

SECAT TRUST NEWSLETTER

BUILDING STRONG SCHOOLS
BUILDING STRONG PARTNERSHIPS
BUILDING STRONG COMMUNITIES
SPRING TERM 2023

Message from the Chair of Trust Board

As you will see from this newsletter, it has been a busy time from the Trust perspective, making sure that our pupils, students and staff have what they need to help them achieve their very best.

I attended Inset Day and the atmosphere was really uplifting, encouraging thought and discussion across all our staff. When I look back on the journey over the last three years for our Trust, we are in a very different place indeed. However, we continue to reflect on what we want to achieve and how best to do that.

Karen Dovaston

Part of our reflection this term has been in respect of our governance structure. We want to make the best use of the time and talents of the volunteers at all levels, from the Academy Committees, through to the Trust Board and Members. We want the governance structure to reflect what the Trust needs now and moving forward. We are fine tuning the structure and we are excited about what is to come. We have welcomed also new Trustees to the Board, bringing their skills to benefit all. There is still room for you to volunteer, give us your views, join us....!

If you wish to find out more about our governance or make an application for the Academy Committees or Trust Board, please contact the Trust Governance Manager: katylove@secat.co.uk for more information, an application pack and to arrange a suitable time to talk. The closing date for applications is 30th April 2023.



Ben Stickley

Message from the Chief Executive Officer

As Karen has said, there has been a huge amount going on across the Trust over the last term. I am delighted to see so much happening in every school and have been lucky enough to see everything from ACE celebration assemblies at Shoeburyness High School, to owls flying across an assembly at Richmond Primary School and Nursery. The breadth of experiences on offer at all of our schools gives me great pleasure. Our recent Inset Day focused on equality, diversity and inclusion and we had experts from across the UK attending to train and develop our school staff. I await the opportunity to see the impact of these sessions in our curriculum offer as we are always striving to improve and develop. Feedback from staff attending was incredibly positive and they enjoyed the collaborative training with staff across the Trust.

We have continued to invest heavily in our physical school buildings and also in our community work. The plans being submitted for our link building at Bournes Green Schools and the new library provision at Richmond Primary School and Nursery are stand out elements for me. I also am very excited about our SECAT Summer Fair in July and to inviting the community in to Shoeburyness High School. We are a Community Academy Trust; the involvement and engagement with the community is something I very much want to push forward.

Our new Headteachers at Shoeburyness High School and Bournes Green Schools have settled in well to our Trust family and are already working well to introduce new initiatives and focus on the continual improvement mantra which we promote across the Trust.

I eagerly anticipate the final term of this year and seeing all of these elements move forward!







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School Improvement



This has been a busy term with a big focus on professional development for all staff to inspire and motivate them to collective improvement in line with our vision for the best possible outcomes for our children and young people.

The SECAT Inset Day in February brought staff together to strengthen our Trust-wide professional curriculum subject networks with teachers from Key Stages 2 and 3 coming together to understand better the transition from primary to secondary education. Early Years and Key Stage 1 as well as Key Stage 4 and 5 staff had time set aside to work together on identified areas to improve children and young people's educational experiences.

We also had guest speakers delivering on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in the workplace and in the curriculum which was thought-provoking and well-received and will help us do more to celebrate diverse cultures, people and experiences so that children from all backgrounds and abilities feel they belong in education.







Professional collaborations and peer to peer networks continue with a focus on providing exciting and stimulating educational experiences for our children and young people, from Aspirations Week to Science Week, that will hopefully inspire them with a love of learning and to become lifelong learners.

And finally, I would like to thank you for the help and support you give to the children and young people in our schools. There is much research to show the positive impact of parents and carers actively engaging in their children's learning leading to improved outcomes in all aspects of school life.

Wishing you a relaxing and peaceful Spring break.



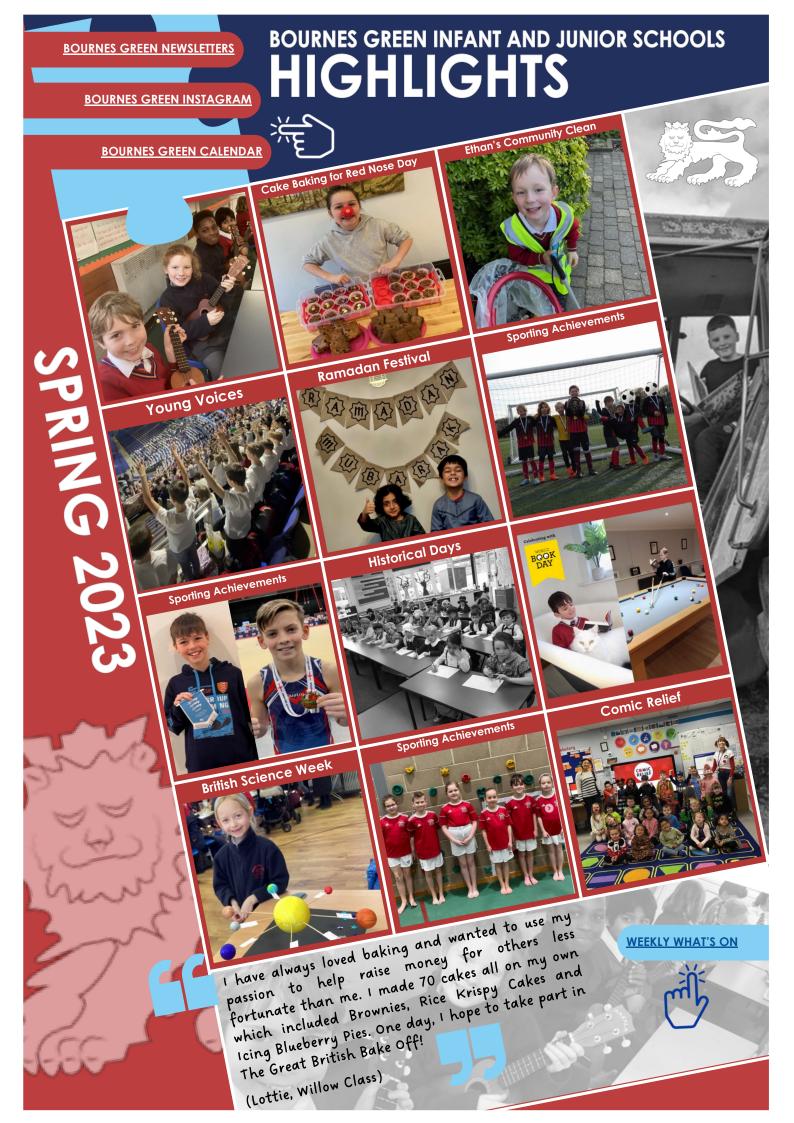














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Southend Primary School Sports Association



Kirk Edwards

It is hard to believe we have completed another term! It has been an exciting 11 weeks at the Southend School Sports Partnership.

Sitting Volleyball, Sportshall Athletics, Plenty of Football, Hockey, Cricket and Cheerleading are just a handful of sports that have been attended by SECAT schools this term!

We are delighted to say we have also formed our first ever Eco Squad.

Football Fridays

Over this term, pupils have had the opportunity to participate in football tournaments.

Each tournament is specific for year groups and or genders. This provides a lot of children with the opportunity to play and represent their schools.

All of our games have been hosted locally at The Len Forge Centre where pupils played 6 a side with 10 a squad. Over the past few weeks we have run separate emerging competitions, KS1, Year 3/4 and year 5/6. The standard of football being played has been incredible.

It has been lovely having parents and carers in attendance and supporting all the teams.





The year 3/4 boys football tournament took place on Friday 10th February with 12 schools participating. All pupils played everyone and once all the schools had played their 12 games across the day, we looked at the results to discover we had a tie for 1st place between Bournes Green and Greenways. It was decided to go down to a final game. After a very tense 10 mins each way, it was 2-2, it was agreed a further 8 minutes would be played to see if a winner would be decided. After a nail biting 8 minutes in front of all the spectators and the other schools at the tournament, Bournes Green got their goal making them the winners of the tournament. It was a brilliant game and a great way to end the week before half term.

A superb day of football. Congratulations Bournes Green.





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Southend Primary School Sports Association

Panathlon Discovery gala



The incredible Panathlon charity provides opportunities specifically for children with SEND to compete in a range of sports. Pupils represented their schools in the iconic Olympic Aquatic pool in Stratford and it was great to see Shoeburyness High School compete and come away with the bronze medals.

The School Games values: The Spirit of the Games















The spirit of the games values was developed by young people to identify what the experience of school sport should be built around and focuses on personal excellence through participation.

There are seven values which form the 'Spirit of the Games'

PASSION, SELF BELIEF, RESPECT, HONESTY, TEAMWORK, DETERMINATION AND ECO-FRIENDLY.

Pupils have the opportunity to be awarded with these values if they demonstrate one of the 7 values. We award stickers and medals to recognise when we have witnessed a pupil championing one of the 7 spirit of the games. Suggestions for award winners can come from the sport games organisers, umpires, referees and teachers who recognise pupils from other schools.

If your child has been awarded a sticker or a medal, please ask them about their award.

Sitting Volleyball

One of our SEND events we offer is in the form of sitting volleyball.

We had SECAT schools whose pupils had not participated in sitting volleyball prior to attending the sessions, who by the end of the event could not wait to play again.

It was an enjoyable day with schools showing great teamwork, passion and self belief as pupils continued to build upon their skills throughout their games.

Sportshall Athletics

We are delighted to say we held our BIGGEST ever Sportshall athletics event this year with a huge 23 primary schools participating. With over 1200 pupils participating over a morning and afternoon session from years 3/4 and 5/6. Well done for Bournes Green, Thorpedene and Hinguar for competing.

Congratulations to Hinguar for making it to the Essex finals.











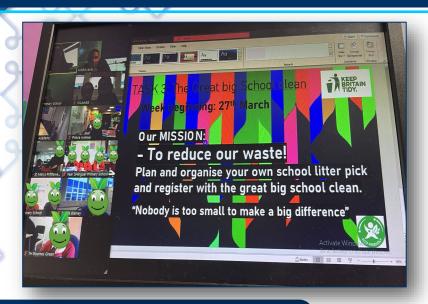




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Southend Primary School Sports Association







SSP ECO SQUAD Formed

We are delighted to say we have formed our first ever Eco Youth Board known as the SSP Eco Squad.

The squad is made up of 30 pupils from 9 different Southend schools who applied to become one of our advocates for sustainability and all things Eco friendly. Our SECAT representative schools are Hinguar and Bournes Green. Our Eco Squad are excited to work collaboratively, share their ideas and see what changes they can implement for our great city.

Their first challenge was to develop our official SSP Eco squad logo and then plan and organise a school litter pick ready for the Great Big School Clean. We look forward to sharing their design with you very soon!

Join the Great British Spring Clean 2023

Back for its eighth year, the Great British Spring Clean is the nation's biggest mass-action environmental campaign. Our newly formed Eco Squad have been organising these within their schools and if you are interested in signing up for the Great British Spring Clean for the last few days, sign up by visiting: www.keepbritaintidy.org

IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT ON YOUR DOORSTEP



ENDING WASTE
9 BILLION
FEWER
SINGLE-USE
BAGS

IMPROVING PLACE
2,208 GREEN
FLAG AWARD
PARKS

















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Southend Primary School Sports Association

Southend Primary School Sports Association website

Southend East School Sports Partnership Twitter

























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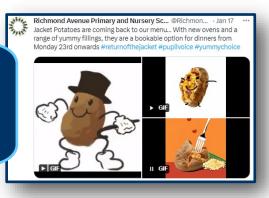
Catering Team Update

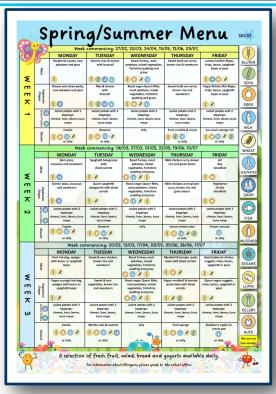


Hollie Redding

The catering team continue to develop our schools' menus and provide freshly made, healthy, balanced and varied meals. The Spring Term has seen a new menu introduced to primary schools and following Pupil Council feedback, we have reintroduced jacket potatoes. We also hope that the new presentation of the menu helps to inform you about specific ingredients and allergens.

You said, we did.





Shoeburyness High School also has a new look to their menus to make it easier for the students to choose from the different menus.















Limited edition offers are also available to students as well as seasonal and annual event menus.

You may also have seen our SECAT electric van running between schools. Thorpedene Primary School and Nursery run a shuttle kitchen for Bournes Green lunches.

Due to the investment in catering facilities at Thorpedene Primary School and Nursery, they can cater for up to over 500 pupils per day, offering a main meal, dessert and access to the fruit/salad cart each day.

















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Estates Team Update



Our highly skilled estates team has been busy maintaining and developing our schools to ensure the best learning and working environment for our children and staff. Alongside the daily maintenance of each site, they are also completing large scale developments that have and will impact greatly the school communities.

Alex Baldwin

Shoeburyness High School - New IT suite, offices and surrounding area

Following the hugely successful completion of the Humanities area, the estates team have expanded and redecorated the floor below. Reconfiguration of space has allowed for a brand new IT suite to be built and a new office for the Teaching and Learning Team .



Richmond Avenue Primary School and Nursery - New library

Whilst the Richmond library bus has been a unique feature and learning environment at Richmond Avenue Primary School and Nursery, unfortunately it is no longer fit for purpose. A brand new library therefore is being built that will provide the pupils and staff with an exciting and warm environment to read that can be used throughout the year.

During this work, the estates team are also beginning the process of creating a new space for the increase in nursery capacity.















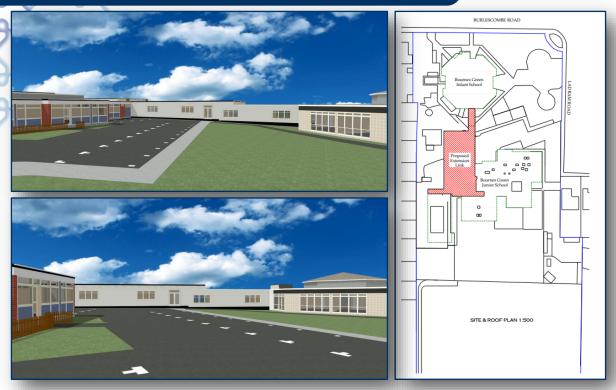


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Estates Team Update

Bournes Green Schools - Planning permission for new linking building.



Our ambitious plans to join both Bournes Green schools continue to take shape! Planning permission has been sought which we hope will be approved soon with building works potentially starting during the summer. Joining our schools will help our staff and children to feel like one school community and should make the transition from Year 2 to Year 3 much less daunting for our children. Also within the plans are one central School Office which will be much better for parents.

Hinguar Primary School and Nursery - Air conditioning

After last years stifling heat during the summer season, air conditioning is currently being installed in all the classes and hall at Hinguar Primary School and Nursery. A lot of the rooms previously had little to no ventilation so the installation of the air conditioning units will bring in fresh air as they cool. This will also move away from gas as a power source for the current heating which will be more economically viable and reduce costs for the school.

Thorpedene Primary School and Nursery - New kitchen ovens

To aid the catering services to Thorpedene Primary School and Nursery and Bournes Green's schools, more efficient ovens with multiple abilities have being installed to the Thorpedene kitchen. Major works have also been done to upgrade the overall kitchen including changing the schools switchgear, digging up the kitchen floor and moving away from gas for a more greener and economical power supply.

















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Community Lead Update



Ali Gellett

It has been a real pleasure to meet so many positive and inspiring people across Shoeburyness in my role as Community and Partnerships Lead. My role is to work with community partners for the benefit for all the children, young people and families at our SECAT schools, and also the wider Shoeburyness community.



Working with your children

It has been great to work with your children in my work supporting schools with their 'Aspirations Weeks' — we have had some fantastic visitors and the children have reacted with great excitement and interest, learning lots about opportunities that they never knew existed. Our partners have commented on how much they have enjoyed working with your children and I am exploring ways to include even more great enrichment opportunities for your children within their curriculum, both within school and with wider opportunities.















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Community Update

Key messages that I've heard and what we've done so far

"I need access to a service or support, but I don't know how to find help"

Idea: sharing information in SECAT Community Update Newsletter and linking services with schools

We have had fantastic feedback on our Community Update Newsletters. These share free and low-cost family activities that are on in Shoeburyness and the wider Southend area, as well as details of some key services that are available to support families. This update shares information from our many partners and is shared with all SECAT families as well as with the families who work with our partners.

If you would like to advertise a free or low-cost event for families in our Summer Community Update (published in July) please email me at <u>aligellett@secat.co.uk</u>

I am also working with partners to see how we can help our families to access valuable support when they need it. There are a number of key partners who have agreed to support us in this work – watch this space

for more information!

"We'd like to increase the links between our community and the children and young people in our schools."

Idea: Joining together to work in partnership

DODG SECAT COMMUNITY

Spring 2023 Edition published Friday 24th March

Community partners are coming together to discuss how best to work with our children and young people to enrich their time in school and help them to learn as much as possible about the world they are growing up in. If you're a leader in a community group or a local business and you'd like to meet up to discuss how you can work more closely with SECAT, I would love to hear from you. Please email <u>aligellett@secat.co.uk</u>

My Future My Southend

Children from our schools have had an amazing time meeting volunteers this term. As part of 'Green and Eco', our children met employees who work in the electric car industry: Jess the project lead for the new Volkswagen ID Buzz minivan – Volkswagen's first electric van, and Akshat who is designing the national infrastructure needed for electric cars – the children loved seeing the robots! They also met Matt who is working with businesses towards 'Net Zero' - the Eco Warriors loved his 'top tips' for being an eco-friendly school!

For 'People who help us' they met Karen, a local firefighter who inspired them to 'always be yourself', Anna -Mae who provides high quality care for older people who want to live in their own homes and Amar who, as a pharmacist, needs to make sure that the medicines he mixes and distributes are exactly right so that we can be healthy. We cannot wait for next term!















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Community Update

Success in gaining funding for school projects

I am delighted to have supported schools with gaining additional funding for your children. One example is the 'Chill Out' room in Richmond Avenue Primary School where we gained funding from Southend Community Investment Board for proper sensory lighting and equipment to enable provision for children who need a more calming environment to enable them to cope with the demands of a school day.









For more information about this project including the children's designs and ideas, please click here.

SECAT Summer Fair 2023



We are incredibly excited about our SECAT Summer Fair on Friday 21st July 2023.

We are currently meeting with various members of the community who will be working with us to provide a fun and entertaining day for all of the local community.

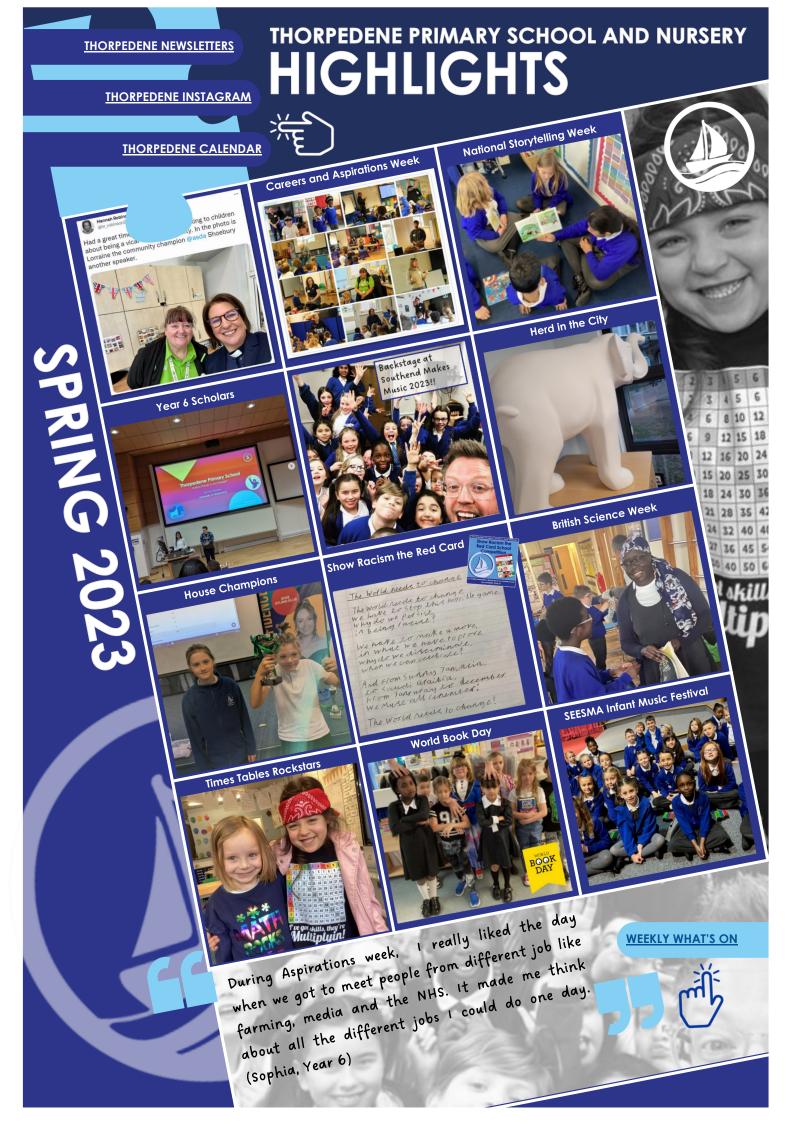
We will be providing more information soon about the event and how you can get involved. If however, you already have an idea or proposal, please email admin@secat.co.uk.

We will get back to you after the Easter break.

Please follow us on social media or keep an eye on our website for updates.

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www.secat.co.uk







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ICT Team



As a Trust, we have nearly 2000 end user devices that support the teaching and learning of our children. This is a huge undertaking just to maintain and ensure effective daily running but our ICT Team are also developing our systems to become even more efficient for all of the SECAT community.

Terry Dignam

News PCs and IT suites

New PCs have been installed at Shoeburyness High School, Richmond Primary School and Bournes Green Junior School. These new PCs are quicker, more reliable and more secure; improving login times for students and allowing them to run the latest software required within the curriculum. This allows the students to have a better experience when using a PC which ultimately improves their learning.

Bromcom payments on MCAS

Parent feedback identified the need to streamline the number of apps that we use. Payments now will be on MCAS allowing parents to use just one login/App (My Child at School) to make payments for all elements of school life; dinners, clubs, trips, music lessons and products. This will help simplify the system both for parents and school administration.

You said, we did.

Serverless schools

Hinguar Primary School is almost our first serverless school. We have migrated Hinguar Primary School's data into the cloud and all devices are cloud managed. This means staff and students are able to access all resources and teach anywhere. We are implementing the last changes to the networking infrastructure and then we can finally switch off the servers! This will make savings on server hardware replacements, electricity and technician time to keep them maintained and up to date.

Trilby TV

If you have visited our schools, you hopefully have seen an update to the information screens. As another form of communication, we have installed Trilby TV which is digital signage ensuring that communication within the schools is clearer so that children and visitors are aware of key information and the children's achievements can be celebrated.

Cyber security

As part of the DfE's Meeting Digital Standards and Technology Standards in Schools and College policies, we have been improving our security across our infrastructure and online systems. This ensures our networks are secure and resilient against cyber-attacks.













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What's On @S_E_C_A_T



If you follow us on social media, we hope that you have been enjoying our daily and weekly What's On videos. Alongside the many forms of communication, schools are increasingly using social media to keep you informed and celebrate the amazing achievements of our children and schools. These videos are just a snap shot of the breadth of learning in our schools every week and how proud we are of our children and young people.











- bournesgreenschool
- · hinguarprimary
- s_e_c_a_t
- · richmondavenue
- · shoeburynesspe
- · thorpedeneprimary
- @Bournesgreensch
- @HinguarSchool
- @RichmondPri
- @S E C A T
- · @Shoebury_High
- <u>@thorpedene_pri</u>

Please note—From the 15th April, only "blue tick" accounts will be pushed by Twitter through the "for you" stream and recommendations. As we do not hold these accounts and therefore will only appear on the "following" stream, we recommend that you follow our accounts before the 15th April so that you are kept up to date with our news feeds.

Your feedback matters.

mySchoolWellbeing



Thank you to everyone who has already responded to our parent and pupil surveys. Your feedback helps us to understand your opinions, perspectives, attitudes, and perceptions in order to share good practice and improve the learning environment for the children.

As a gentle reminder, the deadline is Friday 21st April. Please see your emails from mySchoolWellbeing and schools.



