



**Dear parents / carers:** From Monday we welcomed back Reception children and the week has gone very well so far. Social distancing has been fun and drop off and collection has gone much smoother than I anticipated. Also thank you for your kind words they are appreciated. Next week Year 1 children will be returning followed by Year 6. Parents of Year 6 will receive a phone call Monday with information and details of a webinar. On Monday of this week it was finally admitted that schools could not defy the laws of physics, gravity and geometry as proposed by Einstein, Newton, Euclid, Pythagoras and Stephen Hawking over the last 2,000 years. With social distancing of 2 metres I can safely get 9 children in per class. I have 8 rooms. I also have to provide for the children of key workers and vulnerable children. I am also working with staff shortages. Even if, which it will any day now, go down to 1 metre I will still be short of space for around 80 children. Rotas I hear you cry .... well until this week they were not allowed. A heads up they will not be called rotas but 'blended learning' was the latest I heard. Means the same thing. One week on one week off, split weeks, morning and afternoon we await further guidance. **New film for Year 1 parents now on website.**

Please remember every school is different and all trying to do their best. Nationally and locally less than 50% of those eligible i.e. Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 turned up and the majority of primary schools did not open at all this week for extra pupils including 50 local authorities. Wales and Scotland not at all and secondary schools, bless them have no clear ideas of what they can do going forward. We live in polarised times and when given the go ahead nobody would be happier to open up to more pupils than me. We have in fact never closed !! Meanwhile I have to obey Health and Safety law, Public Health guidelines, Department for Education guidance, Hackney Learning Trust local authority guidance, Safeguarding requirements, Buildings and utilities regulations for water, gas, electricity and hygiene, Social Services requests, Diocesan stipulations, Union consultations for every employee, individual Risk assessments for everything that moves and doesn't, as well as day to day normal running ... school life in 2020 easy lazy days of Summer .... not quite ..... roll on 2021 only 7 months to go. Enjoy the weekend weather and take advantage of the changes to lockdown if you can fathom them out.

**Pics of the day ...** Mrs Claire Walshe announced to all her pupils and parents this week that she is pregnant and expecting her first child. While working from home she organised an AMAZING ARTIST competition. Some of the winning entries below. Congratulations to the winners from Early Years, KS1 and 2 below. + No boring tape for 2 metres but Lily our artist in residence and pupils painting endangered UK birds on our walls in Culford Road..... talented artists ...



**Books of 2020 ...** All pupils exercise books have been moved out of classes and are now stored in the main hall. Most parents asked so far do not want them for this year and would rather move on from March 20th and start anew. If however you do wish for all your child's books please let us know and they can be collected at the gate next week. All have been in air for over a week so virus free. These are exercise not reading books. Please email by Wednesday midday to [admin@olsj.hackney.sch.uk](mailto:admin@olsj.hackney.sch.uk). We If we have not heard from you by Wednesday we have a large skip waiting.

**and finally ....** no flaming June yet. Weather warming up the weekend and only 5 days until football in empty stadiums ... enjoy !!