



Friday 18th July 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been great to see so many families this half term, at Jo Richardson School, for the Southwood Drama Club performance of Matilda in early July and at our Sports Days and Southwood Summer Fete here at Southwood, which were definitely the best attended yet, so thank you for your support. It is also always great to see former pupils at these events and hear about how they are getting on.

As another academic year ends, it is time to say goodbye to our Year 6 children, who will be heading off to secondary school in September. For some children, they will have been with us for 8 years, since Nursery, with some joining and some leaving along the way and some even leaving and then coming back! As I often say, it is our children here at Southwood that make the school what it is and we are very proud of all the children here. As Year 6 children articulated better than I can, the journey here is about learning, friendships, ups and downs, memories, which can last a lifetime.

Whilst Key Stage 2 SATs are only part of achievements at primary school, we are very pleased to report improvement in our results in all subjects that are tested, with particularly strong improvement in the % of pupils who achieved greater depth in reading, writing and maths, all now in line with the national average. As always, there is still some work to do, particularly in reading, where some children score very close to the expected level on the test, which we will reflect on, and make any necessary adjustments to our reading curriculum for the next academic year. That said, there is plenty that these tests do not measure, and we are confident our Year 6 children are ready now, to be the best version of themselves, to believe in themselves and take opportunities when they start their secondary school journey in September. We are very proud of them and are here if they ever need us.

For those Southwood families whose time here comes to an end today, thank you for all your support over the years you have been involved with the school. We do not always get everything right, but we do try and work with you when times are difficult and celebrate successes with you too! Our school remains popular with the local community, despite lower pupil numbers in the local area, and beyond. We know a key part of this is as a result of the positive feedback you give us, so again, thank you. For those Southwood families staying with us, and some starting or starting over again with younger siblings in Nursery or Reception, we look forward to working with you in September.

And finally, as we say goodbye to Miss Wright, who has been at the school for 16 years, we know there is a strong loyalty from the staff here at Southwood, which is much appreciated. We wish the staff, the children and yourselves a lovely Summer Holiday, to re-energise ready for the new academic year. Please take care and stay safe.

Kind regards,







Scott Halliwell
Headteacher

Headteacher: Scott Halliwell

SOUTHWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL
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<p>Highlights from the second half of the Summer Term</p>  <p>(please see Class Dojo for photos/ more details)</p>	<p>School Events: Health & Fitness Week incorporating Sports Days, Southwood Drama Club presents 'Matilda', Science Week, Southwood Summer Fete</p> <p>Special Events: Conductive Music Workshops, Inspiring Futures Exhibition @ Eastbury Manor House, Year 2 Arts Awards, Place of Worship Competition Prize Giving @ Beam Primary School, Food Matters trip to Barking Market, Year 3 & 4 Band Day</p> <p>Year Group Workshops and Trips: Reception @ Chalkwell Beach, Year 1 @ Thames River Cruise, Year 3 @ Eastbrookend Country Park, Year 3 @ Valence House, Year 4 @ Eastbrookend Country Park, Year 5 First Aid Workshop, Year 6 Secondary Transition Day, Year 6 @ Tate Modern, Year 6 @ Bowling, Year 6 Disco, Year 6 Leavers' Assembly</p> <p>Sporting Events: Y3 & Y4 Athletics @ Jim Peters Stadium, Girls' Football v Monteagle & Eastbury, Y5 & 6 Athletics @ Jim Peters Stadium, Girls' Football v Northbury, Year 4, 5 & 6 Inter Borough Athletics Competition, KS2 Gymnastics @ Robert Clack</p> <p>Parents/Carers' Events: Stay and Play for new Nursery and Reception children, School Readiness Programme for Nursery and Reception, Nursery Open Day for new parents/carers and Nursery Showcase for current parents/carers + meet the teacher</p>
<p>School Lunch Menu</p> 	<p>Our 2-week lunch menu remains the same (see our school website www.southwoodprimary.co.uk). Please speak to the School Office if you have any issues with School Grid and we do recommend you pre-order your child's meal choices as you know best what they like to eat.</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. ParentPay should be used to book Breakfast Club and After School Club with payment taken in advance. If you are interested in using Breakfast Club or After School Club, please speak to the School Office, thank you.</p>
 <p>ClassDojo</p>	<p>A reminder that staff are no longer checking messages on Class Dojo. Parents/carers can always speak with staff members who are present on the playground; phone, email or visit the School Office to make an appointment with the relevant member of staff; or pass on quick messages to teachers at drop off and pick up. We will review this arrangement when we move management information systems (MIS) towards the end of the year (December 2025).</p>
<p>School Places</p> 	<p>We still have some spaces available in some year groups for September 2025. If you or someone you know is interested, please use the following link. School admissions London Borough of Barking and Dagenham (lbbd.gov.uk)</p> <p>We also have a small number of afternoon Nursery places for September 2025, 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>Term Dates</p>	<p>First day of Autumn Term: Wednesday 3rd September 2025 Autumn Half Term: Friday 24th October to Friday 31st October 2025 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>

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