

# Danbury Park Community Primary School

*Be wise, be happy, belong!*

## Newsletter



Website: [www.danburypark.essex.sch.uk](http://www.danburypark.essex.sch.uk)

**23<sup>rd</sup> November 2018**

Dear Parents,

**Good luck** to some of our talented pupils who will be playing individually in a special Christmas music concert this weekend. Henry C will be playing his guitar and Myah and Freya E are both playing their clarinets to an audience of around 100 people. We wish them the very best and know they will do very well.

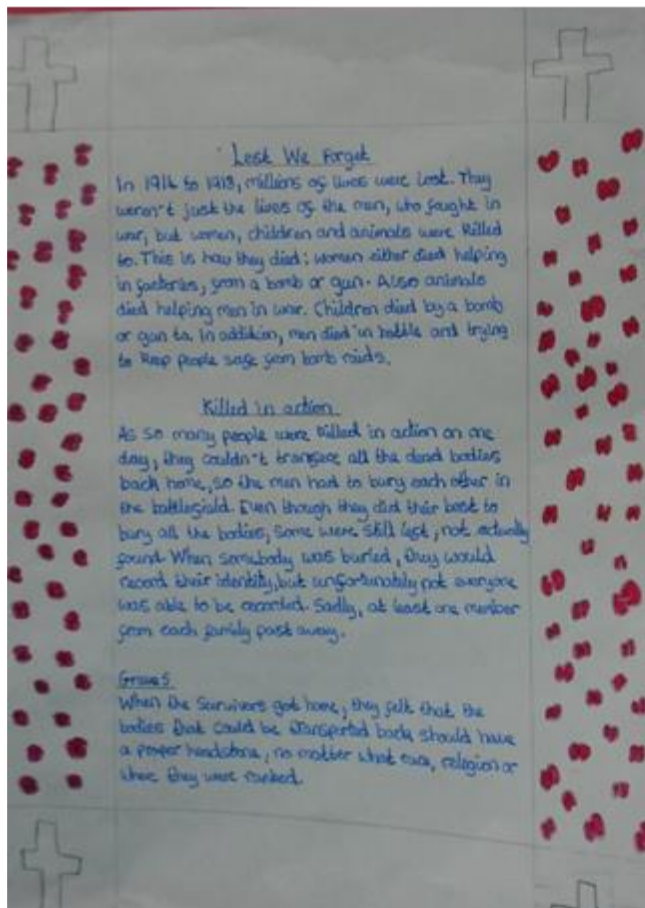
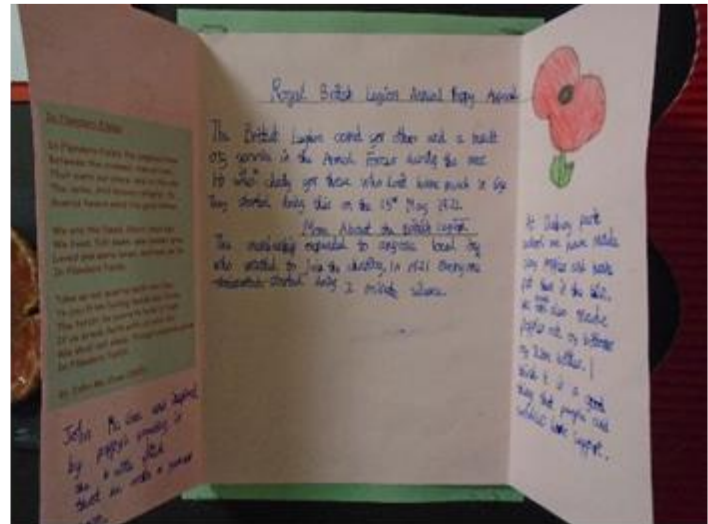
*Our next Celebration Assembly is  
on **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2018 at 9.10am.**  
Families are welcome to join us.*

### Remembrance

This week the teachers have changed the displays around the school to reflect all the work the children have been doing on remembrance. The quality of work shows how much thought the children have put into this whole school topic. Below are just a few photographs and we hope you will be able to read and enjoy the art work when you next come into the school.

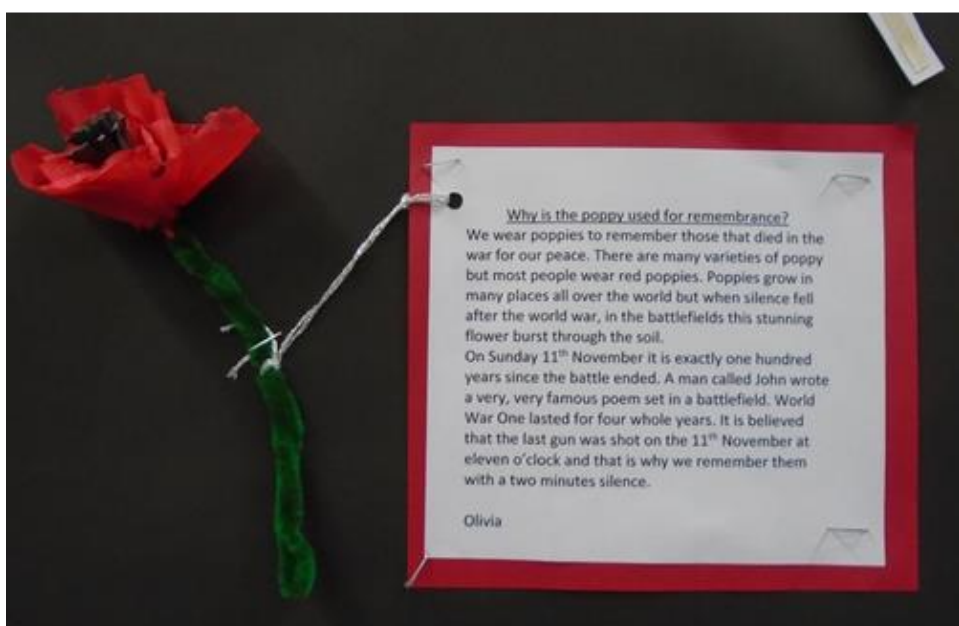


## Remembrance





## Remembrance



Thanks to your generosity, this year we raised a record £308.20 for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Thank you.

## Ancient Greek Day Class Budgerigar



On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2018, Class Budgerigar had a day of Ancient Greeks in the hall. As soon as we walked in, we were in awe; stood before us was an Oracle. But not just any Oracle - an Oracle of Delphi. The Oracle explained how Athens {our hometown for the day} was under attack by King Darius and warrior Dattus who were unstoppable. The only way to stop them was to pray to Athena.

We had to either make a cure, a wax tablet, a mosaic, a charm or a re-gathering tile. We chose to make home grown remedies, mosaics and charms. After, people were put on slavery duties whilst the Oracle updated us on the Battle of Marathon. After a few minutes, people were chosen to become guards. Before long, Ava became another Oracle of Delphi with two guards either side. The job was to ask the Oracle a question by paying a tip.

Soon after, it was lunch. We had to pack up, which meant that the Oracle would be explaining what we were doing in the afternoon. We were going to watch two plays, one dance and a poem as well as us performing. The plays were: Cyclops, Agamemnon Troy and Prometheus and Pandora. The poem was The Grand Old Spartan King.

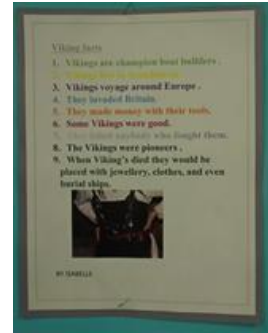
Sam, Mirabelle, Ava, Charlie, Henry and George performed Cyclops and Thom, Chris C and W, Lucas, Ethan, Josh and Jack performed the poem. Suddenly, we were at the festival of Dionysus, performing our exquisite plays. We drank wine {do not worry everybody, it was only Ribena!} and we ate bread, cheese, apple and pear slices. Not long after, we had to pack up and unfortunately had to finish our day.

We really enjoyed this day - especially the plays. We wish we could do this every day.

By George B and Thom L



## Class Eider's Assembly



The children in Class Eider ended our series of Autumn class assemblies with their learning all about the Vikings. They have certainly enjoyed their learning and this has resulted in some fantastic work. We know they are looking forward to their Viking day on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November when they can test their knowledge even further. Well done!

## Primary Maths Challenge



Last week a group of talented mathematicians from Year 6 took part in the Primary Maths Challenge. This is an annual competition run by the Primary Maths Association. It consists of a set of challenging mathematical problems and puzzles to solve. The winners from Danbury Park were:

**Isla T – Gold Award**

**Maddie D – Silver Award**

**Harry A – Bronze Award**

Well done to all the children who took part. Certificates were presented in the celebration assembly on Wednesday.

## School Council

We have now been holding our regular School Council meetings and Imogen C raised her concerns about the amount of lost property left at the front of the school. The councillors agreed that it looks a mess and that the children should take more care of their belongings. The councillors agreed to spend some of their lunchtimes sorting through the pile and returning items to classes to help reduce the pile.

The children are asking that parents make sure every item of clothing is clearly named and that the children remember to collect their jumpers and cardigans after they have taken them off.

If your child has lost an item of clothing, please come and have a look in the front reception area.

Thank you

## Children in Need



The children enjoyed wearing non-uniform last Friday and this year we raised £293.22 for Children in Need. Thank you.

## Morning Routines

As you will have seen the drainage project is now complete with the construction team handing back the site earlier this week. We hope that this extensive work has addressed the issues with flooding so that we are able to use all the space in the playgrounds after it has rained.

The project gave us the opportunity to review our morning routines and we have realised that the infant children all settled much more quickly when they came straight into school. We have therefore decided that as of Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November, we will be continuing with the infant children going straight into their classes.

The junior children, however, will revert back to their previous routine and meet in their playground under the supervision of a class teacher. This means that all the infant children will walk round to their classrooms under the supervision of school staff and that as of Monday parents of children in the Reception year group will now need to say goodbye at the school gate.

Please remember that the school day starts at 9.00am so your child needs to be in school before then so that they have time to walk round to class or the playground and are ready for a prompt start to their learning.

## 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.

Please note that 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.



## Results of Settling in Survey November 2018

Thank you to those parents who took the time to complete our Autumn Term survey. Please find the results below:

39 replies at Parents' Evenings; 4 replies on line – 43total (3 half completed). Percentages rounded to nearest whole number.	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>
My child has settled in happily at school this term.	29 67%	13 30%	1 2%	0	0
I am confident my child is safe and well cared for while at school.	29 67%	12 28%	1 2%	0	1 2%
Any concerns or issues I have raised during the half term have been handled well.	19 47%	14 35%	0	1 2%	6 15%
All the staff are approachable and helpful.	23 57%	15 37%	1 2%	0	1 2%
I have been informed of the topic my child is learning about this term.	29 74%	8 20%	1 2%	0	1 2%
The time my child is expected to spend reading, learning spelling, playing Maths games, etc., and any additional homework as set by the upper junior teachers is manageable.	17 45%	17 45%	1 3%	1 3%	1 3%

Analysis of results (based on number of replies to each question):

- 97% of parents agree that their children have settled in happily at school this term
- 95% of parents agree that they are confident their children are safe and well cared for while at school
- 82% of parents agree that any issues they raised were dealt with well (15% did not know, i.e. no issues raised)
- 94% of parents agree that staff are approachable and helpful
- 90% agree that homework is manageable (see comment above)
- Only a very few parents (7) disagreed across the survey
- Numbers participating at 43 is a little lower than hoped for.

One additional comments from a parent was that "Although play time is important too, most home time is taken up with reading/spelling/mathletics, etc."

Breakdown of participants by Year group (where shown) –

- EYFS 9
- Year 1 5
- Year 2 6
- Year 3 4
- Year 5 3
- Year 6 6

Thank you for sharing your views, these are important to us as we continue our journey of school improvement.

**Brenda Wray, Chair of Governors**

## Christmas Events



### Christmas Plays

#### **Infants – Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December; Juniors – Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December**

Next week you will receive a letter with information about our infant and junior plays for Christmas along with a form to complete and return to request tickets. These will be strictly limited to two per family on a first-come first-served basis fairly across the classes so please discuss family dates, times and arrangements in advance. There are two performances of each play, one in the afternoon and one in the evening. In the evenings the junior play will start at 6.30pm and the infant play at 6.00pm so that our youngest children can still get back home and to bed at a reasonable time! If you can volunteer to run a crèche to help other parents, please let us know on the form provided.

Please be advised that due to fire regulations we cannot exceed the maximum number of people in the hall. Unfortunately this means that adults only are permitted to attend the performances.

### Christmas Charity

#### **SOCIAL SERVICES CHRISTMAS TOY APPEAL**

Every year we hold a toy collection in aid of Chelmsford Social Care Services. It may amaze us but there are many children living in the Chelmsford area who will have anything but a merry Christmas and so it is great for our school to bring some happiness into some disadvantaged children's lives.

The plan is that children are invited to bring in a new or very nearly new toy, game, puzzle etc. wrapped in Christmas paper to put under the tree in the hall. Please leave one end of the donation open and label it clearly "boy aged 5 – 7" as appropriate, so a 10 year old does not get a baby's rattle! Whilst the Chelmsford Social Care Team is thrilled with presents for all ages, they have asked that a special plea is made to remember children aged 11 to 16. Each year school raises a tremendous number of presents for Social Services, which teaches our children the real meaning of Christmas is giving.

Donations may be left under the Christmas tree in the hall from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. The collection of presents will be on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December so gifts must be left by the end of school on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December. Thank you.

### Christmas Parties

This year because of the way that the Christmas holidays fall, we are trying a different approach to our traditional parties. All the children will join together for their Christmas parties on the afternoon of Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December. The children come to school in their uniform and bring party clothes to change into after lunch. The teachers organise traditional games and activities in the classrooms and hall and we will end with a special Christmas singsong together. As we have had so much party food left over in the past, school will provide drinks and a range of snacks so there will be no need to send in any food.

### Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day

This will take place on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December. This is always a very popular event with almost all children and staff eating a traditional roast, with a vegetarian alternative, together. There is no need to order in advance but please remember there will be no jacket potatoes offered that day and of course, if you would prefer, you may send in a packed lunch.

We are inviting staff and pupils to get into the Christmas spirit that day by wearing a Christmas jumper to school. This is a fun activity and no donations are required.



## Safeguarding Keeping Safe

As it is now getting dark earlier in the evenings, please remind the older children about coming straight home after school or letting you know where they are and keeping in touch.

Please also remind them about taking extra care when crossing the roads as when they are wearing darker clothing, they can be difficult for motorists to see.

**Let's work together to keep the children safe!**

## Admission to Schools for the Reception Year Group September 2019

The primary school (Reception) admissions process opens on **Monday 12 November 2018**, for parents of children to apply for a Reception school place for the academic year that starts in September 2019.

The statutory national closing date for applications is **15 January 2019**.

**From 12 November 2018**, applications can be made online via [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions). 98% of parents in Essex applied online last year.

We are offering visits to the school for prospective parents on **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 1.45pm**. Please contact the school office to book.

## Notices and Reminders

**Staying Safe** – Please would parents prevent their children climbing on the wooden gates and on the brick wall at the entrance to the school and from going into the staff car park. This is for their own safety.

**Coats** – Most children are now remembering to bring their coat to school every day. Thank you for your support. We want to make the most of the fresh air and even if it is damp or drizzling, we will be going out to play.

**Letters sent home this week:**



**Parent Governor Election**



# DPSA News



Find us on:  
**facebook®**

## Christmas Fayre Saturday 1st December 2 - 4pm 1 week to go!



**What we need you to do** – Children have brought home a Christmas picture with the items on that we are asking for. Each time you donate anything listed the office staff will sign it and the donation goes into the box by the office. Once you receive 3 signatures the children are asked to colour in the picture and return it to school for the chance to win a prize.

### **We still do need lots more:-**

**Wrapped Chocolate** - for the sell-out chocolate tombola - please remember **NO NUTS**

**Adult tombola gifts** – toiletries, unwanted gifts, chocolates, bottles

**Filled jam jars** – fill clean, empty glass jars with wrapped sweets, craft items, small toys, in fact anything children may like to win. .

**Cake Bakers** – if you would be happy to help by baking a cake for the refreshments please let Kellie know on [kellieberry@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kellieberry@hotmail.co.uk)

**Christmas Fayre Helpers Still Needed -** We still desperately need **3 volunteers to run stalls for the first half (2-3pm) and 10 for the second half (3-4pm)** and also help to set up and tidy away afterwards. Setting up we will need help after school on Friday and Saturday morning from 9am. If you can help at all please let your Class Rep know or Sally at [sallyj@doctors.org.uk](mailto:sallyj@doctors.org.uk)

**Raffle Tickets** - Books of 10 raffle tickets have gone out in book bags this week. Please do sell as many as you can to family, friends, neighbours and work colleagues. **Extra books are available from the school office.** We have some fantastic prizes this year:-

**£100 cash**

**5kg KellyBronze Turkey**

**Christmas Floral Door Wreath**

**2 x Family of 4 meal vouchers**

**Christmas Hamper**

**Family of 4 ticket to Marsh Farm**

**Family of 4 ticket for The Nutcracker at Danbury Mission** Arrnstrong Family

**Vita Bella £25 meal voucher**

**Cream tea for 2**

**Childs long rein riding lesson**

**Family Photo shoot and photo**

**One Month Gym Membership**

sponsored by E J Coombes Solicitors, Danbury

courtesy of KellyBronze Turkeys, Bicknacre

donated by Natalie Westthorp

Five Guys Restaurant, Chelmsford

Woodland Montessori, Danbury

Marsh Farm, South Woodham Ferrers

Vita Bella, East Hanningfield

Frenchy's Tearooms, Danbury

Chelmsford Equestrian Centre, Galleywood

Barratt & Coe, Coggleshall

Danbury Sports & Social Club

**Class Hampers** - Class Reps are co-ordinating the donations of items for our class hamper raffle. Please contact your class rep for more information. If you have a suitable container for the hamper or would like to wrap up the one from class please let your rep know.

**Have a lovely weekend. The DPSA**



## Owl's Barn School Meals

### Week commencing Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November

<b>Week 2 MONDAY</b>	Pasta Carbonara or Vegetarian Carbonara (V)	Homemade Fresh Bread Mixed Vegetables Carrot Sticks Green Salad	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Cornflake Tart and Custard Organic Fruit Yoghurt Selection of Fresh Fruit
TUESDAY	Homemade Spaghetti Bolognese or Quorn Bolognese (V)	Garlic Bread Sweetcorn Peas Green Salad	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Giant Cookie with Fruit Wedge Organic Fruit Yoghurt Selection of Fresh Fruit
WEDNESDAY	Local Butchers Roast Gammon served with Yorkshire pudding and gravy or Cheesy Stack Wrap (V)	Roast Potatoes Freshly sliced carrots Whole Green Beans Green Salad	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Strawberry Fruit Jelly Organic Fruit Yoghurt Selection of Fresh Fruit
THURSDAY	Kentucky Chicken Drumsticks or Macaroni Cheese (v)	White and Wholegrain Rice Broccoli, Sweetcorn Green Salad Chips Baked Beans Peas	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Jam Tart and Custard Organic Fruit Yoghurt Selection of Fresh Fruit
FRIDAY	Local Butchers Beefburger in a Floured Bap or Vegetable Burger in a Floured Bap (v)	Chips Baked Beans Peas Cucumber	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Chocolate Rice Crispy Cake Organic Fruit Yoghurt Selection of Fresh Fruit

## Dates for the Diary

### Week beginning 26<sup>th</sup> November 2018

#### School Assessment Week

<b>Mon 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Year 6 Bikeability</b>
<b>Tues 27<sup>th</sup></b> <b>All day</b>	<b>Class Flamingo Castle Making Day</b>
<b>Weds 28<sup>th</sup></b> <b>12.30pm</b>	<b>School Council Meeting</b>
<b>Thurs 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Year 6 Bikeability</b>
<b>Fri 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Class Eider Viking Day</b>

Full term dates for this academic year 2018-19  
and for next, 2019-20 are available on the school website.

Yours sincerely,

Carol Gooding  
Headteacher

# Danbury Park Community Primary School

## Dates for Autumn Term 2018

Date	Time	Event
<b>November</b>		
Week beg 26 <sup>th</sup> Nov		End of Term Assessment Week
30 <sup>th</sup>		Class Eider Viking day
<b>December</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup>	2.00 – 4.00pm	DPSA Christmas Fayre
6 <sup>th</sup>		Flu Immunisation
8 <sup>th</sup>		St John's Church Christmas Tree Festival
12 <sup>th</sup>		Christmas Lunch Wear a Christmas jumper to school day
13 <sup>th</sup>	12.00pm	Christmas Concert at The Mission
14 <sup>th</sup>	Tbc	Christmas Performance Dress Rehearsals
17 <sup>th</sup>	Tbc	Filming of Christmas plays
18 <sup>th</sup>	2.15pm & 6.00pm	EYFS & KS1 Christmas Performance
19 <sup>th</sup>	1.45pm & 6.30pm	KS2 Christmas Performance
20 <sup>th</sup>	9.10am	Celebration Assembly
	Pm	Christmas Parties for all classes
		Last day of term for pupils

<b>Spring Term 2018</b>		
12 <sup>th</sup> February	3.40 – 6.10pm	Parent Consultations – all classes
14 <sup>th</sup> February	6.00 – 8.30pm	Parent Consultations – all classes