

Danbury Park Community Primary School

Be wise, be happy, belong!

Newsletter



Website: www.danburypark.essex.sch.uk

20th December 2017

Dear Parents,

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Congratulations to Abigail in Class Avocet who designed the school Christmas card this year. Every December the Year 6 pupils are invited to submit their ideas which we then use for the card that is sent to friends of the school and members of our local community.

The staff would like to thank you for all your kind gifts and thoughts and we wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Governors' Christmas Message December 2017

It has been a busy start to the new academic year: meetings of all the committees, visits by governors to monitor their key stage, class or curriculum responsibilities and the setting of governor targets within the School Improvement Plan 2017/18 and School Development Plan for the next three years. We also began our series of termly surveys, this term focusing on 'settling-in', which the vast majority of parents perceived as very positive. We also welcome to the FGB Nick Court, our recently elected parent governor, and look forward to his contributions at committee meetings.

We also enjoyed attending the school's Christmas celebrations - both Infant and Junior were brilliantly performed despite lack of rehearsal time - and admired the mobiles made by each class. Some of us also attended the DPSA fayre and can only congratulate the chairman and her team, Danbury Park staff and pupils, for a very successful afternoon, which was enjoyed by all the parents and their children. We wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Brenda Wray, Chair of Governors

Autumn Term Surveys

In November we carried out our survey to find out how well the children had settled into their new classes. Each child was invited to rate their experience on a scale of 1 (low) to 5 (high) and then to explain in more detail what has helped them and what could be improved. This was all done anonymously so that the children could feel free to say exactly what they thought. Even the very youngest children took part, although this was more through small group discussion with the adults recording their opinions.

Our questions were:

1. How well do you think you have settled in your new class?

For each class average scores were generally 4 or above.

Teachers, learning support assistants and friends were an overwhelmingly positive influence and helped pupils settle in. Negatives were very few and mostly focused in Class Cuckoo on friends being in other classes. or with the younger children, missing their families.

2. How happy are you in your new class?

Typically average scores were 4 or above.

Staff and friends were again a positive influence as well as the curriculum and topics. Many responses across the school said the children were happy with everything and there were no negatives.

Negatives related mostly to areas of the curriculum being challenging or not personally liked by the children. Some classes mentioned aspects of the classrooms relating to them being too small, transference of noise from corridors and the hall and the location of toilets and pegs in Class Dove.

3. Have you enjoyed your learning this term?

Responses were high 4s.

In most classes pupils said there was nothing that they didn't like and topic work was a firm favourite.

For every curriculum area that pupils said they enjoyed, other pupils said they had not.

There were some negative comments regarding tight space in the classrooms and poor layout.

4. How could we improve your class?

Suggestions for improvements varied and covered predominantly more time for favourite curriculum areas.

They also included the older children wanting Golden Time reinstated in KS2. More resources for the classroom were mentioned including more books and the need for new batteries for the laptops.

Our actions as a school are:

- For teachers and learning support assistants to consider their own relevant improvements;
- To address the environmental issues where possible;
- Order more books and laptop batteries, budget permitting;
- For Golden Time in KS2 to be reintroduced on Friday mornings as of 5th January 2018.

The governors also undertook a survey of parental opinions. Thank you to those who completed the paper version at parent consultation in October and to those who did the online version. Again the vast majority of responses were positive with parents feeling that their children had settled well into their new classes and were enjoying their learning. Any individual comments have been considered with teachers in the relevant year groups.

We would like to thank the children and parents for sharing their views so that we can continue to improve our school and make the best it can be.

School Clubs

Our timetable for the Spring Term is below:

	Before School	Lunchtime	After School
Monday		French with Mrs Croucher, La Jolie Ronde Catch up lessons	Netball Club with Miss Bridge 3.30pm to 4.15pm Year 5 & 6
Tuesday		French with Mrs Croucher, La Jolie Ronde Years 3 & 4 Year 2	Football with Chelmsford City 3.30pm-4.30pm, Years 2 , 3 & 4 Tennis with Danbury Tennis Club 3.30pm – 4.15pm, Years 3 & 4
Wednesday			Multisports 3.25pm – 4.20pm Years 1- 6
Thursday	Athletics with Premier Sport 8.00am – 8.45am Year 3, 4, 5 and 6	French with Mrs Croucher, La Jolie Ronde Year 1 Girls Football 12.20pm to 12.50pm, Year 4, 5 & 6	Boys Football 3.25pm to 4.30pm, Year 4, 5 & 6 Grundy Gym Club 3.30pm to 4.30pm
Friday			KS2 Tag Rugby with Maldon Rugby Club 3.30pm – 4.30pm Art Club with Mrs Butler 3.30pm to 4.30pm

Should you require any further information, please contact the school office for details.

NB All clubs start the week beginning 8th January 2018 and finish the week beginning 26th March but there will be no clubs on Thursday 29th March. Apart from Netball which starts 15th January, Grundy Gym starts Thursday 4th January and Art club Friday 5th January.

Safeguarding - Keeping Safe

A timely update from www.safeguardingschools.co.uk - the 12 ways that Christmas shoppers can keep children and data safe when buying smart toys and devices (ICO)

<https://iconewsblog.org.uk/2017/11/23/the-12-ways-that-christmas-shoppers-can-keep-children-and-data-safe-when-buying-smart-toys-and-devices/>

Let's work together to keep our children safe!

PE Uniform

We are pleased to inform you that over the coming year we are making some slight changes to our PE Uniform. As many of you will have noticed, when we moved to the One Stop Shop as our main supplier, the t-shirt worn for PE changed to a slightly darker shade of blue. This was an intentional adjustment as the old sky blue t-shirts become very faded after washing and quickly looked rather sad.

As we are now developing our outside PE lessons, we need to make sure that the children are appropriately dressed throughout the year and particularly in the winter months when it is cooler. We are conscious that some of the children do not have a spare sweatshirt in their PE bags and are wearing their everyday one. We are therefore adding to our uniform list a navy blue track suit or as an alternative a navy blue sweatshirt and navy jogging bottoms. These are available from the One Stop Shop with the school owl logo and will be added to their stock list next week. However, if you would prefer navy sweatshirts and jogging bottoms can be purchased from the main high street shops.



Navy Tracksuit Top
Sizes- 24", 26", 28", 30", 32" 34"
- £14.00

Navy Tracksuit Bottoms
Sizes- 20-22", 22-24", 24-26", 26-28", 28-30"
- £10.00



Navy PE Sweatshirt
Sizes- 5/6, 7/8, 9/10, 11/12, 13 yrs
- £10.45



Navy PE Joggers
Sizes- 5/6, 7/8, 9/10, 11/12, 13 yrs
- £7.50

For the rest of the year, we are happy for there to be a transition period so children will still be allowed to wear their grey jogging bottoms and school sweatshirt but if you need to purchase new, we would ask that you buy the new colours.

We would also like to remind you that we still have some items of school uniform for sale in the school office. As you may remember this was because we were required to buy out the existing stock from our previous supplier. We would now like to sell this off so that we can put the funds back in to our budget.

Emergency School Closures – SNOW!

As we approach the time of year when inclement weather and snow is more likely, we would like to advise you of the school's emergency closure procedure. The decision to close the school is never taken lightly but there may be rare times when the site is unsafe or insufficient staff can get into the school and closure is unavoidable.

Last year there was a change to the usual notification process and the local radio stations no longer give out announcements. Schools will notify Essex County Council and the information will be available on their website at: <http://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/Dates/Pages/Emergency-School-Closures.aspx>

We will also put a message out on Parentmail. We aim to do this by 7.30am.

If the weather and traffic are bad, please take care and get to school safely. We will understand if you delay your journey and arrive later than the usual time.

If you have not yet joined *Parentmail*, please ask at the office.



School Lunches

School lunch costs for spring term 2018

1st Half term (to Feb half term) £56.70

2nd Half term (to 29th March) £60.90

Whole Term £117.60

Cost per day £2.10

A gentle reminder that all school meals should be paid for as soon as possible either with a cheque made payable to Essex County Council or cash in a sealed named envelope.

Notices and Reminders

Parking – we are aware that there have been issues again with the safe and considerate use of the Danbury Outdoors carpark and Well Lane. We were informed of a parent who had parked on the yellow zig-zag lines causing an obstruction for vehicles and a danger to pedestrians.

Please think about the safety of our children before there is an incident where someone is seriously hurt.

School office opening hours – The school office opens to parents and pupils at 8.30am and closes at 3.45pm. We are sorry but after this time the office are unable to take payments and the shutters will be closed.

PE Kits – Please remember that earrings have to be removed for all PE lessons and we are not allowed to cover pupils' ears with tape.

Letters sent home this week:



Owl's Barn School Meals

Week commencing Wednesday 3rd January 2018

Week 1				
Wednesday	Local Butcher's Roast Beef served with Yorkshire pudding and gravy or Cheddar Whirl (V)	Roast Potatoes Cauliflower florets Fresh Carrots Green salad	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Ice cream Artichoke Roll Organic Fruit Yoghurt Selection of Fresh Fruit
Thursday	Homemade Chicken Korma Or Sweet Potato and Lentil Korma (V)	White and Wholegrain Rice Naan Bread Sweetcorn, Cucumber	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Apple Crumble and Custard Organic Fruit Yoghurt Selection of Fresh Fruit
Friday	Bubble Crumb Fish Fillet	Chips Baked Beans Peas Green Salad	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Viennese Biscuit Organic Fruit Yoghurt Selection Of Fresh Fruit

Dates for the Diary

Week beginning 1st January 2018

Weds 3rd Jan
8.50 am

School reopens for the Spring Term 2018

A full list of dates for the Spring Term will appear in the first newsletter back on Friday 5th January.

Full term dates for this academic year 2017-18 and for next, 2018-19 are available on the school website.

Yours sincerely

Carol Gooding
Headteacher