






Friday 7th March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, apologies for the delay in sending our newsletter for the first half of the Spring Term. Hopefully, last week's sunshine is a sign of things to come as we head towards Spring. There were some real standout moments in the first half term of 2025, particularly our choir joining around 8,000 other children at the O2 for the Young Voices Concert, our drama club watching Matilda the Musical in the West End ahead of their show to be held at Jo Richardson School later in the year and our STEM ambassadors attending BETT:UK at the ExCeL Centre. We have plenty more events coming up this half term (see below), including our Year 5 children starting work next week with an artist from Bow Arts on a photography project and the Southwood Easter Egg Hunt in the last week of term. As you may have seen on Class Dojo, Southwood has been the lucky recipient of a huge amount of free art supplies from the Frank Bowling Circa Pipeline project and the work our Year 2 and 4 children are currently doing with Maths Whizz will be the focus of a case study in the coming weeks.

It was lovely to see so many of you at Parents' Evening last week, as well as at our Come & Read sessions as part of our World Book Day celebrations. We look forward to seeing even more of you, next week.





<p>Highlights from the first half of the Spring Term</p>  <p>(please see Class Dojo for photos/ more details)</p>	<p>School Events: Class photos, NSPCC Number Day, Children's Mental Health Week including Dress to Express Day, Safer Internet Day.</p> <p>Special Events: Young Voices @ The O2, Drama Club @ Matilda The Musical, STEM Ambassadors @ BETT UK: ExCeL.</p> <p>Year Group Workshops and Trips: Reception: Freshwater Theatre visit - Rainbow Fish, Y3 introducing food workshops, Year 3 visit to the Church, Year 4 visit to William Morris Gallery, Year 5 visit to the Mosque and Year 6 visit to the Imperial War Museum</p> <p>Sporting Events: Year 5 Bikeability, Girls' Football v Roding, Boys' Football v Sydney Russell, Year 3 & 4 Indoor Athletics @ Sydney Russell, Girls' Football v Ripple and St. Teresa's.</p> <p>Parents' Events: Core boards training delivered by Speech and Language Therapists, Year 5 Trewern meeting ahead of their residential visit in November 2025.</p>
<p>School Lunch Menu</p> 	<p>The new 2-week lunch menu is available on our school website</p> <p>Please note we recommend that you choose your child's food with them at home through your ParentPay 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.</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>

Headteacher: Scott Halliwell

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 ClassDojo	<p>We are currently in the process of reviewing how we manage communications through the Class Dojo platform and will provide an update for you shortly. 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>
School Places 	<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. 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 in the process of 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>
Upcoming School Events 	<p>Week commencing Monday 10th March 2025 - Come & Read events continue (see Class Dojo) Tuesday 18th March 2025 - Year 6 Mixed Football Festival Wednesday 19th March 2025 – Girls’ Football v Goresbrook Thursday 20th March 2025 - Music Festival @ Valence Primary (Bonham Road) Friday 21st March 2025 – Red Nose Day Monday 24th March 2025 – Neurodiversity Day Wednesday 26th March 2025 – Boys’ Football v Sydney Russell Thursday 27th March 2025 - Culture Ambassadors @ RE Workshop Thursday 27th March 2025 – Year 6 SATs Parents’ Workshop Friday 28th March 2025 - Mastering Number Parent Project for Reception Tuesday 1st April 2025 - Blue Class @ Eastbrookend Country Park Tuesday 1st April & Wednesday 2nd April 2025 – Easter Egg Hunt Wednesday 2nd April 2025 – Year 4 Bikeability Thursday 3rd April 2025 - Pink Class @ Eastbrookend Country Park Thursday 3rd April 2025 – Reception @ Barleylands Farm Thursday 3rd April 2025 - Girls' Football vs Monteagle Friday 4th April 2025 - Green Class @ Eastbrookend Country Park</p>
Term Dates 	<p>Last day of Spring Term: Friday 4th April 2025 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>

Kind regards,

Scott Halliwell, Headteacher

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