

## Message from Margaret ....

January was a particularly exciting month due to the opening of our swimming pool. It was used for the first time on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January, and on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January we had the official opening that included invited guests, all the children and staff and was held in the car park near to the pool. After a trumpet fanfare and a roll on the drums Mayor Cllr David Norman cut the ribbon and announced the pool open. Every child then released a helium filled balloon; we all then went into the hall and celebrated the opening by singing with the help of David Stanley and a few pupils from Eastwood Academy. There are many more lovely photographs of this event on our website.



David Amess was unable to attend the opening but visited Kingsdown in the morning.

Ofsted has introduced 'Parent View' on their website. This gives parents the opportunity to inform Ofsted of their views about their child's school. It asks 12 questions which range from the quality of teaching to dealing with bullying. Their website is [www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk).

Paula Malone a SSA who went on maternity leave on 3<sup>rd</sup> January gave birth to Phoebe on 16<sup>th</sup> January. Mum and daughter are both doing well.

## Around the school ....

Roy our volunteer gardener has been working very hard in tidying and improving the garden at the front of the school and Sally our volunteer maintenance lady is currently painting the former physiotherapists room which will become our music room. Our thanks to both Roy and Sally as well as the support we receive from all our volunteers.

We have recently purchased a new piano to replace the piano which had keys which tended to stick. David Stanley is impressed with the new purchase.

## Makaton

Donna is running very informal coffee mornings where you can learn Makaton signing so please come along and give it a go. You also get the chance to meet other parents and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee!

## Dates for the Diary

8<sup>th</sup> Feb. Makaton Coffee Morning  
with Donna 9.30 - 10.30am

**13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> Feb. Half Term Holiday**

22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. Makaton Coffee Morning  
with Donna 9.30 - 10.30am

24<sup>th</sup> Feb. PTA Coffee Morning & AGM  
Committee posts have become available

8<sup>th</sup> Mar. Parents' Evening

12<sup>th</sup> Mar. Non-pupil day

23<sup>rd</sup> Mar. PTA Coffee Morning  
23<sup>rd</sup> Mar. Sport Relief Day

30<sup>th</sup> Mar. Last day of term

**2<sup>nd</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> Apr. Easter Holiday**

16<sup>th</sup> Apr. Summer Term begins

## 24 hour Charity Music Marathon

On 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2012 **David Stanley** and colleague Liam Ambrose, together with students from Southend Mencap's Music School, will perform a concert in aid of Southend Mencap. Nothing unusual in that except that it will last 24 hours and will be performed at the end of Southend's pier!!

Founded in 2000 by David Stanley, the Southend Mencap Music School provides music tuition for children and adults with a learning disability. An average of 50 adults and 20 children attend each week, and a total client base of over 300 has enjoyed the Music School over the past decade.



David is a wonderful support to Kingsdown so if you are free it would be lovely if you could attend this event or if you are unable to go in person you can donate by any of the following methods:

- Send cheque or cash to Southend Mencap
- Visit [www.justgiving.com/southendmencap/donate](http://www.justgiving.com/southendmencap/donate)
- Text your donation to **70070** using donation code **MUSI24**

**This exciting marathon starts at 2pm on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April and ends at 2pm on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April**

For more information contact Southend Mencap, 100 London Road, Southend-on-Sea SS1 1PG  
Telephone: 01702 341250 [www.savsmembers.org/southendmencap](http://www.savsmembers.org/southendmencap)

## Information

On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February between 12.00 and 2.00pm at Shoebury Trinity Youth Football Club there is

### **Football for All**

Everyone is welcome

Please call 01245 393095 for more information

### **Exploring Art Together!**

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> and Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February

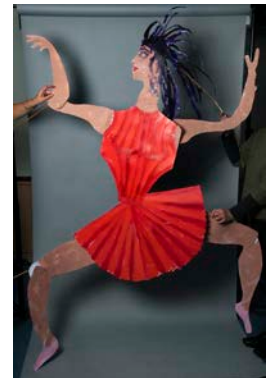
10.30am - 12.30pm

Cost £3 per family

The St Christopher's School, Mountdale Gardens, Leigh-on-sea,  
SS9 4AW

Debbie Hadley our Art and Design Teacher is involved with an exciting art project where families can join in and make art.

To book please contact Rosemary on 01702 215624 or  
[rosemarypennington@southend.gov.uk](mailto:rosemarypennington@southend.gov.uk)



## PTA

Further to our request last month regarding contacts working at Ford Motor Company, we would urge you to please let us know if you know of anyone working at Fords as we really need help with the purchase of a new mini bus.

The PTA will be attending the Parents' Evening on 8<sup>th</sup> March where they will have a good selection of previously worn school clothing for sale at very reasonable prices so don't miss out! Tea and coffee will also be available.

The PTA are running the 'Bags to School' again this year; this is where any unwanted clothes (adult or child) can be sent to school in the bags provided, all monies raised go to the PTA so please send your bags to school by 29<sup>th</sup> February.