



Friday 4th April 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are at the end of the Spring Term already, which is always the shortest term, starting with dark and cold mornings in January and finishing in April this week in a blaze of sunshine! It has been lovely to see so many of you in school this week for our Easter Egg Hunt, and it is always a highlight to see our former students coming back to see us, on their own or with their siblings who still attend here and you are definitely never too old for an Easter Egg!

Our Year 6 children are gearing up for the Key Stage 2 SATs that take place in all schools across the country in the second week of May. They are all working hard, and these tests are only a snapshot at the end of primary school life for them, in which all we can ask, is they do their best. We only have one more term left with this cohort, and after SATs, our work will be focused on getting them ready for secondary school. We do work closely with local secondary schools, and those further afield on transition, and in recent years we have increased the work we do with Sydney Russell School, with a Year 5 taster day planned for the second half of next term. For those children who start Southwood in Nursery, they spend 8 of their first 11 years here, and it is a pleasure to see how they learn and grow in front of our very eyes. Others join our school community along the way but it is important to us that everyone feels part of our school, no matter how long or short their time is with us.

Our Year 5 children have been busy over the last couple of weeks working with a professional photographer from Bow Arts, taking photos of Southwood staff and pupils, which will eventually be displayed around the school and used to update our school website, watch this space! Our choir have been performing at the Barking and Dagenham Music Festival and in school, which has been a pleasure to hear, and our Health and Culture & Community ambassadors are participating in some exciting projects, one focused on innovative ways to support local families who need support, the other focused on growing foods to sell at market.

Next term will be another busy one, with many visits and events to look forward to, including Sports Days and our Southwood Drama Club production of Matilda! In the meantime, we wish everyone a fantastic Easter break and look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 22nd April 2025, at our usual times.

Kind regards,

Scott Halliwell, Headteacher

Highlights from the second half of the Spring Term



(please see Class Dojo for photos/ more details)

School Events:

World Book Day, Sibling Photos, Red Nose Day, Neurodiversity Day, Eid, Easter Egg Hunt

Special Events:

Conductive Music Workshops, Health Ambassadors - Social Enterprise Project, Choir @ LBBB Music Festival, Choir Parent Performance, Culture & Community Ambassadors @ RE Workshop, Health & Culture/Community Ambassadors - School Food Matters: Young Marketeers Project

Year Group Workshops and Trips:

Reception @ Barleylands Farm, Year 1 @ Eastbrookend Country Park, Year 2 @ The Golden Hinde, Year 3 Freshwater Theatre: Early Ages of Man, Year 4 @ William Morris Gallery, Year 4 Brain Buddies, Year 5 Bow Arts Photography Project

Sporting Events:

SEND Curling, Girls' Football v Goresbrook, Boys, Football v Sydney Russell, Year 4 Bikeability, Girls' Football vs Monteagle

Parents' Events:







MHST Coffee Morning, Come & Read with your child sessions (all year groups), Year 6 SATs Parents' Meetings, Mastering Number Parent Project for Reception

Headteacher: Scott Halliwell

SOUTHWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL
Keppel Road, Dagenham,
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<p>School Lunch Menu</p> 	<p>Our catering provider, BD Together, have moved to a new system, School Grid, which went live this week. Our 2-week lunch menu remains the same (see our school website www.southwoodprimary.co.uk). We will be sharing details of how to set up a School Grid account, so you can pre-order your child's meal choices as soon as we return after Easter.</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.</p> <p>ParentPay should be used to book Breakfast Club and After School Club with payment taken 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 in exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>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>As you are aware, we have made the decision to close the communication function of Class Dojo. This decision was not taken lightly, however, the primary focus for our teachers is the lessons they teach your children every day, and the associated preparation for them. We will be upgrading our management information system (MIS) before the end of December, and as part of this, we will review the communication function of any new system. In the meantime, we recommend using the following channels to communicate with the school: 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.</p>
<p>School Places</p> 	<p>We are really pleased to be able to report that the school continues to be fully subscribed in many year groups but we still have some spaces available, both in current Reception and Reception for September 2025. If you or someone you know is interested, please use the following link. School admissions London Borough of Barking and Dagenham (lbld.gov.uk)</p> <p>We are also confirming 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>Upcoming School Events</p> 	<p>23rd April 2025 – St George's Day (children invited to wear red and white for the day) 25th April 2025 - Conductive Music Workshop (Gold Class & Platinum Class) 28th April 2025 - Conductive Music Workshop (White Class & Copper Class) 28th April 2025 – Panathlon (selected pupils) 29th April 2025 - Gold Class @ Eastbrookend Country Park 30th April 2025 – Silver Class @ Eastbrookend Country Park 1st May 2025 – Platinum Class @ Eastbrookend Country Park 8th May 2025 – 80th anniversary of VE Day (details to follow after Easter) w/c 12th May 2025 - Key Stage 2 SATs (Year 6 pupils) 19th May 2025 - Year 1 Freshwater Theatre visit: The Great Fire of London 20th May 2025 - Wellgate Community Farm visiting Nursery</p>
 <p>Term Dates</p>	<p>First day of Summer Term: Tuesday 22nd April 2025 Summer Half Term: Week commencing 26th May 2025 Last day of Summer Term: Friday 18th July 2025 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</p>

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