

# Headteacher's Newsletter No.12

13/02/14

## Football

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February saw Eastcote take part in its second competitive football event, a 5-a-side tournament at "Goals" in Bexleyheath. The team representing the school were: Ben Martin, Dayne Houghton, Lewis Johnson, Ethan Bushell, Billy Smith and Billy Brewis.

The sixteen teams were divided into four leagues of four with each team playing the other three in its league. Our first game was against Upton Primary and proved to be very close with Upton winning 1-0 due to a penalty. We had some chances to equalise and overall a draw would have been a fair result.

Our second game was against Longlands Primary, and our play improved greatly, leading to an eventual 2 - 1 win. The third game against Brampton Primary "B" was another success for us with a 4 - 0 victory. This meant we finished second in our group - an excellent achievement.

We had one more game as a consolation play-off but came up against a very strong team from Lessness Heath School who managed to beat us. Many thanks to all parents who provided transport and supported the team.

Games now coming in rapid succession, Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> was the team's first full game in the quarter final of the mini cup (for smaller schools). We had to play at "Goals" in Bexleyheath as our opponents, St Augustine's, could only reach a venue by bus.

After taking a two goal lead, we were pegged back by St Augustine's so that the half time score was 2 - 2. However, we were making far more chances and so my half time advice was "keep making the chances and we'll eventually outscore them" (more Pellegrini than Mourinho).

With ten minutes to go the score was 3 - 3 but then everything clicked and we scored 5 goals in the last ten minutes (thus validating my managerial credentials). Final score 8 - 3, and a semi-final to come next half term.

Well done to the team who worked really hard and never gave up: Lewis Johnson, Dayne Houghton, Ben Martin, James Antoniou, Joe Putley, Billy Smith, Daniel Peters and making their first appearances, Sadaf Alizada and Lois Perryman.



The next game is in the "Stuart Turpin" cup and will take place on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February away against Upton Primary School.

## Assessment Week

Your child may have mentioned that they have been doing assessments during this last week of the half term. These assessments are not just about finding out how well your child is doing and how much progress they are making - important though these things are. Assessments enable teachers to see where learning needs are and target their teaching at the class as a whole, groups or individuals as necessary. These assessments go with the day-by-day assessments of learning staff carry out as they teach and go through children's books to give feedback.

## Houses

During collective worship on Mondays this half term, I have been taking up the theme of “Going for Goals” - which is the current PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education) topic. I have been using the four animal symbols of the houses and highlighting characteristics we associate with them as qualities needed to achieve the goals we have in our lives:

- Bears symbolise strength.
- Eagles symbolise clear vision.
- Lions symbolise courage.
- Wolves symbolise team work.

We began giving out house points last week and the totals gained are as follows:

- Bears - 7
- Eagles - 9
- Lions - 4
- Wolves - 6.



I am pleased to say that when announced in collective worship, the children responded enthusiastically but with respect for the efforts of houses other than their own.

## Homework

When I was at primary school, we never had homework until it was offered to us in the fourth year juniors (year 6). I said, “no thank you” as there was no way I was going to have my free time after school and at weekends spoilt. When I got to my secondary school and I started to get regular homework, I can honestly say that it was a total waste of time and taught me nothing. It was simply a chore that had to be done. This continued until I was about 15 when an enlightened English teacher started to inspire me and gave me good books to read and set me projects that stirred my enthusiasm.

Over the past few years there has been a growing body of research looking into the whole question of homework and as I have looked into this, I have been interested to find that my own experiences as a child make sense in the light of the evidence. This growing body of evidence shows that formal homework has no significantly beneficial effects on the learning of children until the latter part of their secondary education.

So what should we be doing? For me, the key thing is building a love for and a commitment to learning. Over the rest of this year I will be looking to work with the staff, governors, parents and most importantly children, on reshaping our homework policy to make it as effective as possible.

## Adult Learning courses

We have made arrangements for a ‘Keeping up with your children - Maths - Years 3 and 4’ course to be held in school. This will start from Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April for 5 weeks from 1.00pm to 3.15 pm. There will a flyer with application details nearer the time.

Following this, we will be providing a ‘Fun with Phonics’ after the May half term.

## Parents Eve Wednesday 19 March

Forms for signing up for an appointment will be in the main foyer from Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March.

# Have a nice half term break