course is delivered remotely twice a week (Tuesdays and Wednesdays) on Zoom. The course is led by an experienced SEND specialist teacher, Shirley Tivey.

How can you apply for this course?

Sign up to attend this course or make further enquiries by sending you phone number, email and expression of interest to: nickie@workskillslearning.com

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

Winner of Spirited Art Competition

Congratulations to **Safiyyah H.** from Year 1 who came 3rd place in the KS1 category of the Spirited Art Competition. [CLICK HERE](#) to see her wonderful Art work.

Science Week Competition

A reminder that STAR is running two competitions as part of Science Week. Please can you encourage your child(ren) to take part.

- **Detective Glow Worm Challenge – Reception & Key Stage 1**
Link to leaflet: <https://staracademies.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Glow-Worm.pdf>
- **Wildlife Wonderland Challenge – Key Stage 2**
Link to leaflet: <https://staracademies.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Wildlife-Wonderland.pdf>

Pupils should submit their entries, by noon on Wednesday 24th March, by emailing their class teacher.

Saturday Catch Up Tuition

Weekly tuition for Year 5 and 6 pupils has now started. It is very important that if selected, your child attends regularly and on time. As more tutors become available, we shall add more pupils from Year 5 and 6 including SEND pupils. Other years groups will now start after the holidays. The tuition is 100% free and is part of the school's catchup programme.



CULTURE CORNER!



A Barrel of Laughs!!



As teachers we can safely say we all feel confident about this quote, 'we are passionate about delivering knowledge, making educated citizens who learn from the events, people and ideas we study. Broadly speaking, history lends itself quite nicely to developing our understanding of how things came to be. Each year, **National Let's Laugh Day on March 19th** reminds us to add a little humour to our day. It's never good to be serious all the time and letting the laughter bubble up from time to time is good for all of us! We have all heard the saying, "**Laughter is the best medicine.**" This is the day to take your medicine. Some studies have shown that laughter may boost your immune system, relieve tension and help you relax. Who does not need any of those things in our busy and hectic world?

Laugh at yourself
first, before
anyone else can. ~
Elsa Maxwell

#LetsLaughDay

MS WAHID'S **CHALLENGE TO YOU!**

Write out five of your best jokes and practise them with your family and friends.

Choose one that is absolutely guaranteed to make your teacher laugh!

Submit your jokes with your names to your teachers who will pass it on to me - we will test these in different classrooms and the best joke will receive a **PRIZE!**



Try laughter
yoga to get
you started.

FUN FACT

World Laughter Day was established in 1998 and the first celebration was on July 28, 2008, in Mumbai, India, arranged by Dr. Madan Kataria, founder of the worldwide Laughter Yoga movement.

We don't laugh because we're happy — we're happy because we laugh. ~ William James

WHAT YOU **WILL NEED:**

MOTIVATION AND ENTHUSIASM
(and something to write your jokes on)

Why did the student want to learn in an aeroplane?
Umair Rawat Yr6

Because they wanted a higher education!