



Wednesday 12th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Apologies for the delay in sharing our highlights from last half term, the Autumn term is definitely now in full swing.

Last week, I was again fortunate to spend a few days at Trewern with our Year 6 children. It was a pleasure to see the children grow, particularly in terms of resilience and independence, across the week as they faced many challenges during the activities (caving, canoeing, gorge walking, climbing) and managing themselves in a new environment, often away from home for the first time. A huge thank you to the staff who accompanied the children, Mr Stevens, Mrs Page, Miss Easter, Miss Arthur, Mr Demir and Mr O'Byrne, who were on duty 24/7! It was a privilege to see how they supported the children subtly and skilfully throughout the week, and the children should be very proud of themselves, we certainly are! Thank you also to our school governors, whose support ensures we are able to keep Trewern as one of Southwood Experiences, and a real Barking and Dagenham traditional, despite the funding challenges.

Just before half term, we had a visit from Voice 21, a national charity dedicated to improving oracy education in schools. As you will be aware from Talking Tuesdays, Oracy is one of our key school improvement priorities, and the feedback from the visit was overwhelmingly positive. An extract from the report states 'Oracy at Southwood is guided by three principles: equity, empowerment and excellence. They want to ensure that every child develops the confidence, fluency, and skill to articulate themselves clearly, listen actively, and engage meaningfully with others.' With the recent DfE Curriculum and Assessment Review highlighting the importance of oracy, the school is well placed to meet any requirements of an oracy framework introduced by the government and we are well on our way to becoming a Voice 21 centre of excellence. Your support for this initiative is also much appreciated.

Finally, we look forward to seeing you all for our Parents' Evenings over these next two weeks. If for any reason you were not able to make it, please speak to your child's teacher, to make a mutually convenient time to talk about how your child has settled into their new year. You will also receive our Communication Guide so it is clear who to speak to, as and when issues may arise. In most cases, the issue will hopefully be resolved following a conversation with the class teacher, but we also have Year Group Co-ordinators, our Inclusion Team as well as a member of the Senior Leadership Team linked to all year groups.

Kind regards,

Scott Halliwell







<p>Highlights from the first half of the Autumn Term</p>  <p>(please see Class Dojo for photos/ more details)</p>	<p>School Events: National Poetry Day, World Mental Health (Yellow) Day, Individual School Photographs, Steel Pan Company as part of Black History Month and Wear It Pink Day in aid of Breast Cancer Now.</p> <p>Special Events: School Streets Pupil workshop, Year 3-6 Arts Ambassadors to Bow Arts Celebration @ Boathouse Studios, Barking.</p> <p>Year Group Workshops and Trips: Year 1 local Geography & RE trip, Year 1 & 2 Steel Pan Company workshop, Year 3 & 4 African drumming workshops, Year 4 local Geography fieldwork trip, Year 5 & 6 Police Online Safety workshops, Year 6 Brain Buddies workshops, Year 6 to Imperial War Museum, Year 5 & 6 Black Heroes workshops.</p> <p>Sporting Events: Cross Country @ Eastbrook, Year 3 & 4 Badminton, Panathlon @ Eastbrook, Girls' Football v Godwin @ Goals.</p> <p>Parents/Carers' Events: School Readiness Programme for Nursery and Reception.</p>
--	---

Headteacher: Scott Halliwell

SOUTHWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL
Keppel Road, Dagenham,
Essex RM9 5LT

Telephone: 020 8270 4915
Email: office@southwood.bardaglea.org.uk
Website: www.southwoodprimary.co.uk



<p>Christmas Concerts</p> 	<p>Our Christmas Concerts are planned as follows: Nursery Sing-a-long/Crafts – Friday 12th December 10:15am and 2:00pm Reception - Thursday 11th December 9:20am and Wednesday 17th December 9:20am Year 1 - Wednesday 10th December 9:20am and Tuesday 16th December 9:20am Year 2 – Wednesday 17th December 2:30pm Year 3 – Thursday 11th December 2:30pm Year 4 – Wednesday 10th December 2:30pm Year 5 – Friday 12th December 2:30pm Year 6 - Tuesday 16th December 2:30pm Nursery, Reception and Year 1 will take place at school with Years 2 to 6 taking place at Wood Lane Baptist Church, subject to confirmation of availability.</p>
<p>School Places</p> 	<p>The school continues to be fully subscribed in some year groups, but has some spaces in other year groups. If you or someone you know is interested, please use the following link. School admissions London Borough of Barking and Dagenham (lb企业.gov.uk)</p> <p>A reminder to parents/carers with Nursery aged pupils, the application deadline for Reception 2026 is 15th January 2026, see the link below to apply. Starting school (children aged 3 and 4) London Borough of Barking and Dagenham</p> <p>We currently have a small number of spaces in the Nursery in the afternoons (Rising 3s are welcome to apply) and our waiting list for Nursery places for September 2026 is also open, so if you or someone you know is interested in a place at Southwood Nursery, please contact the School Office for a short application form to complete.</p>
<p>School Lunch Menu</p> 	<p>The 2-week lunch menu, which was introduced in September, is available on our school website. Please note we recommend that you choose your child's food with them at home through your School Grid account. This enables you to support your child in choosing food they like, and also reduces the time taken in class at the start of the day, so the children can make a prompt start to their day.</p>
<p>Breakfast and After School Club</p> 	<p>Breakfast Club starts at 7:30am until 8:45am and After School Club starts at 3:15pm until 5:00pm. Mrs Lyons and her team oversee both clubs. Prices are Breakfast Club £4 per day, After School Club £5.60 per day. Please use ParentPay to book Breakfast and After School Clubs, with payment made in advance. If you are unable to do so, for any reason, please phone or email the School Office, however we do expect ParentPay accounts to have sufficient credit to be able to cover late bookings. If you are interested in using Breakfast Club or After School Club, please speak to the School Office, thank you.</p>
<p>Upcoming School Events</p> 	<p>14th November 2025 – Children in Need 18th & 25th November 2025 – Parents' Evenings 19th November 2025 – Individual School Photos 15th December 2025 – Christmas Dress Down Day/Christmas Lunch 17th December 2025 – Southwood Choir singing Christmas Carols (end of day) 19th December 2025 – Southwood Community Christmas Lunch</p>
<p>Term Dates</p> 	<p>Last day of Autumn Term: Thursday 18th December 2025 First day of Spring Term: Monday 5th January 2026 Spring Half Term: Week commencing 16th February 2026 Last day of Spring Term: Friday 27th March 2026 First day of Summer Term: Monday 13th April 2026 Summer Half Term: Week commencing 25th May 2026 Last day of Summer Term: Friday 17th July 2026</p>

Headteacher: Scott Halliwell

SOUTHWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL
Keppel Road, Dagenham,
Essex RM9 5LT

Telephone: 020 8270 4915
Email: office@southwood.bardaglea.org.uk
Website: www.southwoodprimary.co.uk