

Danbury Park Community Primary School

Be wise, be happy, belong!

Newsletter



Website: www.danburypark.essex.sch.uk

9th March 2018

Dear Parents,

Congratulations to the following children who have recently achieved their reading awards:

Freddie B – **Ruby**
Hayden R – **Diamond**

Morgan H – **Ruby**
Serena D – **Emerald**

Henry P – **Ruby**
Annie C – **Emerald**

*Certificates will be presented in our Celebration Assembly
on Wednesday 21st March 2018 at 2.50pm*

Book Week

Our Book Week was again a great success. Each class took a different author or book for the week and the teachers planned their lessons around the themes. The children were thoroughly immersed in the craft of writing and used well known authors and stories as models. Some classes stayed with stories whilst others explored poetry but the children throughout the school have produced some very impressive writing and also some effective accompanying art work.

The displays around the school are in the process of being changed to showcase the work the children have produced.



Book Week (contd)

The children enjoyed the session with Brian Moses when he performed a huge number of his poems to the children. He also then spent time working with most of the year groups on writing and composing. He was impressed by how receptive and responsive our children were, as well as how respectfully and politely they conducted themselves. He was very surprised by the large number of parents who came in after school to meet him and get signed copies of his books!



On Wednesday in the morning we went into the hall for assembly and a poet called Brain Moses read some of his poems to us whilst using instruments such as drums, tambourines and a box that he sat on and hit in rhythm with poems. He also used a deep voice in some poems. In the afternoon we went in the hall with him and he then told us to come up with our own ideas for a poem.

This is my Poem:

Cuter than a leopard eating its food.
Cuter than a kitten meowing with delight.
Cuter than a child begging for caramel sweets.
Cuter than a baby saying its first word.
Cuter than a cub asleep with its mother.
Cuter than a tiny puppy running in a buttercup field.
That is how cute my bunny is.

Kirsten D, Class Cuckoo



Throughout the week we looked at a poem called "The Listeners". At first, we watched a YouTube video, then wrote our first thought of the poem and some people in our class didn't like it. We were split into groups after identifying the style that the poet decided to use and in our group we had to recite the poem to the class and then we voted for whose group presented their poem best and my group came 2nd. Later we recited the poem again but this time we used percussion instruments which I though made it more dramatic.

Sam B, Class Cuckoo

We also really enjoyed dressing up on the Friday.



Jump Start!



We are pleased to inform you that on Thursday 22nd March the children at Danbury Park School are going to take part in a special *Jump Start!* event to raise funds for our school and for Sport Relief. The children will be participating in a series of personal challenges against the clock including how many goals they can score, how many star jumps they can perform and how many lengths of the playground they can skip in a set period. We intend to have lots of fun, whilst getting lots of exercise and fresh air.

As you may be aware over the past seven years we have systematically been renovating and remodelling the older classrooms in the school so that they are bright, modern learning environments. However, schools are facing increasing pressure on their budgets and sadly we have been unable to undertake the final stage of this long term project. We have one classroom and one teaching space left untouched and we would really like to do this. Class Eider, at the front of the school is trapped between Class Flamingo and Class Dove and the children need to walk through one of the other classrooms to get to the school hall or anywhere else in the main building. Additionally, the lower junior toilets are located within Class Dove. By creating a corridor to the side and the back of Class Dove into the ICT Suite, we can minimise interruptions in Class Dove considerably. To create this, we need to remove the water storage tanks above Class Dove, move the art sink under the window and replace the old wet flooring and then we want to redecorate to create a brighter learning space. At the same time, we would like to add an air conditioning unit in the ICT suite and replace the flooring and the old shelving at the back. Not only will the children in Class Dove and Class Eider benefit but so will all the children!

The DPSA has raised an amazing amount of money over the past few year and we are really grateful for the school equipment they have bought. Last year they completed the project to replace all the old interactive whiteboards in the classrooms with newer technology in the form of Clevertouch screens so now all the children benefit from the enhancements these screens bring to learning. The DPSA has also made a significant contribution of £10 000 to cover the school's commitment required by Essex County Council towards the project to sort out the drainage on site. This has freed up funds for school to spend on essential items. Without the tireless efforts of the DPSA and your support, the children would have been less well-provided for.

The DPSA will continue to organise all our favourite annual activities and raise funds predominantly to enhance our school provision and they are willing to support us in part with the bigger building project. We know that this is a long term project and this is the first special additional fundraising activity this academic year. The totaliser in our front reception area shows that we have so far raised around £3000 towards our target of £38 000. If you know of any other ways in which you could help or have any ideas for future events, please let us know.

We hope that you will support us with our *Jump Start!* event by collecting sponsors with your child on the attached form. If possible we also aim to collect Gift Aid so have included slips for you to ask sponsor to complete; these can be returned with the money collected. We are expecting that infant children will complete 5 activities and the junior children a maximum of 10. As we know that many of you will be catching up with grandparents and families over the Easter break, please keep the sponsor form at home in the hope of collecting as many sponsors as possible. On the day of the event the children will each be given a card on which to collect stickers and they will bring this home as proof of how many events they complete. As an incentive there will be prizes for the biggest fundraisers!

We are combining this event with Sport Relief and the school will be making a small donation to the charity.

We would like sponsor forms with money to be sent into school in a sealed envelope after the Easter break and by Friday 20th April.

Class Hummingbird's Assembly

Well done to the children in Class Hummingbird who presented their first class assembly this year. They told us all about their topic of Once Upon a Time including showing us art work, Maths and their writing. They shared with us their hopes and dreams based on fairy tale wishes as well as a lovely song about friendship.



The children were very confident in their presentation and have obviously enjoyed their learning this term.

Talented Children

We are delighted to share with you Liza's latest gymnastic achievements. First she passed the British qualification test and can now participate in the English and British Championship for 2018. Last weekend she took part in London Rhythmic Gymnastics Championship where she took first place with the rope routine and third place with the free routine, which meant that she came in first place overall.



Well done, Liza!

Staff News

We are pleased to inform you that Mr Dan Brown will be joining the staff in September 2018 as our new KS2 class teacher. At present we have not yet decided on the allocation of teachers or children to classes. This will be completed during the summer half-term break. We believe that Mr Brown will be a great asset to our school and we hope that he will be very happy at Danbury Park.

Emergency School Closures – SNOW!

As we experienced last week, snow can cause many problems and difficulties for schools. The decision to close the school is never taken lightly but there may be times when the site is unsafe or insufficient staff can get into the school and closure is unavoidable. We liaise with the other schools in the area and also take into account the available weather forecast. Unfortunately, these can change rapidly as happened last Thursday when the snow just kept falling!

Schools notify Essex County Council if they are closed and the information is available on their website at: <http://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/Dates/Pages/Emergency-School-Closures.aspx>

We also put messages out on *Parentmail*. Where possible we try to do this by 7.30am. If there is no message sent out or a notification on the ECC website, then we are open as usual.

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.

Maths Challenge

A heart-racing event crept up on Tuesday 6th March for 4 selected students from Year 6: Alex, Ben, Woody and Nadrah. We left at 8:30am to arrive at New Hall School in time to take part in the ESS Mathematics Competition. There were 13 schools who were determined to participate in the tough competition and win.

Round one of the ESS Maths Challenge:

At 9:30am the first of the four challenges had begun and the team of Woody, Ben, Nadrah and Alex were ready to answer the maths questions. This challenge was about the positioning of the guests for Megan and Harry's wedding party. The pupils were given a set of clues to find out where each person was. They were given 10 minutes to complete this task and the children only just completed this with 10 seconds remaining. Once they found out their scores the children realised they had achieved full marks and they were very proud of this mark.

Round 2 of the EES Maths Challenge:

After a challenging first round, EES decided to go from a puzzle to an algebra task. As we had achieved full marks (so far) we approached the task with confidence. We were all very keen on this round as we had done a similar task in school. The task was: which safe contained the wedding rings? We had to solve the algebra problem to find the number to open the safe. We achieved a successful score of 31 out of 35.

Round 3 of the EES Maths Challenge

The next round was based around the royal's wedding cake. Unfortunately, they didn't know how many grams, millilitres and tea spoons they needed to produce the cake. We were given some helpful clues to show how they made the royal cake. We finished in the last few seconds however, our final answer was wrong. (That was where it went downhill). We unfortunately lost 4 marks.

The Final Round of the EES Maths Challenge

EES prepared the final round to make us use coordinates to fly a helicopter above the wedding venue. We had to figure out the shape they flew in but unfortunately the directions were confusing. Our score wasn't as successful as we got 9/20. It was harder with only 20 minutes to solve all four 2 dimensional shapes.

At the end of the day, we came 11th but it was still an achievement and an overall brilliant experience.

ENGLISH COMPETITION

On Tuesday 6th of March, four selected students from Danbury Park School went to an English competition at New Hall School. The English competition began at 1:30pm.

After lunch, Violet and Alice were driven to New Hall and met up with the previous group. Half of the other group drove back to school whilst Ben and Woody stayed to participate in the English. Once all the schools had arrived, the competition began and the first round was where you had to fit the nouns into a paragraph. We did quite well at this as we got over half right. The next round was similar to the game *Articulate*. Woody had a character on a card and he had to describe the character without using certain words and we got 13/20.

The next round was word class gobbledegook! We had to choose whether some words with very unfamiliar spellings were nouns, verbs, adjectives or adverbs. We thought we did very well in this task and in the end we only got two wrong, which was an amazing result. Our next task was ordering science facts. We split up into pairs: Woody and Alice and Violet and Ben. We had to order sentences from a paragraph so that it made sense.



In the end, we didn't do as well as we thought we did, however we accepted our score and held our heads up high. Next, was the part everyone had been waiting for- the results! It was very nerve-wracking waiting to hear the overall winners. Unfortunately, we did not come in the trophy places, but we were very proud with eight out of fourteen.

Safeguarding - Keeping Safe

Absences from School

It is so important that you let school know if your children will not be coming into school for whatever reason.

Our procedures are that the teachers take the registers promptly first thing in the morning and again straight after lunch and these are then checked by the office staff to establish which children are not in school and why. We have a designated option to report pupil absence on our telephone system so that you can leave messages at any time. Please do not contact us by e-mail as we receive so many in one day and your message may get lost. In the mornings we aim to complete these tasks by 9.30am and at that point, if we do not know why a child is not in school, we start phoning the contacts on the list supplied by you when the children joined Danbury Park School. We always start with our Year 6 and Year 5 children as they are the ones, who with your permission, may be walking to school and therefore at greater risk.

If you have applied for a leave of absence, this will be recorded in the registers and you do not need to remind us. If your child has been sent home from school unwell or you have notified us that your child is unwell, you do not need to contact us every day that they are absent. However, if we have not heard from you for two days and the illness is not one, for which we would expect your child to be away from school for a prolonged period, or we are in anyway concerned, we will phone to check. We do need a letter when your child returns to school confirming why they were absent.

Please note that should we not be able to make contact with you and we are concerned for the safety of the children, we would contact the police.

Let's work together to keep our children safe!

London Marathon 2018

Dear Parents and Carers of Danbury Park,

I am running in this year's London Marathon in memory of our dear friend Sally Baker who, you will remember, sadly passed away from the deadly effects of Meningitis in Dec 2015.

I am hoping to raise lots of money and awareness for the Meningitis Research Foundation and hope that you will support me in this. Previous fundraising efforts in her honour have included 2 well attended Coffee Mornings where we have together raised over £2500 so far.

If anyone wants to guess my finishing time on marathon day, there is the potential to win £50. I have a GUESS MY TIME sheet with £3 for a guess or 2 guesses for £5.

The LONDON MARATHON After Party at The Bell, Danbury on Friday 27th April 8pm until late

We will be celebrating all the fundraising effort and support by having one last fun evening with PRIZES, DANCING and more.

This event will be one last push to reach the fundraising target and as a chance for me to say thank you for every bit of support. I hope to see many familiar faces.

There will be a small charge for this event – as it is for CHARITY!

As always, thank you to everyone for their generous support.

Yvonne Burton

Notices and Reminders

Story CDs – if you have any CDs with stories that your children no longer need, we can make good use of them in our library area and in class.

Parking – Last term there were 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. Please can children remember to collect their phones **before** going to clubs.

Adults coming into school - A gentle reminder that parent's wishing to come into the school must come to the main office, sign in and be given a visitors badge regardless of their reason to enter the building. This is part of our safeguarding policy in keeping our children safe.

Letters sent home this week:

- **Class Hummingbird Assembly**
- **Class Goldfinch Assembly**
- **KS2 English and Maths Competition (selected pupils)**
- **Jump Start! Fundraising Event**

Year 5 Sandon Tour Dates

All tours will take place on the following dates and will commence at 9.30am. They will last a maximum of 45 minutes and Parents/carers will need to arrive no earlier than 9.15am in order to register. **Please contact the Sandon School to book your tour in advance, via the Sandon School Reception after the Easter holidays.**

Tour Dates

Wednesday 6th June, Monday 11th June, Friday 15th June, Monday 18th June and Thursday 21st June.

Prospective Student Tours of King Edward V1 Grammar School

King Edward V1 Grammar School will be holding tours for boys in year 5 and their parents who will be starting secondary school in September 2019.

The Sessions are:

Monday 12th March – Morning
Tuesday 13th March – Morning
Wednesday 14th March – Morning
Thursday 15th March – Afternoon
Friday 16th March – Afternoon
Monday 19th March – Morning

For the morning sessions families should arrive at 9.30am for a 9.45 am start.

For the afternoon sessions families should arrive at 1.30pm for a 1.45pm start.

Please allow 2 hours for your visit.

Booking is essential. Go to the link on the school website to book a place. www.kegs.org.uk



DPSA News



Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday 24th March 2 - 4 p.m.

Donations for Children's Easter Egg Tombola and Hamper Raffle

- If you can provide an Easter egg, chocolate bunny or similar for the tombola please leave it in the box under the office counter by **Friday 23rd March**. We are also organising an Easter Hamper raffle so look out for a list of suggested items from your class Rep. The list includes things such as tea bags, coffee, jam, scones, hotcross buns, wine, sparkling fruit juice, Easter confectionary, Simnel cake, Easter-themed napkins and cupcake cases, Easter craft, Easter childrens book, seeds, childrens gardening gloves. Easter hamper items can be left in the collecting buckets in your child's class room. Thank you.



Tickets – Letters, with order forms attached, have gone out in book bags. Take advantage of our advance ticket price by filling in the order form and returning it to the school office via your class teacher by **Thursday 22th March** - it's only **£2.50 per child for tickets in advance**, but **£3.00 per child on the day**.

Easter Egg Colouring Competition - use your imagination to produce a fantastic picture based on the outline of an egg (attached to the advance ticket form). The pictures will be judged on the day by everyone who attends and there will be prizes for KS1 and KS2.

Don't forget that your decorated works of art must be handed to the school office by Friday 23rd March.

Helpers Needed - if you can help to run a stall on the day 2-3pm or 3-4pm, or come and help set up on Saturday morning please let us know on sallyj@doctors.org.uk or contact your class rep.

Dates for the diary 2018



March

Saturday 24th

Easter Egg Hunt

June

Wednesday 6th
Saturday 23rd
Friday 29th

Bag2school
Summer Fayre
School Disco

Where does the money we have raised go?

Other the last 2 years the money raised by the DPSA has been used to update the classroom interactive white boards by supplying **new smart boards** for the school class rooms, We have also paid the school's annual subscription to **Mathletics**, bought **dictionaries** for the year 6 leavers, **upgraded the adventure trail** in the KS2 playground by extending the **rubber mulch** and repairing the equipment, bought new **football goal nets** and 2 **pop-up gazebos** along with **soil and compost** for the school garden.

We have just donated a **massive £10,000** to the school to pay their contribution to Essex County Council for extensive drainage works, which will begin shortly, to stop both playgrounds from flooding whenever it rains and will make them useable throughout the year. This has been a problem at the school for many years and we feel this will truly make a significant difference to all of the children at the school.

We are now currently raising money to update the school's 32 laptops and 14 tablet computers.

As you can see the money raised by the DPSA makes a significant and much needed contribution to the school which we cannot do without your continued help, donations and support. We look forward to seeing you at our future events

A Big Thank You from The DPSA

Did you know we have a DPSA Facebook page?

Like us on Facebook and make sure you know what's happening when. Our page is constantly updated so you never forget things important things like non-uniform day and cake sales!



Booking a holiday or shopping online? Don't forget to use easyfundraising

If you book or shop online go via www.easyfundraising.org.uk and you can raise money for the school at no cost to yourself at all. Simply register on the easyfundraising website (you just need an email address and a password) and search for Danbury Park School. Select from a list of hundreds of well-known retailers you'd like to shop with and you'll be directed to the retailers' web site as usual but any purchases you make will earn the school commission. Travel companies, car hire companies, holiday insurance and airport parking pay up to 10% of your purchase price.

The DPSA



Owl's Barn School Meals

Week commencing Monday 12th March

Week 1 MONDAY	Homemade Pepperoni or Cheese and Tomato Pizza (V)	White and Wholegrain Pasta Coleslaw Sweetcorn Green Salad	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Cranberry Flapjack with Yoghurt Drizzle Organic Fruit Yoghurt Selection of Fresh Fruit
TUESDAY	Local Butchers pork sausage or Vegetarian Quorn Sausage (V)	Creamy Mashed Potato Fresh Sliced Carrots & Peas/ Green Salad	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Chocolate Sponge with Chocolate Sauce Organic Fruit Yoghurt Selection of Fresh Fruit
WEDNESDAY	Local Butchers 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 Arctic 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 Biscuits Organic Fruit Yoghurt Selection of Fresh Fruit

Dates for the Diary

Week beginning 12th March 2018

Mon 12th March

9.00am
6.30pm
7.00pm

Year 6 Bikeability

Mike Dodsworth, story teller visiting classes H and J
Governors' Pay Committee meeting
Governors' Personnel Committee meeting

Tues 13th March

3.15pm

Girls' Football Match v Chancellor Park (home)

Weds 14th March

Am
6.30pm

Year 2 Infant Music Festival
KS2 Choir Competition at KEGS

Thurs 15th March

12.30pm

Year 6 Bikeability

Fri 16th March

2.50pm
3.30pm

Class Eider Pirate Day at Danbury Country Park
Class Goldfinch Assembly
Girls' Football Match v St Anne's (home)

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

Danbury Park Community Primary School

Dates for Spring Term 2018

Date	Time	Event
March		
12 th	6.30pm	Pay Committee Meeting
	7.00pm	Personnel Committee meeting
16 th	2.50pm	Class Jay Assembly
	3.30pm	Girls Football Match v St Anne's (home)
22 nd		Jump Start! Sponsored fundraising event
23 rd	9.30am - 11.30 am	Pre School morning
23 rd	2.50pm	Class Goldfinch Assembly
24 th	2.00 – 4.00pm	DPSA Easter Egg Hunt
27 th	10.00am	Spring Celebration for guests & infants
29 th	12.00pm	End of term lunch for staff and governors
29 th	2.30pm	Spring Celebration for parents
		Break up for Easter holidays