



# SOUTHWOLD HIGHLIGHTS

Week ending **Friday 15th December 2017**

In this issue: Welcome/Fresh Ideas/Outdoor Learning/Public Speaking/Artist in Residence/Parent Sessions/Attendance/Key Dates

Dear Parents & Carers,

With the end of term only one week away, we would like to thank you for your support at our Christmas events and Winter Fair this week. Although not all of our children celebrate Christmas in the same ways at home, we have been sharing the common values of peace and goodwill to all people and the important cultural and historical tradition that Christmas forms in Great Britain.

It is a very busy time of year for our music teachers Mr Evans and Ms Eskulics, so a big thank you to them for all of their efforts. We are keen that all of our children learn to enjoy and appreciate both music making and music listening. Instrumental lessons start again in the second week back after the Christmas break, and if you would like your child to gain from the many benefits of learning a musical instrument then please ask at our reception desk for an application form. Learning an instrument not only brings a lot of pleasure, it helps develop concentration, listening skills, patience, social skills and memory. We subsidise all lessons, with an even cheaper rate for those eligible for Pupil Premium Funding and loan instruments to allow practise at home.

The January deadline for Reception place applications is approaching, if you have a child born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014 you need to apply for a Reception place before the deadline for application of 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Remember having a current Nursery place does not guarantee you a Reception place. Parents must apply by completing an on-line application form at [www.eadmissions.org.uk](http://www.eadmissions.org.uk). There is more information about this on the Hackney Learning Trust website or please ask at our reception desk.

Term ends on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 2pm** and school re-opens on **Wednesday 3rd January**. Whilst we very much hope that children relax, unwind and have fun over the Christmas break, please remember that they also need to continue to read regularly and we very much value your support in making sure that homework projects are completed.

We wish you all a very safe and happy holiday.

Mr Stephen O'Brien  
Headteacher

Mr Stephen Hall  
Executive Headteacher

## FRESH IDEAS!



Children from our three school partnership met to plan an action research project for the coming year. The Fresh Ideas Team were selected to ensure that pupil voice, which is a strong part of all three schools, further influences decision making and school development. The group agreed that they would study the impact of competition on achievement and will meet again in January to agree their next steps.

## OUTDOOR LEARNING



Swan Class have been investigating animals and habitats. They rolled and smoothed out clay, then used special stamps to

create animal footprints. They have also looked at caterpillars and snails found in our rooftop garden. Meanwhile, Magpie Class enjoyed

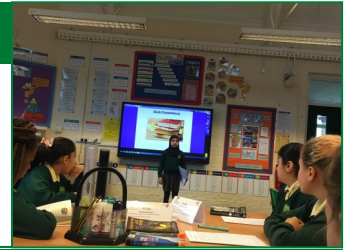
planting their own bulbs. They have taken them home and are looking after them so we can look forward to seeing them flower in the spring.



**TERM ENDS AT 2PM ON THURSDAY 21ST DECEMBER  
CHILDREN RETURN ON WEDNESDAY 3RD JANUARY**

## PUBLIC SPEAKING SKILLS

**Year 6** pupils have been giving five minute presentations, during which they have discussed their favourite books. They have been working on those important skills of speaking clearly and engaging the listeners. They have also been using their summarising, inferring and clarifying skills to discuss their chosen texts and working to improve their oracy and presentation style.



## ARTISTS AND PANTATHALON WINNERS



**Year 4** have competed making prototypes of our new school art work which will hang from the ceiling in the bottom corridor. They have been working with the artists Haidee Drew to make 3D models of the installation which is now in production. It promises to brighten up this space and be really something to be proud of. We look forward to holding a grand opening in the New Year. Children from **Years 3-6** took part in the Hackney Pan Athlon where they participated in a range of events including Boccia, Basketball and



Curling. The children performed very well, trying out new sports activities, finishing third and winning the bronze medal!

## SPRING TERM COFFEE MORNINGS

We have planned a new series of coffee morning workshops on various themes for the Spring term. These run in the bottom hall at 9:15am on Friday mornings. We hope that you can make time to drop in and join us. Tea, coffee and biscuits are all provided!

Date	Focus
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> January	Take away strategies to support your child with their Maths learning
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> January	Find out how to improve your child's speech and language skills
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> January	How to use reading diaries to support your child's reading
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Create art with your children
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Games to play at home to develop resilience and confidence

### Key dates

**End of Term Finish Date**  
Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 2pm

#### Spring Term 2018

##### Start Date

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018

##### Work & Enterprise Week

Week beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> January

##### Half Term Holiday

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> to  
Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February

##### Staff INSET Day

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February

##### World Book Day

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March

##### Science & Technology Day

(with Science Fair)

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March

##### Parents Evening

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March

##### Finish Date

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm

#### Summer Term 2018

##### Start Date:

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April

##### Families Week

Starts Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April

##### Bank Holiday

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May

##### History Day

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May

##### Half Term Holiday

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May to

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June

##### Keeping Healthy Week

(including sports day)

Starts Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June

##### Hispanic Day: 2<sup>nd</sup> July

##### Parents Evening

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July

##### Staff INSET Day

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July

##### End of Term Finish Date

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July at 2pm

## ATTENDANCE

Children have only 190 school days in a year so coming to school everyday makes a real difference! Whole school attendance for last week was **94.4%**

**Well done to Mallard Class, the weekly winners with 99.3%**

**4th to 8th December**

