

Headteacher's Newsletter No 46

17/06/16

School Journey

Last week, 28 children from year 6 and 2 children from year 5 spent five days at the Carrot Wood outdoor activities centre near Tonbridge. Accompanied by myself, Mrs Scamp, Mrs Woodcock, Miss Rochester and one of our governors for three of the days, Mr Padwick, the children enjoyed a week of canoeing, climbing, archery, high ropes, BMXing and much more.

The weather, apart from a couple of showers (and one hour-long deluge on Tuesday evening), was warm and mainly sunny, the facilities were good, the food excellent and the instructors from the centre, outstanding. But most importantly, the children were, as ever, immaculately behaved, mutually encouraging and enthusiastic in their participation.

For the staff, what thrilled us over and over again was the way everyone had a go at the activities, often overcoming fears and uncertainties. You could almost see them grow in confidence as they did things they never thought themselves capable of doing. And the way all the children cheered on and encouraged their team mates and often gave practical support was wonderful.



Archery (above) using real arrows. Children were given full instruction in how to fire the bow and many of them scored "gold" – the centre of the target.

The Leap of Faith on the High Ropes (right) required children to climb a pole, stand on a platform about 10 metres off the ground and jump and try to catch a trapeze – yes, they were attached to a safety rope!



Another aspect of the week was the way the children had to share rooms and take responsibility for keeping these rooms as neat and tidy as possible. If you get the chance, ask one of them about the rigour of room inspections! Similarly, all children participated in washing up and cleaning around the lodge. I am pleased to say that all of these tasks were done very cheerfully and willingly.

All in all, the children were a real credit to Eastcote, a real credit to their parents and most important of all, a real credit to themselves.

Peer Review

Every school needs help to evaluate just how well it is doing, both with regard to its strengths and to areas where improvements might be made. One of the ways this can happen is by inviting suitably trained individuals or teams to carry out "Ofsted" style inspections – we arranged one of these for ourselves last year.

One of the benefits from being in Leigh Academies Trust is that they arrange for each academy to have one of these visits every two years (known as a Peer Review) and as we are new to them, we have arranged to have ours on the 22nd and 23rd of June. Two ofsted inspectors and two principals from primary academies within the trust will be undertaking the review and their findings will help us test the quality of our own self-evaluation and see the improvements we can make over the coming two years.

We are always pleased to hear from parents regarding how we can continue to improve, so please let us know if you think there are things we could do better than we are doing now.

Goodbye

It is always sad when staff move on, and I know that those of you who have a long association with Eastcote will be particularly saddened to hear that Mrs Scamp will be leaving us at the end of the summer term.

This was a very hard decision for Mrs Scamp to make but it is one she has taken for the sake of her family. She will be relocating to Devon where her husband has been working for some time, and joining the staff of Okehampton Primary School.

Mrs Scamp has worked at Eastcote for over seventeen years, as a class teacher, our maths and science leader and, on two occasions, as assistant head teacher (covering for Mrs Hall's maternity leaves). Hundreds of children have benefitted from her outstanding teaching and from the excellent pastoral care she has provided. Many staff members would be happy to testify to the way Mrs Scamp has helped them develop as teachers through her example, her coaching and mentoring and simply by just being there as a friend and colleague. Her impact on Eastcote School over the years has been huge.

I know you will join me in wishing her well for the future. Her new school will be finding out very quickly just what an amazing asset they have found for themselves and the children in her new class, and their parents, will soon realise the high quality of education Mrs Scamp has brought to them.

We hope she will always have a very special place for Eastcote in her heart.

PACE

PACE have just held their Fathers Day sale for the children. They have two more events happenig before the end of term which we hope you will be able to support. The Summer Fair will be on Saturday 2nd July and the Pop UP Cinema on Saturday 9th July. This is a new venture for PACE and we look forward to having what is becoming a very popular event in the summer, here are Eastcote.

School Crossing Patroller

We have had an enquiry to see if anyone connected to the school would be interested in acting as relief School Crossing Patroller, on Bellegrove Grove Road to cover for absence when needed. Please contact Pauline Rootsey on 0203 045 5875 at Bexley Council for further details.