

For the love of books

Streatham & Clapham High School hummed with excitement before Christmas when the first STREAM South London Book Festival, organised by the school, took place. **The Children's Laureate, Malorie Blackman OBE**, opened the event, inspiring her audience with her passion for her craft and about tackling difficult subjects such as racism. Members of the school and the wider community filled nine venues, from the marquee in the Sports Hall to the Staff Dining Room, while the very youngest visitors enjoyed stories, readings, drawing, and dogs and dinosaurs with a host of authors, and with over 40 authors taking part there was something for every reader including an 'Adults Writing for Children' workshop. What a fantastic idea! We really enjoyed the workshops we attended. www.schs.gdst.net



Eridge House becomes Parsons Green Prep School

Eridge House has always been a school that creates a happy and positive learning environment, where children can really strive for excellence, both academically and socially. This will continue and develop even more, as they become Parsons Green Prep School.

As well as continuing teaching through the creative curriculum they have also introduced the Maths+ Programme linked to STEM. They say: "We believe that Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics are key subjects to securing positive opportunities and career paths for future generations. The Maths+ Programme aims to challenge and extend children in their mathematical thinking as well as supporting and emphasising the key skills of STEM. Investing in the new computing curriculum, upgrading our Mac suite and providing individual tablets for children to use are just some of the ways that we aim to provide extended opportunities for our children and engage creative minds. Chess clubs is offered for children before school and the benefits of chess will further enhance our Maths+ initiative."

1 Fulham Park Road, London, SW6 4LJ 020 7371 9009 www.eridgehouse.co.uk



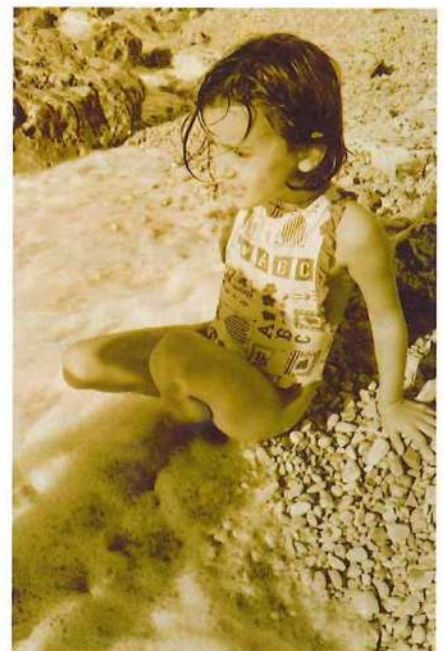
Over-praising pupils can lead to low attainment

A recent report by the Sutton Trust, 'What Makes Great Teaching', claims that lavishing praise on low-attaining students is not encouraging, but can in fact give a message of low expectations. Other commonly used teaching methods, such as streaming by ability, are shown to have little positive effect. Professor Robert Coe, from Durham University said: "Great teaching cannot be achieved by following a recipe, but there are some clear pointers in the research to approaches that are most likely to be effective, and to others, sometimes quite popular, that are not."

www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationopinion/11204935/What-really-makes-great-teaching.html

Captured in style

Why not start off the New Year by organising that family photoshoot you've always wanted? Leading portrait photographer **Victoria Obolensky** has been an established photographer for over 12 years, taking stunning photographs of children...pure, relaxed and truly beautiful. 'I love to create the extraordinary from what could be deemed as ordinary,' says Victoria. 'My camera is the tool, which captures the true essence, light and beauty of any person, place or thing.' Children and Baby Packages start from £350, including the photo shoot and a disc with all edited images. Call Victoria on 07747617987, or email victoriaobolensky@gmail.com. www.victoriaobolensky.com



For your Valentine

With Christmas out of the way, the next gift to think about might be for **Valentine's Day**. But you don't need to do any searching for yourselves - we at Families have discovered a fabulous company perfect for when you need that elusive, original gift and don't have the time to look for it. Set up by two mums, Letteroom has one-of-a-kind gifts that are wonderfully quirky and unique. Choose from a wide array of personalised products, from welly boot cuffs to personalised books to engraved money boxes. For your special Valentine this February, how about an engraved silver-plated bottle stopper, £32.95, or a personalised secret message belt, £19.95? www.theletteroom.com

