



## Welcome to the SECAT Newsletter

Look what's been happening in all our schools!

Merry Christmas everybody!



### Bournes Green Infant School

Christmas is always a magical time at Bournes Green Infant School and this year is no different. The children have been having lots of festive fun. They have enjoyed a Christmas jumper day with a hot Christmas dinner complete with party hats and Christmas tunes. Thanks to our generous PA the children enjoyed an interactive online pantomime and Christmas bubble parties, not forgetting the all essential visit from Mr Claus (socially distanced of course.) Lots of fun was had by all - Merry Christmas!





## Merry Christmas!



This half term has been even busier and more unusual than the last – I am sure many will agree! We are busy collating your responses to the survey we sent to you about our updated mission, vision and values statements. It was no easy task, putting the ‘bones’ of what we are about into words. We had our second Away Day which was just as invigorating as the first. I continue to be impressed not only by our professional staff but also by our volunteers who give their time as members, trustees and governors. The topic for this Away Day was to work on the ‘plan’ for the Trust for the next three to five years, setting out what we want to achieve and how we will measure our success. We are now working hard to condense all the fantastic comments into words. We move forward in strengthening and defining governance and communication across the Trust, all with the aim of improving the outcomes for our wonderful pupils, some of whom are visiting with the Trust Board sub committee to speak to us direct. (We are starting off gently but we want to hear more from our pupils!) Of course, if parents and carers have views or comments, we welcome hearing them via our email [admin@secat.co.uk](mailto:admin@secat.co.uk).



**Karen Dovaston**  
Chair of Trust Board

I wish all our pupils, their families, our professional staff and volunteers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

What a busy term this has been. A little insight for you; we have moved forward on our curriculum entitlement for pupils, welcomed pupil and staff advocates put forward by the schools who will now contribute to this work, and begun a Wellbeing Pledge for our staff with our wellbeing colleagues, all as a result of the November 2<sup>nd</sup> Staff Away Day. Phew!

As we approach the end of the first term, we are all no doubt reflecting on the fact that we are safe, well and able to spend time with our families and loved ones during the Christmas period. It has certainly been very tough for some families more than others, but for everyone in some way or another.

What never fails to amaze me though, is the strength and support that there is in the SECAT family of schools. Children, staff, governors and parents have all rallied to make life easier for all those who have personally been affected in recent months – some by COVID, but some in other very sad circumstances. Our collective thoughts go out to you at this difficult time.

I would like to thank each and every one of you, and on this occasion, particularly the staff in our schools. They have made this Christmas as ‘normal’ as possible for the children often going to great lengths to do so. I know from children’s and parents’ feedback that you have welcomed and appreciated the extra effort.

It only remains to say, here’s to 2021 and the New Year.



**Ruth Brock**  
Chief Executive Officer

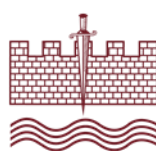


## Shoebury Living Advent Calendar—all our schools took part

Join us throughout December  
for a bit of Festive Fun

# *The Shoebury Living Advent Calendar*

Every evening through out December at  
4pm a different window will be lit around  
Shoebury. You can view online, or find a  
map to the windows, on our Facebook  
group 'Shoebury Living Advent Calendar'  
or follow along on Twitter  
**@ShoeburyParish**  
for more information contact:  
**rev.hannah.robinson@outlook.com**

# Richmond Avenue Primary School

## Virtual Advent

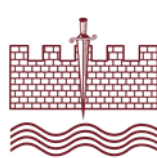
For advent this year, as things are a little bit different, the staff have all got together to create a virtual advent for the children, family and friends to watch.

Every day on the school app and website, there is a new video posted, created by a staff member at the school on a festive theme.

<https://www.richmond-avenue.co.uk/page/?title=Virtual+Advent&pid=55>

There is a huge range of creatively planned in the lead up to Christmas including dancing, poems, stories, jokes – even lego stop-animation of the journey of a letter to santa!

Screen shots below of some of the videos already published



## Welcome to two new members of staff

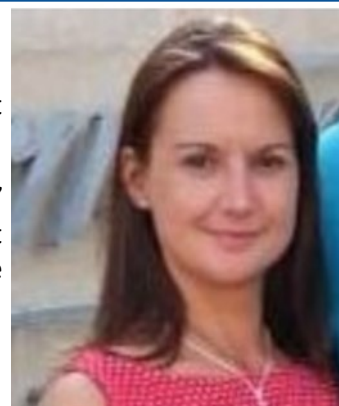
### Katy Love Governance Manager

I joined SECAT in March 2020 and prior to this I worked as a PA to the CEO and Clerk to the Trust for another local MAT for four and a half years.

My journey in working in education started in 2013 when I worked for an independent schools' organisation providing professional support to over 500 member Headteachers of independent schools in the UK. My role as Membership Administrator involved supporting both the Inspections and membership committees.

Prior to working in education, I gained 17 years' experience in the travel industry.

I thoroughly enjoy working at SECAT as I am lucky to be involved with all our schools, the central team, and all levels of governance. It feels like one big family!



Katy Love  
Governance Manager

### Ben Stickley Chief Operations Officer

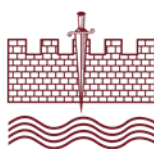
Having joined SECAT in September 2020, I am still fairly new to the organisation and am finding out more about the schools and communities on a daily basis. I am enjoying meeting and working with all of the dedicated professionals who help to provide a fantastic education to our pupils. Immediately before joining I was working in a similar role for a Federation of eight primary schools in Hackney and I have previously worked in senior leadership roles in schools in Haringey and Hertfordshire. My career started out in the private sector, working in facilities management, before moving into the charity sector working for the British Red Cross for a number of years.

I bring varied experience to the role, being an accredited Schools Resource Management Advisor for the Department for Education, a Chartered HR professional and a Fellow of the Institute of Leadership and Management. Whilst at the Red Cross, and continuing after my move into education, I undertook an MSc in Voluntary Sector Management and also gained a Diploma in Charity Finance and Accounting. I am passionate about education and improving the life chances of children and the quality of their education.

Outside of work I am Co-chair of Governors at a small primary school and actively engage with my local community, having also previously been a Trustee of a local CVS for a number of years and a volunteer with both the Air Cadets and Red Cross for around 15 years in total.



Ben Stickley  
Chief Operating Officer



## Morrisons' School Meal Packs

So that all eligible children are provided with a school meal during to their isolation, SECAT has bought into the Morrisons offer of School Meal Packs. Schools send an order to Jo Ayris at the Central Office, and she orders the required number for each school. These boxes are then delivered to the children's homes. The children are loving the boxes which give them a really good week's food.

### New Kids Meal Pack

Everything a child needs for breakfast, lunch and snacks for up to 7 days.

If you have children in your school who are isolating due to COVID, and they would usually receive free school meals, we can help by delivering our Kids Meal Packs directly to children at home. Email [schoolbox@morrisonsplc.co.uk](mailto:schoolbox@morrisonsplc.co.uk) to place an order.



#MakingItEasier

## Shoeburyness High School

Hi everyone! It's Kayleigh here, Head Girl. I just wanted to write a quick message to send some positivity out to you all. I know as a student, that the uncertainty about our futures and concerns for this pandemic still linger in our thoughts, but as I always say, "storms don't last forever".

Not everyday will go as planned, but little moments where you can find some positivity will benefit you so much! Start dancing to Christmas music (it's never too early) or take a walk in this crisp weather. Personally I like to just watch a good film (I hear that Disney is the best) or catch the sunset, anything to keep you happy and calm.

Stay safe.

Best Wishes Kayleigh



## Pupil Advocates

Each school nominated children to become Pupil Advocates for their own school and to share the school's views on how we can continue to make SECAT an even better place to learn in. All of the children took part in a virtual meeting with the CEO, Mrs Brock, and began to get to know each other.

They rightly said that an advocate is **someone who represents others' views and supports them**. Even at the very first, brief meeting, it is clear—from the oldest to the youngest of our pupils—that they are taking their roles very seriously. They are ambitious for themselves, their schools and for the community as a whole, recognising that it is not all just about the six schools that sit within Shoeburyness.

**Thank you to all those who 'volunteered' for this important role for the Trust:**

Bournes Green Infant School—Lydia Hampshire and Joseph Hollingsworth-Moul —Year 2

Bournes Green Junior School—Zach Crow and Bethany Dyke— Year 5

Hinguar Primary School—Lily Ho and Aiza Ali—Jordan—Year 2

Richmond Avenue Primary School—Maisie Byford and Jacob Rush—Year 6

Thorpedene Primary School—Sophia O'Brien and Anwar Anari—Year 5

Shoeburyness High School —Seraphina Aina and Austin Turner—Year 7 / Kyle Russell and Anna Gellett—Year 12



## Bournes Green Junior School

At BGJS, we hosted a festive-themed Fun Run before school. In Year Group Bubbles, pupils all thoroughly enjoyed getting some safe, outdoor exercise in their festive attire!



### Feedback from parents about remote learning.

*"I'm sure you've had many emails along the same lines as this one, but I just have say how incredibly impressed I am with how the school are dealing with the year 5 home learning.*

*The preparation has clearly been so thorough and so well thought out. I feel like my daughter is doing a full day at school and her attitude towards it reflects that as well, (especially when moaning that we're late for her 'break time'!).*

*We are lucky enough that both parents are at home and we can dedicate time to helping our daughter. I honestly don't feel like she's missing any school time at all. The morning Teams call sets the day up so well, and I've just heard the Headteacher burst in and say good morning to them all - his enthusiasm is infectious - it's fantastic!*

*So, thank you once again to everyone involved. What a fantastic school - as a parent I feel so privileged my daughter attends."*



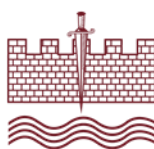
# Thorpedene Primary School



At Thorpedene Primary School we have chosen to participate in The 'Hearts for Homes' campaign this year. We would usually be organising visits to sing Christmas Carols at local care homes, although unfortunately this is not possible at the current time.

We subscribe to Picture News, a weekly children's newspaper, and one of their ideas this Christmas time is to help share some joy following what has been a very difficult year for many. So, we sent some handmade hearts pictures, carefully prepared by our children to share with local residents this festive season.

We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



# Hinguar Primary School

## A Selection of work for anti-bullying week

During anti-bullying week, our story focus was 'Day Monkey, Night Monkey' by Julia Donaldson. The two monkeys don't think they had much in common, but when they each spend time in the other's opposite worlds, they learn a lot. They also learn to be the best of friends and join each other as the sun goes down and their day begins or ends. After reading the story, the children created their own sunset pictures by colour mixing and added different types of homes that people may live in.



Our story focus was 'The Smeds and the Smoos' by Julia Donaldson. After reading the story, the children discussed why it is nice to have friends who are different and that it is ok to play with different friends throughout the day at school. We also discussed how we should use kind words to ensure we do not hurt each other's feelings. Within the story, Janet and Bill realise that even though they are different they want to be friends and go missing from their families to play together.



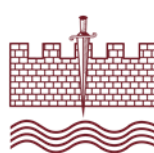
Oyster Class had been talking about what it means to be a bully. They identified people who can help us and made links to the Golden Rules, which we follow to keep us happy and safe at school.

Some time was spent exploring friendships, what makes a healthy friendship and what is an unhealthy friendship. They discussed how to solve friendship problems by using words and learning to compromise.



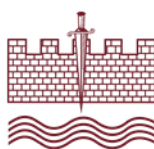
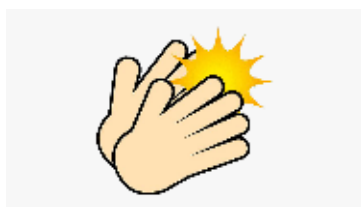
As part of Anti Bullying Week, Year 4 designed some posters against bullying. They talked about how bullying makes victims feel and how you can stand united against it.

One class made Support Network hand cut outs. Another made friendship bracelets in their 'Unite Against Bullying', each child having a strip to write on 5 messages of friendship which were then all joined together.



# In November all the SECAT schools took part in Children In Need

**Thanks to your support we raised £1818.03 for this  
worthy cause!**



## Christmas 2020



*A little bit of fun!*

No nativity this year because the 3 Wise Men face a travel ban

The shepherds have been furloughed

The Inn Keeper has shut under tier 3 regulations and had a slump in bookings

Santa won't be working as he would break the rule of 6 with Dasher, Dancer, Prancer,  
Vixen, Donner and Blitzen

As for Rudolph, with that red nose, he should be isolating and taking a test.

*It may not have been how you planned for  
this Christmas, but grasp it with both  
hands. Take care of the people you love  
and those around you at this festive time.  
Be safe and see you all in 2021.*

