



Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024

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. We have had 10 weeks back at school since we returned in September and the time has flown by. I was lucky enough to spend a few days at Trewern last week 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, Miss Wright, Mrs Page, Miss Dobson, Mr K and Mr Demir, who were on duty 24/7! It was also a privilege to see how they supported the children subtly and skilfully throughout the week. Whilst as a parent myself, I completely understand it is a difficult decision to make, it is definitely a great opportunity for our children, away from their normal home and school environment.

It has also been great to see the number of parents/carers in school for our Parents' Evenings over these last 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. We acknowledge that in terms of the academic year, it is still relatively early days, so relationships with class teachers and additional adults may still be established. This makes it so important for us to talk through any issues there may be. We will also be sharing an updated version of 'Do you have any worries or concerns about school?' with you next week, 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 lead teachers in each year group, as well as a member of the senior leadership team linked to all year groups and of course, our inclusion team. We will also clarify our school expectations in terms of responding to messages, particularly sent on Class Dojo or through the School Office.






<p><b>Highlights from the first half of the Autumn Term</b></p>  <p>(please see Class Dojo for photos/ more details)</p>	<p><b>School Events:</b> Steel Pan Company as part of Black History Month, National Poetry Day, World Mental Health (Yellow) Day and Wear It Pink Day in aid of Breast Cancer Now.</p> <p><b>School Workshops and Trips:</b> Reception Autumn Craft afternoons, Year 1 walk around the local area, Year 2 Florence Nightingale workshop and visit to Eastbrookend Country Park, Year 5 visit to the Science Museum, Year 5 &amp; 6 Cyber Choices presentation, Year 6 visit to Valence House Museum and Junior Roadwatch, Gardening Club visit to B&amp;Q and Bow Arts Celebration Event @ The Wilds, Barking Riverside.</p> <p><b>Sporting Events:</b> Cross Country and Girls' Football.</p>
<p><b>Trewern 2024</b></p> 	
<p><b>Christmas Concerts</b></p> 	<p>We are just finalising dates for our Christmas Concerts with Wood Lane Baptist Church, for Years 2 to 6 and will share these with you shortly. Nursery, Reception and Year 1 dates are as follows: Nursery – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 11am and 2:30pm Reception - Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 9:15am and Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2:15pm Year 1 - Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2:15pm and Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 9:15am</p>

**Headteacher: Scott Halliwell**

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<p><b>School Places</b></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.  <a href="https://www.lbld.gov.uk">School admissions   London Borough of Barking and Dagenham (lbld.gov.uk)</a></p> <p>A reminder to parents/carers with Nursery aged pupils, the application deadline for Reception 2025 is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025, see the link below to apply.  <a href="https://www.lbld.gov.uk">Starting school (children aged 3 and 4)   London Borough of Barking and Dagenham</a></p> <p>Our waiting list for Nursery places for September 2025 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><b>School Lunch Menu</b></p> 	<p>The 2-week lunch menu for the remainder of term is available on our school website. Our new menu has been delayed and will now be introduced in January, following our catering provider making some changes to their suppliers.</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><b>Breakfast and After School Club</b></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 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. If you are interested in using Breakfast Club or After School Club, please speak to the School Office, thank you.</p>
<p><b>Upcoming School Events</b></p> 	<p><b>20<sup>th</sup> November 2024</b> – Individual School Photos  <b>22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024</b> – Odd Sock Day (Anti-Bullying Week)  <b>22<sup>nd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024</b> – Flu Vaccinations  <b>13<sup>th</sup> December 2024</b> – Christmas Dress Down Day/Christmas Lunch  <b>18<sup>th</sup> December 2024</b> – Southwood Choir singing Christmas Carols (end of day)  <b>20<sup>th</sup> December 2024</b> – Southwood Community Christmas Lunch</p>
<p><b>Term Dates</b></p> 	<p><b>Last day of Autumn Term:</b> Thursday 19th December 2024  <b>First day of Spring Term:</b> Monday 6th January 2025  <b>Spring Half Term:</b> Week commencing 17th February 2025  <b>Last day of Spring Term:</b> Friday 4th April 2025  <b>First day of Summer Term:</b> Tuesday 22nd April 2025  <b>Summer Half Term:</b> Week commencing 26th May 2025  <b>Last day of Summer Term:</b> Friday 18th July 2025</p>

Kind regards,

Scott Halliwell  
Headteacher

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