

Headteacher's Newsletter No 42

11/3/16

Sport

Congratulations to Lions who have won the inter-house netball tournament (postponed from last half term). All the children involved played well and the standard was good throughout.

The netball team finished 3rd in their half of the league and so should have taken part in a play-off for 5th/6th place (out of 12 teams) at Hillsgrove. However, this was rained off so we think we are going to share 5th place - a really excellent achievement.

The girls football team still have a couple of league fixtures to play but currently it looks as though they will finish in the top three out of 13 teams, which is an outstanding result. Well done to all involved and a special "thank you" to all the parents who have been turning out on cold Monday evenings at Goals.

After the league finishes, the girls will be involved in two further tournaments, the first on Friday April 22nd and the second sometime in May.

The mixed football team played a quarter final of the Minor Cup (for smaller schools in the borough) against St Joseph's which took place just before the holiday. The team had met St Joseph's earlier in the season in a football tournament at Goals and we were well beaten by them. St Joseph's went on to win that tournament and thus were hot favourites to at least get to the final of the minor cup.

The game was very hard indeed with our opponents having most of the play in the first half, making lots of chances but being thwarted by a very brave defensive performance and high quality goalkeeping by the captain of the team, Kieran Rowe. 0 - 0 at half time.

The second half continued in the same way, but the more chances St Joseph's missed the more the more encouraged Eastcote became. After a few minutes, the team broke away and an excellent move was finished by Dylan Laurel to put us 1 - 0 up.

St Joseph's hit back and were playing some excellent football but still couldn't put their chances away. Again, the defending was heroic and because of this, Eastcote held out to the end to win the match.

I have to say that in all the many years I have been taking football teams (and I started in 1975) this was one of the bravest and most character-filled performances I have seen. Well done to the team, Kieran Rowe, Anthony Hoang, Robert-Lee Saunders, Connie Chisholm, Dylan Laurel, Joe Metson, Bobby Merralls and Ben O'Halloran.

Eastcote met Fosters in the semi-final yesterday and whilst we played well, Fosters were a strong team and unfortunately we lost.

Homework

As mentioned last half term, I will be writing to you soon about homework and some of the changes we are proposing to make it more effective.

Working With Other Schools

We have already begun to plan ways in which children at Eastcote can benefit from our new links with Stationer's Crown Woods Academy as a part of Leigh Academies Trust. Miss Jones is arranging a visit to SCWA by year 3 to take part in poetry workshops with year 7 pupils and we have pencilled in a Science day for our year 5 pupils in which they will be able to make use of the facilities at SCWA.

SCWA are also opening a new media centre in July and we have begun discussions as to how we can make use of it next year.

The Library

If you get the chance to see it, much work has been going on in the school library. We have bought hundreds of new books and the environment has been greatly improved and organised so that we can get better use out of it. A big thank you to Mrs Brown and the year 5 librarians, and especially to Mrs Cooper who has taken on a lot of the responsibility for the library and put in a huge amount of work on it. This has meant the children at Eastcote have a great facility to help improve reading and the love of books right across the school.

Safeguarding your children

In conjunction with our safeguarding responsibilities, please can we remind parents and carers to let us know if your child is not going to be at an after school club that they regularly attend, after being in school during the day. The organisers of the clubs check with us if a child is absent from their register, but unless we have been told we cannot mark them absent. By ensuring we are told, we are not put in the worrying position of having to check that a potentially missing child is safe.

Also with our childrens' safety in mind, we are receiving an increasing number of reports from both our own staff and parents or carers, that drivers are using the school drive as a turning point when there are adults and children entering or leaving the school premises. This is extremely dangerous and we must ask that this does not happen.

Reminder that all applications for Nursery places must be in by 6th April.

Upcoming dates for the calendar

Friday 18 th March	-	PACE Easter Crafts 3.30pm
Monday 21 st March	-	Whole class photographs
Monday 21 st to Wed 23 rd	-	Scholastic Book Club after school 3.30 to 4.00pm
Wednesday 23 rd March	-	Parents Evening - booking sheets outside office from 14 th
Thursday 24 th March	-	PACE sponsored Bunny Bounce
Friday 29 th April	-	INSET - school closed to children
Monday 2 nd May	-	Bank Holiday
Thursday 5 th May	-	GLA Elections Polling station in Hall - <u>School open as usual</u>