

Headteacher's Newsletter No.8

11/12/13

Football

It was good to see Eastcote once again involved in inter-school competitions as a team from years five and six represented the school at the Bexley Primary Schools Sports Association "One Form Entry" cup (i.e. a special tournament for smaller schools such as ourselves) which took place at "Goals" in Bexleyheath on Tuesday 3rd December.

The team were up against other school teams who have been playing together at least since September and many since last year. The format was a league of five teams with each school playing the other four. In our first game we were up against a very strong team and our lack of experience together showed as we quickly fell three goals behind. But the team didn't give up and pulled one goal back before the end.

The second game was much more successful resulting in a 4 - 0 victory. However, the third game against the eventual winners brought our players back down to earth as they suffered a 3 - 0 defeat. The final game saw them fall behind 2 - 0 fairly quickly, but the team's fighting spirit showed as they pulled back to 2 - 2 and could easily have won the game.



The final positions were announced at the end and we were all delighted to find that Eastcote had finished in a very creditable third place. Well done to the team and a big "thank you" to all parents who kindly provided transport and lots of vocal support. Particular thanks to Mrs Martin for overseeing the team until I was able to arrive.

Here is a picture the victorious team: Ben, Lewis, Dayne, James, Joe, Billy, Daniel and Celal.

Football practice continues for year 5 and 6 children Wednesday lunchtimes. We have entered two further competitions which take place next term and also intend to play friendly games, including, hopefully, some for a girls team.

Assessing in the Classroom

One of the essentials of good teaching is that children are always being assessed during a lesson so that their understanding can be checked and, where they haven't understood something, then that can be addressed. This is not the kind of assessment involving a test of some sort with a mark out of ten at the end or a level. Rather it happens all the time through the teachers'

questioning of the children and through working alongside them. It is something the children themselves play an important part in.

For example, after some teaching input, a teacher might give an opportunity for any who feel a bit insecure in the learning to go over it again with the teacher whilst others go about their designated tasks. Then, some of those who are getting on with tasks might decide that they have mastered the learning and need to move on. The teacher might have available extension challenges that the children know they can turn to. This kind of self-assessment needs children to have begun to take some control over their learning and to make decisions for themselves. Obviously staff will check out children's learning to confirm where they are at but the important thing is that through assessment in lessons children are constantly moving forward and not simply doing activities at a comfortable level. Challenge is good for them, and many of them are beginning to realise this.

Laugh!



“Laugh” is one of the three words on the school badge (with “aspire” and “learn”) and a core value showing that enjoyment of school and learning is seen by us as being of vital importance.

Personally, I love learning and I am always keen to learn new things. For example, at the moment I am learning:

- How to improve my golf (please don't ask how it's going)
- Dog training
- The psychology behind learning
- Aspects of theology

I do this learning in various ways - on the golf course and driving range, daily at home and in the park (dog training), through books, on-line and in discussion with others.

I enjoy all of these activities (no, really, there are few things more pleasurable than looking a complete idiot on a golf course!) and they all enhance my life.

And this is what we want for the children, that they develop a life-long commitment to learning, not just so that they get qualifications and a good job (of course we want that) but so that their lives are rich (not necessarily financially) and enjoyable, meaningful and enriching of others.

Where parents and carers can help so much is where they themselves are engaged in learning and talk to their children about their experiences as learners, highs and lows (they need to see that learning can take time and effort but that the rewards are worth working for).

Perhaps you are learning something at the moment, maybe a language, a sport, dancing, cookery, gardening... anything really. If so, can I encourage you to talk to your child about how your learning is going - in that way you can become a kind of learning mentor for your child and your child's commitment to learning can be fostered and nourished.

Governors

The governors are keen that parents and carers know about the role governors have in helping a school to function. I have previously outlined some of the work governors do but I would like to

take the opportunity through the newsletter to invite questions from parents about the governing body. If there is anything you would like to know, please send your questions in marked “questions for governors” and we would be happy to answer as best we can.

From Zoe Rowe, Rosie Gallehawk and Rebecca Webster (Yr 6)

The girls came to me with an idea so I have encouraged them to do some research and find out levels of interest. They wrote this letter and asked me to send it out with the newsletter. I know that they are also looking into the very important issue of cost!

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had an idea about getting bigger school bags and swimming bags for our school.

We thought of having bigger school bags as when the juniors are packing their bags there often isn't enough room for them to get everything in. Also, it would be nice if we were able to represent our school more when walking to and home from school with a bag which has our badge on it.



We thought of the swimming bags as when we go swimming at Crook Log people can't see our logo on our uniform.

We are sending this letter out because we would like to see how many people would be interested in buying this for their child. If you would be interested in buying a bigger school bag or swimming bag for your child please return the slip that will be given to your child soon. Thank you.

Yours Sincerely,

Zoë Rowe year 6, Rebecca Webster year 6, Rosie Gallehawk year 6

How many dogs does it take to change a light bulb?

Golden Retriever: The sun is shining, the day is young, we've got our whole lives ahead of us, and you're inside worrying about a stupid burned-out light bulb?

Border Collie: Just one. And I'll replace any wiring that's not up to code.

Dachshund: I can't reach the stupid lamp!

Rottweiler: Go Ahead! Make me!

Shi-tzu: Puh-leeze, dah-ling. Let the servants. . . .

Malamute: Let the Border Collie do it. You can feed me while he's busy.

Cocker Spaniel: Why change it? I can still pee on the carpet in the dark.

Pointer: I see it, there it is, right there...

Greyhound: It isn't moving. Who cares?

Labrador: Oh, me, me!!! Pleeeeeze let me change the light bulb! Can I? Can I? Huh? Huh? Can I?

