

Headteacher's Newsletter No 40

18/01/16

Academy

At a recent meeting, the governors made the decision to become an academy and join Leigh Academies Trust. The completion of the process awaits one or two legal necessities but if all goes well then on the 31st January 2016:

Eastcote Primary School will close for good.

But on the 1st February 2016:

A new school, Eastcote Primary Academy will open.

However, you probably won't notice any difference. I'll still be here, the teachers and support staff will be here, the school gate will open at 8.45 a.m., the children will continue to behave well, work hard and learn lots. The real differences will be long term, in the ways we are helped to maintain everything good about our school and improve even further.

Sport

During the dark evenings of December and January, a lot of after school sport is suspended. However, the girl's football league, which takes place under floodlights at "Goals" in Bexleyheath, continues on some Monday evenings. Each time we go, we play two or three matches against other schools. Last Monday, the girls played their latest round of matches and were exceptional, winning all three games, conceding only 2 goals whilst scoring 15! This means that the Eastcote team have an overall record of 6 wins, one draw and one defeat, putting us near the top of the league of 13 teams.

Well done to the girls involved: Connie Chisholm, Milly Hooton, Grace Mitchell, Phoebe McIntyre, Rose Dawson, Libby Garrod-Jobbins, Aaliyah Kingston, Nora Ogbata and Rachel Balogun.

As we get towards the end of January and the evenings are lighter, we are resuming netball and football matches (for the mixed team). We are competing in the netball league and in two football knockout competitions.

At the end of this half-term we will be holding our inter-house netball and chess competitions which will give lots of children in Key Stage 2, opportunities to play competitively.

Lego

Children in year 5 enjoyed a very special day in which they learned how to construct computer programs which operated Lego models that they had built. Helped by an expert trainer, small groups of two or three worked at computer screens learning some of the principles of programming, albeit in a simplified form, and testing out the programs, debugging them, refining and improving them. This was one of those learning experiences that combined high levels of challenge for the children with lots of enjoyment.

Parents Helping Children Learn

I know that helping your own children learn is a very high priority for all parents, even though we all lead very busy lives that can leave us little spare time. However, I came across a very helpful passage in a book I have been reading, which may help you as parents to raise your children as learners, and much of it reflects how we approach learning at school. It gives the following tips:

- Be a learner yourself and let your children see you learning.
- Involve children in adult conversations.
- Let children spend time with you while you are doing difficult things.
- Involve children in family decisions.
- Tell your children about your own difficulties when you have been trying to learn.
- Encourage children to spend time with people who have interesting things to share.
- Don't rush in too quickly to rescue children when they are having difficulties.
- Restrain the impulse to teach.
- Don't praise too much – use interest rather than approval.
- Acknowledge children's effort, not their ability.
- Make clear boundaries and maintain them.
- Don't over stimulate – boredom breeds imagination.
- Choose multi-purpose, open-ended toys.
- Encourage different kinds of computer use.
- Talk to children about the process of learning (without offering too much advice).
- Watch and learn from your children's learning.

Taken from "What's The Point of School?" by Guy Claxton.

Pace

PACE met last week for a planning meeting and have lots of great events in the pipeline – the first of which is the Family Disco on the 29th January to mark the closing of Eastcote Primary School and the opening of Eastcote Primary Academy. Please let the office have your slips – we're sure it's going to be a fun evening.

Dates for the calendar

Year 6 class assembly	-	Friday 22 nd January at 2.45pm
PACE Family Disco	-	Friday 29 th January
Year 3 class assembly	-	Friday 5 th February – letter to follow
Jeremy Strong – author visit	-	Thursday 11 th February with book signing after school
Half term	-	Monday 15 th to Friday 19 th February

Do also check the website for up to date information or any changes

Lunches

Lunch times are becoming difficult to manage as we are finding that children are changing their requirement without informing the office. This can result in the kitchen over or under ordering and dinner money charges not being correct, as it is difficult to keep track of the changes unless we are told. Please make sure your child has the lunch the office have on record. If you wish to change this, let them know.