

OFFICE

Opening hours:  
10.00 am - 1.00 pm  
(weekdays only)

Personal callers by  
appointment only

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## SPRING TERM CLASSES START MONDAY 9TH JANUARY 2017

**Pre-term the office will be open from 10 am until 1 pm  
on 4th, 5th and 6th January**

**PLEASE NOTE that SPRINGFIELD classes start back,  
pre-term, on FRIDAY 6TH JANUARY**

*Dear Parents and Students*

*I do hope you have enjoyed a happy Christmas break and that 2017 has got off to a good start. The New Year always brings such hope, especially after a rather tumultuous 2016, and let's hope everything will go smoothly throughout the year.*

*A huge THANK YOU, from me and the other teachers, for all the splendid gifts received from students and parents. Your appreciation of all our hard work is itself much appreciated and we hope that we can all continue to work together to achieve even bigger and better things this year.*

*Indeed, our main focus will be on the school show which is to take place in July. I do hope that EVERYONE will want to take part. There is very little additional commitment, with all the dances being rehearsed during the normal timetable until the dress rehearsals, just before the show. From the tiniest to the longest-standing students, there is something for everyone and it promises to be a week of excitement and fulfilment. More details will come out to you shortly but please see the dates elsewhere in this newsletter and keep them free!*

*Before then there is much to do, with exams just before Easter, auditions for Scholarship and Associate schemes, the Chelmsford Ballet Company production, and so on. So, put on those shoes and let's get dancing.*

*Have a great term!*

*Elisabeth Swan  
Principal*



Please "Like us" on  
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with your friends.  
Recommendations very  
welcome



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## Congratulations

To **two** students who were successful in recent auditions for dancing membership of the Chelmsford Ballet Company: **Abigail James** was accepted into the Junior Company, and **Hannah Cope** the Senior Company. Well done, too, to **Maddy Haines** and **Sarah Miller** who were upgraded from Junior to Senior.

**And to Charlotte Harnett , Ellie Houghton and Maddy Haines** who were selected to take part in the Cecchetti Mabel Ryan Awards competition at the Lilian Bayliss studio, Sadler’s Wells Theatre in London in November. They all danced beautifully, and Charlotte and Ellie received commendations from the adjudicator.

## Children In Need

Our MUFTI WEEK raised just over £300 for Children-In-Need. Thank you to everyone for taking part and dressing up in costumes which were many and varied. Winners of Pudsey Bears were **Elizabeth Anu, Jessica Barker** (Rubbish Bin), **Dolcie Dartford** (Elsa—homemade), **Ellie Dinning** (Devil), **Annabella Igbokwe** (Cleopatra), **Eileen McKendry-Gray, Niamh O’Hanlon** (Ursula), and **Lucy Pavitt** (80’s pop star). It was a fun week and, for some, a good opportunity to dig out last year’s show costumes . Well done, too, for those who went the extra mile with make-up!

The TAPATHON took place on Sunday 15th November at Widford Village Hall. Thirty-three adults, children and students tapped for about seven minutes in a bid to be part of a national attempt to break the record of the most people tapping at the same time. Sadly, in terms of the record attempt, although the incredible number of 7,484 tappers was recorded, this fell short of the 7,596 target! However, it was still a brilliant achievement—well done everyone and thank you particularly to Miss Ruth, and to Sharon for providing the yummy cakes, once again. Here’s to 2017!

## In This Pack

- ◆ **Unless** you are an adult student, or are new to the school this term, this pack will include your invoice - timely settlement would be greatly appreciated
- ◆ **Class** allocation notice - please let us know if we’ve got anything wrong. Also get in touch if you would like to try an additional subject—50% discount for the first term!
- ◆ **You** may also have a statement (blue sheet) which will show if you owe anything from last term, or are in credit (which will appear as a minus amount). Please take this into account when settling your invoice.

## Child Safety

The safety of your son or daughter is of paramount importance to us. There have been a couple of instances of “strange” people wandering around car parks and we therefore urge you to instruct your child to wait inside a hall until you physically come to collect them. This applies to all ages. Please also be so good as to ensure that they have suitable, warm clothing to put on after class. Apart from the inappropriateness of walking around scantily dressed, as students are for a dance class, to cool down too quickly could result in painful muscles and injury. Any teacher observing a student trying to leave with insufficient clothing will insist they dress properly before leaving. Your co-operation in this matter would be much appreciated in order that we can honour our safeguarding commitment.

## Last September

**We were** delighted to resurrect our **CHOREOGRAPHY COMPETITION** at **PRIZEGIVING** on Sunday 4th September. There was only a small number of entries but it was quality and not quantity to which we were treated. We were pleased to welcome former Principal of the School, **Mrs Wendy Watts**, and her daughter, ex-student **Tracy Fritschy**, to adjudicate and they chose “Me and my Teddy Bear” by **Amy and Ruby Holland** as the winner. Congratulations to everyone who took part—it was a great achievement.

The competition was followed by our annual **PRIZEGIVING** and it was good to welcome so many of you to support your budding dancers as they received their examination certificates. A number of School Certificates of Merit were also awarded, and the School’s Special Awards were presented, as follows:

Joan Weston Award for Ballet - Rebecca Carson  
 Christina Ballard Modern Cup - Olivia Buckland  
 Tracy Corp Tap Dance Award - Alice Cole  
 Des Claydon Award for Achievement - Jayne Delarre  
 Sarah Carroll Performance Award - Ellen Steel  
 Nicola Jones Award - Daisy Clark  
 Corinna Bourke Award - Amy Nevill  
 Doug & Betty Wheatley Memorial Award - Poppy Harnett  
 Watts Award - Ebonie Tatum  
 Rosina Baker Award - Madeline Haines  
 Wanbon Award - Hannah Cotgrove  
 Diamond Award - Ella-Rose Smallwood-Gillan  
 Catherine Swan Memorial Award - Imogen Leslie

Congratulations to everyone, and big thanks to Miss Jo and Miss Marie for showcasing some of our Musical Theatre and Commercial Dance/Jazz students during the afternoon.

## The Big Event

Yes, it’s **SHOW TIME!** It only happens every two years so we hope everyone will embrace this exciting event. Based on the original Wizard of Oz story, the details of who dances which parts and in which performances are currently being finalised. As usual, the youngest students will only dance in one performance, building up to the seniors who will dance in all four.

More information will come to you during the term but, for now, the relevant details are as follows:

Venue: The Civic Theatre, Fairfield Road, Chelmsford, CM1 1JG

Performance Dates: Thursday 13th, Friday 14th & Saturday 15th July 2017

Performance Times: Thursday, Friday & Saturday @ 7.00 pm plus Saturday Matinée @ 2.00 pm

Rehearsals: During normal class times

Theatre Rehearsals: Modern, Tap, Commercial Dance & Musical Theatre—Saturday 8th July  
 (compulsory) Ballet—Sunday 9th July

Full dress rehearsals: Tuesday 11th & Wednesday 12th July (after school) - selected students only

## Dates for the Academic Year 2016 / 2017

### Spring Term 2017

Office opens	Wednesday 4th January
Term commences	Monday 9th January
Half-term (no classes)	Monday 13th to Saturday 18th February (one week)
Term ends	Saturday 25th March

### Summer Term 2017

Office opens	Wednesday 19th April
Term commences	<u>Saturday</u> 22nd April
Half-term (no classes)	Monday 29th May to Saturday 3rd June (one week)
Term ends	Monday 10th July

**There will be no classes on Bank Holiday Monday 1st May or on Saturday 8th July**

## Temporary Class Alterations

**Springfield:** Due to unavoidable circumstances no classes will be held at this venue on Friday 27th January but will be held instead, pre-term, on Friday 6th January.

**PLEASE BE AWARE** that Springfield Parish Council will be refurbishing the changing rooms behind Bowers Hall from the 3rd January 2017 for approximately 8 weeks. This should not affect our classes as we are on the other end of the building and we are assured that noise levels and disruption will be kept to a minimum. However, SPC will not be able to stop the builders from working at any time due to the timescales of the build.

They will also be allocating parking spaces to the builders. These will be clearly marked and we have been asked to request that parents please be so kind as to only use the remaining spaces or find alternative parking rather than parking on the paths or in disabled bays (unless they have the appropriate badge), so as not to inconvenience other users and the building team. Thank you for your patience.

## Uniform Sales

Mrs Orme will be visiting the branches on the dates and times as listed below. She will carry a full stock of uniform - why not pop in? Don't forget, we also have t-shirts and track suits printed with the School logo—something to keep you warm to and from classes.

The sale of Ballet, Modern and Tap uniform will take place as follows:

Chelmer Village Hall	Thursday 12th January	4.15 pm—6.15 pm
Springfield Parish Centre	Friday 13th January	4.15 pm—6.15 pm
Great Dunmow Primary School	Saturday 14th January	10.15 am—12.45 pm
Widford Village Hall	Saturday 21st January	10.15 am—12.30 pm

Uniform may also be ordered and paid for on-line at [bit.ly/WestonShop](http://bit.ly/WestonShop)