

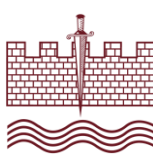
After a storm comes a rainbow

To celebrate us all coming back together, Richmond Avenue created a school-wide rainbow, containing the handprints of every child in the school to remind ourselves that 'After a Storm, Comes a Rainbow'.



Across the school we have been taking part in an 'All About Me' topic, thinking about being part of a Team and how to move forwards together following lockdown, this rainbow is a sign / celebration of our team.

Richmond Primary School



Pupil quotes about returning to school:

'I knew it would be different but I'm happy to be back in school.' Huxley

Going back to school made me feel nervous but after seeing my friends and being brave, I felt happy.' Alba

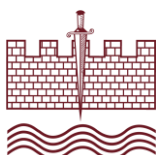
'I was happy and excited to see my new teacher' Max

'It's so nice to have the children back. Even though everything is very different, I'm happy to be back teaching again.

Staff quotes about returning to school:

Miss Moneypenny said:

'It has been lovely to see so many happy, smiley faces coming into school each morning. There is a positive buzz around the school when the children are in which is great to be part of.'



Welcome to the SECAT Newsletter for Autumn 2020

Hello!... And thank you for taking the time to read this first newsletter from the Trust. We want to let you know what is happening and has been done at Trust Board level for all of our family of schools.

As a Trust Board, one of our key aims is to improve communication internally and externally. There are many significant benefits in your schools being part of a multi-academy trust, from centralisation and streamlining of many common processes for all schools, to flexing our muscles using our collective buying power.

Read on to find out what we have been doing.

We would like to hear your views so please contact us via the clerk to the Trust Board katylove@secat.co.uk



Karen Dovaston
Chair of Trust Board

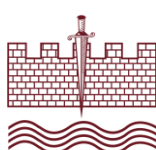
What's been happening in SECAT... of the first half term – a half term like we have never had before. It hardly seems possible that we are at the end.

Despite the current circumstances, the children have really welcome being back at school, in the routine and enjoying seeing their friends.

I am delighted that, on the first week back we had 97% attendance from across the family of schools. Quite an achievement so thank you all for your support in getting children back to school.



Ruth Brock
Chief Executive Officer



I have visited each of the schools to speak with the headteachers and to look at how children have settled, especially given the length of time that some had been unable to come to school.

As always, children are remarkably resilient, as you know.

They have also loved to see the many projects that the MAT has progressed over the summer, some of which you will see below.

Making the most of our potential...

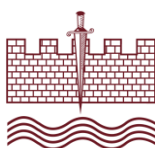
I am very pleased to have joined SECAT in the middle of September and am looking forward to working with all of the schools to get the most out of our sites, people and finances. Achieving best value and best practice are essential to allow us to focus spending money where it can do the most good, improving the prospects and progress of children attending our schools.

As a larger Multi Academy Trust we are able to access more guaranteed funding than as individual schools to support the improvement and development of our buildings and facilities. In the last financial year this amounted to £700,000. This allowed us to carry out a significant amount of works over the summer period with roof upgrade works completed across a number of our schools. These works would otherwise have to be funded by cutting educational spend.

We are currently in the process of retendering a number of contracted services across the Trust to take advantage of our collective buying power.



Ben Stickley
Chief Operating Officer



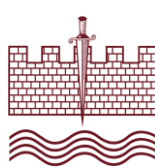
Thorpedene Primary School

Media Cabin



With the addition of the new Media facility, it will primarily enable us to further support English/literacy across the key stages, by using video and audio to bring work "off the page". It broadens children's experiences of different kinds of media and their media literacy. It will help to boost their self-esteem and confidence promoting teamwork and leadership as well as small group work.

Bringing in more use of multimedia, it allows the children to literally place themselves in their story. The multimedia suite will also allow us to create cross-curricular links, particularly for children who thrive with alternative ways of learning.

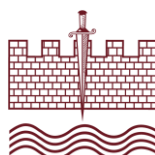


The idea of bringing in a school radio/podcast is a great way to boost the confidence of our children in their speaking and listening, as well as learning new skills at the same time. It could be a platform for sharing work, ideas and as a source of communication to the school community.

So far, the suite has been used by the children to film the **prospective Head Boy and Head Girl hustings**, as well as a welcome by all the prefects. It is also in the process of being used by staff to share parent workshop information.

Due to COVID, it meant that we had to find new ways of working and getting the message across. Through our YouTube channel, we were able to stay in touch with all the children throughout the lockdown and we explored other avenues of communication. With the current guidance around gatherings which impacts on our assemblies, it could mean that staff and/or students could transmit from the media suite directly into the classrooms via an application such as Google Classroom, Zoom, MS Teams etc with a professionalism and consistency.

From a school promotion aspect, it opens the doors to share our ideas both in school via screens placed around the building and also that we can share online (always following relevant GDPR protocols). It will boost the profile of Thorpedene in the local community by offering a wider range of subjects.



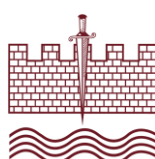


Away Day for our Professional Teaching Staff

For the first time, we have a non-pupil day on 2nd November for all of our family of schools. Our professional teaching staff will be working hard on 2 November 2020, which is an Away Day for professional development. We will be considering carefully what our pupils' entitlement should be across all of our schools and all of the age groups, considering what it means in real terms for a child in one of the SECAT schools. We are excited about this so watch this space!

At such a worrying time we hope all of our staff, pupils, parents and carers can see what a good job our professional staff have done in terms of planning and keeping all save. We are at the forefront of information being given to you, with it all being posted on our websites and shared via newsletters from your schools and social media posts. If you have concerns, please contact your schools and they will be happy to help.

Playground improvements some of you will have noticed improvements made to many of our outside areas. We are lucky to have a good amount of outside space across our schools. We have some work to do- **Richmond Avenue Primary School** had a couple of surprises for us – but this is all in hand. This work is paid for from central Trust funds.



Bournes Green Junior School

On Your Bike!

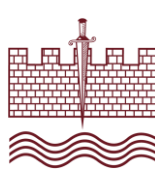
It may continue to be a bit different for everyone at the moment but all SECAT schools remain committed to delivering an exciting and varied curriculum. Separate risk assessments still allow us to vary curriculum content for our kids. For example, at Bournes Green Junior School, we are keen to encourage as many pupils and parents as possible to cycle to school. As well as the health benefits, cycling with your child can help to reduce congestion in the local area, especially during the school run. For this reason, we offered our Year 4



and Year 6 pupils Level 1 and Level 2 Bikeability to promote road safety and improve their confident with cycling. Everyone had a great time and really enjoyed practising this essential life skill.

BGJ Heroes Week

This year we have launched a new initiative called Heroes Week! This week is designed to be a fully inclusive and celebratory week looking at heroes from a range of different cultures, backgrounds and contexts.



We will start the week by looking at our personal heroes and what it takes to be a hero. We will then look at group heroes, for example our fantastic NHS and other essential services. Year groups will then focus on three selected heroes for the remainder of the week to celebrate all types of hero.

We will be creating a video to showcase our highlights from the week on our Bournes Green Junior School YouTube Channel.

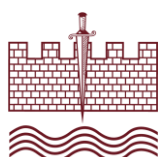
Bournes Green Infant School

On Friday 9th October, all the Year 2 children took part in the Virtual Sportshall Competition. Children competed against other Southend Schools. The events included Standing Long Jump, Speed Bounce, Chest Push, Vertical Jump and Shuttle Run.

The children completed in all five events and their distances and times were recorded. The scores are currently being collated by the SSCO so we are awaiting the final results!

The children had so much fun and loved taking part in the competition!

I loved the Shuttle Run!





Strengthening the Trust Board

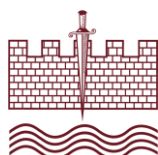
Many of you will have seen the adverts for Trustees to add to the skills of the Trust Board. We have had some excellent applicants and we have appointed new Trustees, who will be working together with the existing Trust Board members to improve outcomes for the children in our SECAT schools. The Trust Board works at a strategic level, guiding the Trust journey and working to comply with the legal requirements. We are all volunteers but passionate about helping. **More to come!**

WE NEED YOU!

Would you like to get involved in school governance? We are looking for parents, carers and others from our community to become involved as Academy Committee governors. Our Academy Committees monitor our schools, feeding back to the Trust Board and helping to ensure good outcomes for our children.

If you would like more information, please contact the Trust Board Clerk, Katy Love by email at katylove@secat.co.uk.

You don't have to have a child at the school. We are looking for Academy Committee governors for Richmond Avenue Primary School, Hinguar Primary & Nursery School and Thorpedene Primary School.



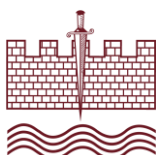
Hinguar Nursery and Primary School New ICT Suite



We are very pleased to introduce this term, our brand-new ICT Suite. Our purpose-built ICT suite has been fitted with 16 pupil desktops and monitors as well as a desktop and monitor for the teacher and interactive whiteboard to enable whole class teaching of computing.

The children were thrilled to learn of this new accompaniment to their school environment and the teachers have been equally delighted to be able to teach computing effectively in this dedicated ICT learning space.

Through social distancing and thorough clean-down processes between each session, we have been able to make full use of this fantastic resource base this term.

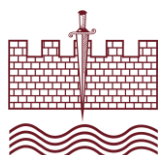


What our children have said about their new ICT suite

It's so much easier using the computers rather than the laptops and they don't keep running out of battery!

Being in the ICT suite helps me to really concentrate with my learning.

It is so cool! It makes me feel like I'm in secondary school already!

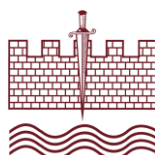


Fame at Shoeburyness High School!

Crowning Glory for Shoeburyness High School Student



**Charlie Davison plays Peter Philips (second from left, front row)
Behind the scenes: the latest series of The Crown – Netflix
(photograph featured in the Sunday Times Magazine)**



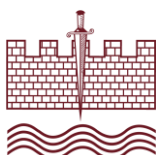
Charlie Davison gave an interview about his experience:

"I fell into acting by accident. My identical twin sisters were on TV a few years ago and my dad was approached by their agent to see if I wanted to give it a go. That was late 2018. Since then I have had a small supporting role in a film and appeared in over a dozen TV shows.

Acting and the performing arts, either in front or behind the camera, is something I want to do as a career. And so although the roles I have had may have been small, the understanding of the industry, how TV is made, what all of the hundreds of people you see in the end credits actually do ... it's all been hugely educational. I have learned lots about how to perform, what directors and assistant directors are looking for and how to conduct myself - it really is just like any other place of work, it's just a bit more exciting, I guess!

I have had supporting roles so far but in some quite high profile shows. I was in a couple of episodes of the last series of Call The Midwife including being given a little one-liner in the Christmas Special that went out on Christmas Day last year. That was such a buzz! And earlier this year i got my best role yet, playing Princess Anne's eldest son, the Queen's eldest grandchild, Peter Phillips in The Crown. It's only a small part but it is a huge honour to be playing alongside the likes of Olivia Colman in arguably the biggest TV show in the world right now.

And none of this would have been possible without the support of Shoeburyness High School and the staff who have authorised me the time off to fulfil my dreams. And, hopefully, I can go on to continue to fulfil even bigger on-screen dreams with their support too."





ALWAYS BE SAFE!



Due to the very high level of trespassing on the tracks by young people in the local area, Network Rail in partnership with Learn Live are working to help raise awareness to students across the UK educating them about the dangers of the train tracks through interactive digital delivery.

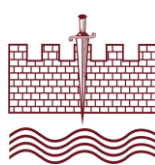
Network rail asks you to share the relevant free safety video with your teachers and parents to show in class or at home during this difficult time, as there have been **1,024 incidents** since lockdown began, we are keen to help keep students safe.

We have made things easier for you to watch the safety videos by just entering the email railsafety@learnliveuk.com

Please click on the link below to view the relevant safety video:

Primary school version: Age 7- 11

<https://learnliveuk.com/network-rail-primary-school-safety-talk/>



Secondary school version: Age 11-16

<https://learnliveuk.com/network-rail-secondary-school-safety-talk/>

College version: Age 17 plus

<https://learnliveuk.com/network-rail-college-safety-talk-lnw/>

- Please note these are the recommended age ranges, we would always advise you to view the clips first to gauge suitability for your class.
- The session is less than 15 minutes and explains why it is important to stay safe near the tracks.
- Over 1 million students, parents and teachers from across the UK have significantly decreased the number of trespasses in their area through watching the safety clip.

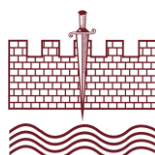
Primary school feedback - Brimsdown Primary School

"The children all watched the video very closely and were interested in the facts regarding trains. This was compounded by seeing actual footage of children on the tracks. They just saw trains, as just that, trains. Now they know how difficult it is to stop, how much they weigh and the dangerous of walking along a track. They said they never really considered trains and rail lines to be that dangerous" They enjoyed the 'Rail rap'.

Secondary school feedback - XP School

"The students gave the video their full attention and they expressed their shock in certain parts. They were all transfixed and engaged. I think from the way the video began, which was quite light, the students really didn't expect something as hard hitting as it was. Not one of them spoke during the video. After it had finished, we had a long discussion and not one of them knew that both train and overhead lines were live".

Thank you for supporting this message and for helping raise awareness to keep your young people safe.

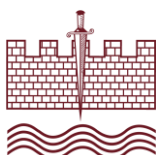


No, it's not Christmas yet, but ...



We have been contacted by Reverend Louise Williams (St Andrews / St Peters) asking if our SECAT schools would like to be involved in a living advent calendar this year. We have confirmed YES!

The idea is that 24 homes, schools, shops etc will prepare a window with a festive theme. Each day in December, a new window will be opened for passers by to enjoy. It will also be shown on social media to include those who are housebound or shielding. The windows will be kept covered until their appointed day and then kept decorated until Jan 1st. A map will be created to enable people to see all 24 windows.





We hope you like this SECAT newsletter. We will be sending a newsletter every half term to keep you up to date with what has been happening from a Trust wide perspective.

If you have suggestions or comments about what you want to hear from the Trust please do contact Jo Ayris on joanneayris@secat.co.uk

Enjoy the half term break and be safe.

