



Dear Families

This is the first newsletter of this academic year.

We have had a wonderful start and would like to begin by thanking parents and carers for ensuring their children attend school every day and on time as attendance has been marvellous.

We are coming up to the end of the first half term and are showcasing some of the amazing work that children have achieved in this newsletter.

There has been a lot of change in the way we communicate with you as we have moved away from paper to electronic media. It is, therefore, vital that you let us know of any changes to your contact details. Nearly everything is being distributed via email or text messages, so please take the time to read everything we send you. We don't want you to miss out on anything.

If you need help with anything school related please give the office a call on 020 8800 1411 or email [parents@sirthomasabney.hackney.sch.uk](mailto:parents@sirthomasabney.hackney.sch.uk) and they will be happy to assist you. Please avoid visiting the office in person.

I am at the front gate nearly every morning and afternoon, so please come and say hello.

Thank you all for your continued support and I wish you all a very peaceful and happy half term break.

**Lynn Willis**  
Head of school

### Key Staff at STA

Executive Headteacher:	Geraldine Fitzmaurice
Head of School:	Lynn Willis
Deputy Head:	Maxine Apcher (Inclusion Manager)
Safeguarding Leads:	Eloise Adamson, Jennifer Handovsky and Lynn Willis
SENDCo:	Eloise Adamson
Pastoral Manager:	Jennifer Handovsky

### KEY DATES

**26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

Half Term Break – **School CLOSED**

**31<sup>st</sup> October 2020**

Secondary Transfer Application  
Statutory Deadline

**6<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

Flu Immunisation for Reception to  
Year 6

**12<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

Parents' Afternoon Telephone  
Consultations – **school CLOSES at  
12.15pm (Group A) and 12.30pm  
(Group B)**

**13<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

Children in Need Charity Appeal  
Day

**16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

Anti-Bullying Week

**23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

Anti-Racism Week

**W/B 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

Year 2 Phonics Screening Check

**11<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

Save the Children Christmas  
Jumper Charity Appeal Day

**18<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

Last Day of Term - **School CLOSES  
at 1.00pm (Group A) & 1.15pm  
(Group B) After School Playcentre  
CLOSED**

**4<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

**School CLOSED – Staff Training Day**

**5<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

**School re-opens after Christmas  
Holiday**



## STA Arbor Parent Portal & App is OPEN

All parents were sent an email providing login details and online help to join the school's Parent Portal and App. You can now see some of the information we hold on you and your children. Please take some time to look at the data and make amendments where necessary, these will be verified by the school office before being actioned.

You will also make your booking for the 12<sup>th</sup> November Parents' Afternoon Telephone Consultations with your child's class teacher through the Portal/App. This function will open on 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

Give the office a call after the half term break if you are having difficulty logging on or making the booking.

## Support with Free School Meal Vouchers and Packed Lunches during the Half Term Break

Hackney runs a holiday emergency programme: the details are for Families who need additional support including emergency food vouchers can call the Early Help Hub in FAST on 0208 356 5000 or 0208 356 2710 (out of hours)

## Parents' Afternoon Telephone Consultations Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020 from 2pm

Class Teachers will conduct Telephone Consultations with parents to discuss individual children's current level of attainment and progress. As you will appreciate, this term we are not able to run our usual face to face meetings with parents, however, it is vital that we share information with parents about how their children are progressing in school.

The consultations will be approximately 5 minutes long and booking is essential, this will be done via our Parent Portal from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

PLEASE NOTE the following arrangements:

- Early Closure - Group A will finish at 12.15pm and Group B will finish at 12.30pm
- No hot meals that day - the school will provide packed lunches for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 (Universal Free School Meals) to eat in school and to those entitled to Free School Meals in Years 3 to 6 to take home
- The after school Playcentre will run as normal from 3.00pm onwards and children who attend Playcentre on a Thursday will be supervised by support staff in school from 12.15pm to 3.00pm
- Teachers will use their own personal mobiles to make the calls to parents - if you receive a call from a PRIVATE or BLOCKED NUMBER close to your booked appointment time please answer the call

We hope you find the consultations informative and helpful.

## Free School Meals Applications

Please check out the [Hackney Education website](#) to see whether you may be entitled to Free School Meals for your children. Please apply if you are. It not only provides your child with a hot school meal, but, also benefits the school by providing the pupil premium grant. You can save nearly £400 per year on lunches per child. Information on how the school uses the pupil premium grant can be found on the school website.

## Year 6 Secondary School Applications

Year 6 parents please ensure applications are completed and submitted on [eAdmissions](#) by the statutory deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> October at the latest. A late application could result in children not getting the school of their choice.



**thedukeofrichmond**  
The Duke of Richmond

FREE KIDS' PACKED LUNCHES 🍷🍷  
Autumn Half Term (26th-30th Oct)

If you are a parent/carer/guardian/grown up in Hackney that may be struggling to feed your kids this half term without a free school meal, we will be providing a free packed lunch.

These lunches will be available to collect between 12-1pm, Monday to Friday from...  
The Duke of Richmond pub  
316 Queensbridge Rd  
Hackney  
E8 3NH

This is available with complete discretion. We do not ask questions, only hand out packed lunches.

Each packed lunch will consist of...  
- Ham or Cheese roll  
- Piece of fruit  
- Box of raisins  
- Yoghurt  
- Crisps  
- Treat  
- Fruit juice

Please share this post and tell whoever you can within Hackney. Your schools, teachers, grown ups etc.

Thanks,

Tom, Meryl & Freddie  
@thedukeofrichmond  
(We are in Hackney not Richmond!)

# Black History Month and Anti-Racism

Inspiring Black Britons video on [YouTube](#): staff have chosen a range of Black (BAME) British people who are inspiring them. There are also posters around school reminding us of all these amazing and inspiring people. Children and families are invited to add their own inspiring people too! The rules are they must be British (or identify as British); they must be Black/BAME; they can be from the past or present; and they must inspire you! You can email these to [parents@sirthomasabney.hackney.sch.uk](mailto:parents@sirthomasabney.hackney.sch.uk)

We were one of the 6 schools invited to take part in a Parent/Carer Belonging project over the summer where parents/carers were invited to 'Talk about Race'. This will be an ongoing project. Here is the [report](#) published by Hackney.

Our staff have been working hard to develop and improve Diversity in our school curriculum. We have added some key events/people/places to help to ensure that our curriculum reflects diversity and positive images of all genders, races and disabilities. We are also developing some specific topics on Black British History for our KS2 children – to ensure that children understand that the history of Black people in Britain goes far back - to Roman times! Our curriculum is regularly reviewed, so this is an important step in the right direction.

*Some of the Black History Month work children have done over the past few weeks which is on display*



We have also been trying to improve the diversity of our resources. A team of teachers have overhauled all of our books to ensure that they do not represent stereotypes. Please let us know if your child brings home a book which you feel may unfairly represent a particular gender or ethnic minority – it is an ongoing journey and it would be great if you can help!

In November, we will be taking part in 'Anti-Racism' week and using some of the 'Show Racism The Red Card' resources to help teach children about recognising and challenging stereotypes. All staff had training in July and September on unconscious bias and the importance of challenging the ways in which racism exists within systems and procedures. We are hoping to build on our existing PSHE curriculum by ensuring that children are taught clear messages around Anti-racism and the dangers of stereotypes.

It has been great to see lots of programmes on TV around Black History – and we hope that these continue to be shown all year! Unfortunately, due to Covid 19, there are not many live events, but Hackney have compiled a list of [online events](#)

# School Travel News

## Well Done Oscar!

Back in March we ran the Wow Badge Competition and guess what, Oscar from Year 6 won one of the Runner-up Prizes for his entry. Ms Willis presented him with the certificate and trophy.



## Bike to School Week

We would like to thank all the parents and children who made that extra effort to cycle to school. It is fantastic to see so many families cycling together. At STA we have a strong culture of active travel with children, parents and staff cycling, scooting and walking to school.



A goody bag containing a water bottle with holder, bell, rear and front reflectors and more was given out as prizes to children who showed a consistent commitment to cycling

## Walk to school and Travel Tracker

Children are continuing to track their travel to school to earn the coveted Wow Badges. Classes normally complete the interactive Travel Tracker run by Living Streets on a daily basis to build up their Active Travel record in order to qualify for a badge.

## Scooter Racks

The new scooter racks have been erected outside the Nursery side entrance and near the entrance to the main playground providing 30 extra scooter parking spaces.

## School Streets

Hackney's long awaited scheme to stop motorised traffic outside entrances to schools during the beginning and end of the school day is coming to STA shortly. Details will be coming out shortly and you can check the [Hackney Website](#) for more information.



## Term Dates 2020-21

Holiday	Break up on	Return to School on (Gates open at 8.30am)
		<b>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020</b> Group A at 8.45am & Group B at 9.00am (Years 1 to 6 only)
<b>Autumn Half Term Break</b>	<b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020</b> Group A at 3.00pm & Group B at 3.15pm	<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020</b> Group A at 8.45am & Group B at 9.00am
<b>Christmas Holiday</b>	<b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December</b> Group A at 1.00pm & Group B at 1.15pm <i>After-school Playcentre closed</i>	<b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021</b> Group A at 8.45am & Group B at 9.00am
<b>Spring Half Term Break</b>	<b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021</b> Group A at 3.00pm & Group B at 3.15pm	<b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021</b> Group A at 8.45am & Group B at 9.00am
<b>Easter Holiday</b>	<b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021</b> Group A at 1.00pm & Group B at 1.15pm <i>After-school Playcentre closed</i>	<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021</b> Group A at 8.45am & Group B at 9.00am
<b>Summer Half Term Break</b>	<b>Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021</b> Group A at 3.00pm & Group B at 3.15pm	<b>Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021</b> Group A at 8.45am & Group B at 9.00am
<b>Summer Holidays</b>	<b>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021</b> Group A at 1.00pm & Group B at 1.15pm <i>After-school Playcentre closed</i>	<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021</b> Times to be confirmed

### Term-Time School Closures:

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September – Staff Training Day**  
**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October – Staff Training Day**  
**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January – Staff Training Day**  
**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May – May Bank Holiday**  
**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June – Staff Training Day**