

Headteacher's Newsletter No 45

24/05/16

SATs

Our year 6 and Year 2 children have taken their SATs tests. Many of you may have seen news items or read articles about the amounts of stress children are under because of these tests. I am pleased to say that our children handled them very well and seemed to take them very much in their stride.

There is no doubt that the tests were more demanding this year than in previous years, the year 6 tests in particular. This is because the curriculum for primary children itself is more demanding. The bar is being set higher and the expectation is that nearly all children will achieve at least the new higher level expected for their age group.

As teachers, we are constantly looking at how we teach to ensure that we are as effective as possible, however, we are not simply focusing on the subjects tested. As ever, we seek to make the curriculum as broad as possible and teach it through ways that will grab children's interests, for example, through the use of topic boxes full of artefacts, themed days such as the recent Pirate day in year 1, Seaside Day in Year 2 and visits out of school.

Our aim is that by the end of their time at Eastcote, it could be truly said of our children that they are "well educated".

Mayor's Visit

Last Monday, we were delighted to have the Mayor of Bexley, Councillor Sybil Camsey, visit us, accompanied by her Mace Bearer, Paul. She was given a tour of the school led by Grace, Phoebe and Kieran from year 6, following which she spoke to the children in assembly.

Councillor Camsey and Paul gave an absorbing talk about the mayor's duties, the robes and regalia of office - the mace and the chain of office. Being a former head teacher, Councillor Camsey knew exactly how to present her talk to the children and they sat absorbed through it.

At the end the children were able to ask some questions.



A visit such as this helps the children understand something of the way councils and local democracy work and doing so, enables us to reinforce "British Values".

Polling Day

As school will be open as normal, our lunch arrangements will remain the same as the previous polling day on 5th May. If your child normally has a school meal, they will receive a packed lunch unless you told us otherwise. We will order the choice of roll that they had before. If you wish to change this, please let us know.

Weather

As the weather improves, could we ask parents to be aware of forecasts and prepare appropriately, particularly with regard to sun cream and hats when warm, sunny weather is in the offing. In addition, it is really helpful if your child has a waterproof in school as it is better for children to have outdoor playtimes even if it is raining. At this time of year, even in the rain, it is usually quite warm and children could be outside, as long as it is not too heavy.

PACE Events

- Friday 27th May - Children wear Red, white and Blue -Family Picnic 3.30 - 5.30pm
- Friday 17th June - Fathers Day Sale
- Saturday 2nd July - Summer Fair
- Saturday 9th July - Pop up cinema

Please do support these events as PACE work so hard to raise funds to enhance and support your childrens education. If you can help in any way however small, please let Mrs Wilkinson the Chair know, or the school office.

TERM DATES 2016-17

Autumn Term 2016

Monday 5 and Tuesday 6th September - INSET DAYS

Wednesday 7th September - Friday 21 October

Half term Monday 24 October - Friday 28 October

Monday 31 October - Wednesday 21 December

Spring term 2017

Tuesday 3 January - INSET DAY

Wednesday 4th January - Friday 9th February

Friday 10 February - INSET DAY

Half term Monday 13 February - Friday 17 February

Monday 20 February - Friday 31 March

Summer term 2017

Tuesday 18 April - Friday 26 May

Friday 28th April - INSET DAY (Bank Holiday 1 May)

Half term Monday 29 May - Friday 2 June

Monday 5 June - Friday 21 July