





Thursday 19th December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

The end of a busy and extremely long term is coming to an end and we have much to be grateful for. Our Christmas performances finished yesterday, with the Southwood Choirs (Years 4, 5 and 6 combined) singing carols beautifully in the playground at the end of the school day. They also performed at Queen's Hospital last week, raising over £200. Like the Southwood Drama Club, our Choir has become very popular with the children over these last few years, and it is brilliant to see the enthusiasm and joy the children get from singing, and we appreciate your time so they can sing to an audience as well. Over 60 children are taking part in our choirs, with a trip to the O2 for the Young Voices Concert coming up in the New Year, and we thank Mrs Herbert for the work she is doing to give so many children great opportunities.

The Christmas performances, at this time of year, are an opportunity for all our year groups to speak and sing in front of an audience and it was heart-warming to see so many parents, carers and other family members in school and over at Wood Lane Baptist Church. For some, this experience is very new, and can sometimes be overwhelming, but it really does bring everyone together. For me, it is amazing how quickly the children grow up, and it is a privilege to be here first hand to see them do so. Time does fly by, and it is also a highlight to see so many former pupils back at Southwood over this period. We love to see them and hear how they are getting on, as they will always be part of the Southwood School Community.

If I haven't seen you during these last two weeks, I will take this opportunity to wish you a wonderful Christmas break, and look forward to seeing you on our first day back, Monday 6th January 2025!






<p>Highlights from the second half of the Autumn Term</p>  <p>(please see Class Dojo for photos/ more details)</p>	<p>School Events: Remembrance Day, Children in Need Day, Odds Socks Day, Christmas Lunch and Southwood Community Lunch.</p> <p>School Workshops and Trips: Reception Post Box visit and Christmas biscuit decorating with parents/carers, Year 1 Zoolab and Freshwater Theatre: Toys Workshop, Reception and Year 1 Phonics Parent Workshops, Year 2 visit to Victorian Ragged Hall Museum and Nutrition Workshop, Year 3 Roots To Food Workshop, Y4 @ Pantomime: Queen's Theatre, Hornchurch, Year 5 Social Enterprise Workshop, Y6 @ Alice in Wonderland Returns - Brixton House and outdoor residential visit to Trewern.</p> <p>Sporting Events: Inclusion Bowling, Y5/6 Basketball Competition, Girls' Football, Y5/6 Indoor Athletics and Y4/5 Boys' Football.</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. 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>A reminder to parents/carers with Nursery aged pupils, the application deadline for Reception 2025 is 15th January 2025, see the link below to apply. Starting school (children aged 3 and 4) London Borough of Barking and Dagenham</p> <p>We are also now 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>

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>Do you have any worries or concerns about school?</p> 	<p>Apologies we have not yet shared our updated version of 'Do you have any worries or concerns about school? We will definitely do so at the start of next term.</p> <p>As part of this, we will be making it clear who you need to speak to, the best ways to contact us, the best times to speak to class teachers, and other members of staff, together with timescales for us to meet with you where this is needed. We always try to be responsive to any worries or concerns raised, however, often it is better to meet when emotions have calmed down, and when we as a school have had time to investigate what has happened, so we are able to report this back to you. We will not always get everything right, but are committed to doing the very best for all our children here, so will always listen to and take on board your feedback. We also request that you speak to us first and do not approach other children or their parents/carers, thank you.</p>
<p>School Lunch Menu</p> 	<p>The 2-week lunch menu for the first half term of Spring is available on our school website. Our new menu has been further delayed and will now be introduced after February half term, following our Health Ambassadors meeting with our Cook and Catering Account Director to give feedback on the proposed new menu.</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>
<p>Upcoming School Events</p> 	<p>7th January 2025 - Aqua Class @ William Morris Gallery 10th January 2025 – Nutritionist visiting Year 3 10th January 2025 - Y5 & Y6 Indoor Athletics @ Sydney Russell 13th January 2025 - Gold Class Mosque Visit 14th-15th January 2025 – Year 5 Bikeability 15th January 2025 - Silver Class Mosque Visit 15th January 2025 – Southwood Drama Club @ Matilda the Musical 16th January 2025 – Freshwater Theatre: Rainbow Fish visiting Reception 16th January 2025 - Silver Class Mosque Visit</p>
<p>Term Dates</p> 	<p>Last day of Autumn Term: Thursday 19th December 2024 First day of Spring Term: Monday 6th January 2025 Spring Half Term: Week commencing 17th February 2025 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</p>

Kind regards,

Scott Halliwell, Headteacher

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