

Blossom Federation

Daubeney, Sebright and Lauriston



9th November 2022

Dear Parents & Carers

This is a lovely time of the year in schools. Coats and jumpers and wellies and scarves etc. It is great to see our children making use of the outdoors, and I am curious to see how the OPAL content in our playgrounds changes with the seasons. Last week, the Heads of School and I met with our OPAL Mentor, Cath Prisk, who was very pleased with the progress across the schools, as well as our plans for the future. Colvestone started their OPAL journey in the summer term, but expect more on this in the Spring Term. For those of you who might not be familiar with OPAL, it stands for *Outdoor Play and Learning*. It has transformed our playgrounds and the experiences for our children, and we are delighted with how things are going. A big thank you to our Play Leader, Amrika, and her teams for their hard work.

We have a number of School Improvement Partner (SIP) meetings this week and next, where our Hackney inspectors visit the schools to look at how our school priorities are developing. The visits to Daubeney and Sebright have been brilliant, and I am sure the ones planned for Colvestone and Lauriston will also be wonderful. Daubeney also has their Autumn One Day Review next week. Life is never dull!

This week we opened [The Nest](#), our expanded nurture provision, at Daubeney. This has been a labour of love for many, but that hard graft has been forgotten now it is up and running. We have planned an official opening of The Nest in December, visited by *NurtureUK* themselves.....more on this to come. With numbers of special educational needs children increasing both nationally, in Hackney and across the Federation, it is right that we continue to focus on inclusion and meeting the needs of a diverse cohort. My dream for the Blossom Federation is to see a specialist focus at each of our schools - this takes time, focus and resources of course, but I am pleased with the development so far. At Colvestone, we have formulated a clear SEND strategy which will be shared with parents in due course. Plus, we are still hoping to see Hackney's investment into Sebright, in creating an additional resourced provision.

Over the coming weeks, in our run up to all the festive fun, there is, as always, a lot going on: *It Takes a Village*, Winter fairs, Christmas lunch, singalongs, coffee mornings, Stay and Plays, theatre visits, trips and much more. Be sure to write those key calendar dates in your diary! These are available on each school website. Remember that on the last day of each full term, our schools close early for the holidays. We will be closing at 1:30pm on Friday 16th December.

You may also have seen that an additional Bank Holiday on Monday 8th May has been agreed for his Majesty's Coronation. The term dates have been updated on our websites and calendars.

Don't forget, a reminder about our social media channels which will show you more of what goes on at the Federation @BlossomExecHT on Twitter and Instagram as well as the school Twitter sites:

@DaubeneyHackney

@SebrightPrimary

@LauristonSchool

@ColvestoneC

Have a great rest of the week

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "R Warren". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Robin Warren

Executive Head Teacher