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Scotts Primary School  
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*'Our school will provide the best possible education for all pupils.  
We will instil in them an enjoyment and thirst for learning to enable them to fulfil their  
potential and excel in all they do'.*

## February Newsletter

Dear Parents,

### School uniform Consultation

Thank you to those parents who responded to the school uniform consultation. Parents were overwhelmingly in support of keeping the option of a summer uniform and the choice of a cardigan as well as a sweatshirt, so this will be adopted. Several parents expressed concerns about the quality of the sweatshirts which were passed onto Havering Schoolwear. They have told us that the same supplier is used for uniforms in many Havering Schools without any problems but because of the concerns presented, they have produced a knitted jumper and cardigan as an option. This option was viewed by parents who attended the FOSA coffee morning and the majority who attended were in favour of the knitted option. Mrs Course (Chair of Governors) and Mrs Boardman (Governor) also attended the coffee morning to answer questions from parents and discuss the cost of the knitwear, which is more expensive. As a school we are only too aware of the expense of buying school uniform and so Mrs Course is trying to negotiate the price with Havering Schoolwear. Once we have firm costings then the school will make a decision as to which option to go for ie. the sweatshirt or knitted jumper (both are available as a cardigan option too). In the meantime, if parents have any views one way or another then please do pass these on to the school.

### Quality Assurance Visit

The school received an inspection visit at the end of January. All aspects of the school under the OFSTED headings of: Outcomes for Pupils; Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare; Quality of Teaching, Learning and Assessment and Effectiveness of Leadership and Management were inspected. Results from this will be sent out to parents once the report has been received.

### Safeguarding

It is pleasing to see that the new electronic gates at the front of the school are working well! As part of the school's on-going review of safeguarding procedures, we are planning to erect fencing along the pathway at the front of the school to separate this public access from the car park.

The NSPCC will be coming into school in May to undertake assemblies and workshops around the theme of 'Speak Out. Stay Safe' which aims to ensure that children have the knowledge and understanding they need to stay safe from different types of abuse. Materials used will be age appropriate and more information about the content of the assemblies will be sent out to parents nearer the time.

Dave Smith, Havering Computing Inspector, was invited into school recently to work with the children on safe use of social media sites and appropriate behaviours. He has also been in school and updated staff on safer internet use. On-line safety is embedded within the school's computing curriculum and we endeavour to instil safe practice in the children. However, technology and new sites are being developed at a fast rate and so we all need to continue to be aware of the dangers these present to our children at home and at school. At the moment the school is trialling new On-line safety materials produced by Rising Stars.

Staff have also received training in supporting vulnerable pupils. This was provided by PAC UK who support children who have been affected by adoption and they also provide support and advice to families as well as professionals. If any parents would like further information about their service, then please email me via the school office or alternatively look on their website: [www.pac-uk.org](http://www.pac-uk.org)

Some staff have also recently attended an Autism Reality Experience workshop. This highlighted the difficulties that children experience and gave good insight into strategies to support these children in class. We will be again holding our termly 'Good to be Different Day' and this will be based around the theme of autism.

### **Sporting events**

Results and further details about our sporting events, along with photos, can be viewed on the school's web site <http://www.scotts.havering.sch.uk/home> under the 'Curriculum' tab (then Sports). I know that Mrs White updates this regularly.

### **Twitter**

Miss Austin continually updates Twitter with events happening in school so please do have a look at this too!

### **School website**

Hopefully, you have viewed the school's new website - we aim for it to become a useful tool for communication. Thank you to Mrs Taylor (Assistant Head) and Mrs Knapp (Senior Admin Officer) for working with the designers in developing the site.

### **Communication**

Please remember to look out for communication sent via parentmail. The school tries to give as much advance notice as possible regarding trips and events etc. Please also remember that there are various ways to communicate with the school.

If a message needs to be passed on to a teacher, then this is usually done best through putting a note in the child's book bag or via the teacher on duty on the gate first thing in the morning or by approaching your child's class teacher on the playground at the end of the day.

If a more important communication needs to be sent to the office then this can be done a number of ways including: email, phone call or by visiting the school's reception area.

Teachers are always happy to meet with parents which is usually best done through making an appointment via the school office. The school also continues to hold its first Thursday of the month open door days and parents' evenings are also planned for the end of March.

Myself and members of my Senior Leadership Team, including Mr Kinnear (Deputy Head), Mrs Taylor (Assistant Head and SENCo) and Miss Austin (Phase Leader) are also available, usually via appointment, to discuss any concerns that parents may have about an aspect of their child's schooling.

### **School Debates**

We have had two really interesting debates this term so far! Year 4 held a debate about whether or not homeless people should be allowed to keep a pet and Class 3A conducted a debate around the question: Are superheroes good role models? Both debates were different to those previously held and the children came up with some very interesting arguments for and against in each. What is really good to see is that the children are enjoying these debates and are developing effective skills in presenting and using the vocabulary of debate, while also developing their ability to listen to the views of others and either support or make a counter argument - all very useful skills!

### **Enterprise Project**

FOSA enabled the school to purchase an enterprise curriculum which has been delivered to pupils within the school. Class projects have included: Community Café (Y1 & 2); Brilliant Books (Y3 & 4) and Legal Eagles (Y5 & 6). A selected group of children from Years 1 - 6 will be visiting Societe Generale as part of the project.

### **FOSA**

Thank you to FOSA for also providing the funds to purchase new playground equipment, including construction games, for the children to use at lunchtimes.

### **Scotts Extended Opportunities Project**

Children in Years 3 and 4 participated in a writers' workshop yesterday. They worked alongside pupils from other local schools and had a thoroughly enjoyable day. Thank you to Mrs Bajada for organising this.

### **World Book Day**

Don't forget that World Book day is on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March. Details regarding this have been sent out separately and I know that the children (and staff) really enjoy dressing up as their favourite book characters.

### **Fund raising**

Thank you to parents for supporting the Mayor's Charities during last week's non-uniform day - £120 was raised which will be presented to the Mayor when she visits the school later this term.

At the end of last term, Xmas jumper day raised £257.05 in aid of Save the Children and £308.53 was given in donations for Muscle Up for Lucas. Thank you again for your continued support.

## Dates for Your Diary:

Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	-	Y1 & Y2 Sportshall Athletics
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	-	KS2 Rugby Megafest
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	-	Netball Match vs Towers Junior School at home.
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	-	World Book Day
		Enabling Enterprise visit to Societe Genrale
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	-	Y2 visit to Library - details to follow
	-	FoSA Mother's Day Sale - details to follow
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	-	3A Class Assembly@ 9:15am
	-	Y5 History Workshop at Sanders School - details to follow
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	-	Debate led by 3S
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	-	Book Fair arrives - details to follow
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	-	Reception Space Workshop morning with dad's & grandad's
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	-	2T Class Assembly @ 9:15am
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	-	Infant Music Festival with visiting schools
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	-	Good to be Different Day
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	-	Parents Evening 3:30 - 7pm - details to follow
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	-	Easter Assembly
	-	Parents Evening 3:30 - 5:30pm - details to follow
	-	Last Day of School
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	-	Easter Holidays
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	-	School Reopens

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Taylor  
Head Teacher

