

# Danbury Park Community Primary School

*Be wise, be happy, belong!*

## Newsletter



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

**24<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

Dear Parents and Children,

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

**Alex S – Topaz**

**Fern D - Topaz**

*Certificates will be presented when we return to school.*

### Keeping in Touch

As ever I hope that this newsletter finds you and your families well.

Although the Easter break was not the same this year, and I know many of you kept your new routines going with your children, I hope that you did find some time as a family to enjoy the wonderful weather and to relax.

Although school continued to open over the Easter break for those children of critical key workers, the Summer Term officially started on Monday and school is settling into new routines. Each day we have on average four children to care for and they are enjoying their daily Joe Wicks work-out, completing the learning tasks set by their class teachers and then having some time to pursue their own choice of activities. We ensure that they have play and lunchtime breaks but it is challenging operating under social distancing regulations, when it's just not in the children's or teaching staff's nature.

You will have seen from Clare Kershaw's, ECC Director of Education, letters which I forward to you that we have no idea of when schools will re-open, so from optimistically thinking the closure would be for four weeks, we are now looking longer term. The teachers are mastering Google Classrooms and we are trying new ideas such as Class Hummingbird's and Jay's Phonics sessions. The teachers are keen to ensure that they are providing you with lots of work for the children but we know that for most of you this is a whole new ball game and that you are often juggling your children with working from home yourselves. **Please do not think we are expecting the children to complete everything we send home.** All we want is for you to have activities for them to do. We have to make the best of the situation we are in. Academic achievement can be made up. Our priority is protecting everyone and keeping them as safe as we can from this awful virus.

You will also have read in Clare Kershaw's letters about schools keeping in touch with families. Lots of you have been contacting the class teachers and we are impressed by the children's responses. To help us manage this responsibility, we would ask that once a week, you send your children's class teachers a brief e-mail to say that you are okay or ask for help if you need it. Some of you will already be in regular contact with Mrs Trussell and with the school office but if we don't hear from you, please don't be offended if we phone just to see if there is anything we can do to help. For anything urgent or more serious, please phone the school office. It is manned from 8.30am – 4.00pm every week day and a senior member of staff will be on duty and able to help. We are here to support you!

**Please stay safe and support each other.**

## Poetry Competition

Mrs Anstee, one of our Learning Support Assistants, who works across the school, and is a member of Danbury Parish Council, is a published author. She has shared her work with children in school and she regularly contributes to the local *Danbury Contact* magazine.

She sent them one of her poems to try to brighten these days. The magazine printed her poem and have now launched their own poetry competition. We thought that the children, and perhaps parents, might like to get involved. It could be about the current situation but could also reflect a special interest, place or nature.

If you do send *Danbury Contact* (details below) a poem, please also send it to your children's class teacher and then we will print them off and compile a book of poems written during this time.

### Sea of Enchantment

By Linda Anstee

Beneath strong arms of woodland giants,  
Twisting, tapering, snagging fine silk,  
A sparkly sea sways with swoony sensuality,  
Lapping at rugged, fissured giants' feet.

Bewitched by the bluebells' floaty dance,  
Now be dazzled with starry magic:  
Gleaming galaxies of snowy anemones,  
Showered lavishly from faraway heavens.

Hint of honey on a soothing breeze,  
Star-spangled, shining sea calming,  
Peacock wings rest like a withered leaf  
Discarded by past winter's canopy.

Like an unfurling, gloriously-bright bloom,  
The butterfly spirals in nature's spotlights.  
Simply gaze into elegant, unblinking eyes,  
Which are blind to the beauty abound.

A sea of enchantment sweeps you away;  
Be drawn by its tide of tranquillity.  
Sail freely and lightly under its spell  
Never once looking back to the shore.

And back in life's wearisome, relentless race,  
When darkness preys upon troubled mind,  
Inspire an inward eye to seek sanctuary:  
Sail blissfully again this timeless sea.

© Linda Anstee

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Many thanks to Linda Anstee for sharing her poem, inspired by springtime – and guaranteed to take your mind off the current situation. Why not have a try at writing your own poem? Try an acrostic, a shape poem, a limerick, a haiku or another of your choice. Prizes will be awarded for the best entries.



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Editors: Jessica Walton and Mary Huntington; Treasurer: Alan Hegner. Contact via [danburycontact@gmail.com](mailto:danburycontact@gmail.com) and [danburycontact.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:danburycontact.treasurer@gmail.com) respectively. Church representatives: David Whiteing (URC) ; John Thompson (Mission); Sean O'Byrne (RC); Caroline Lambert (St. John's). Printed by e-digiprint.com. Please do not reproduce articles without permission.

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## Essex Library Services

We have been asked to pass on the following message which we hope will be useful in helping with reading:

*Essex Library Services are bringing our popular rhymetimes, story times and crafts online with videos featuring our library stars from across Essex. Families can enjoy sharing stories, join in with actions and sing along to favourite nursery rhymes, and be inspired to build, craft and create. We'll share these children's videos on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) throughout the week. You'll find links to any [rhymetime and story time](#) or any [craft time](#) you may have missed on our website. For more information [read the full story on our website](#).*

## Waste Management Project

Although schools are not functioning as normal at this moment in time, we are still liaising with Essex County Council regarding our project to make the school more energy efficient and sustainable.

Over the coming weeks, contractors will be on site to start the next phase of installing gas into the school and decommissioning the old oil fuelled boiler.

We also have contractors coming in to carry out a survey of the roof to establish the feasibility of installing solar panels. This is part of a wider scale project funded through ECC.

Mr Lawday, the school caretaker, is spending his time carrying out outstanding maintenance including clearing out the drains to improve the efficiency of the new system, although let's hope that we do not have the prolonged rains again that we had in February and March, which caused so many problem nationwide!

When the children return, we can then look again at our use of plastic in school and how we can make more use of recycling.

More details soon!

## Early Years Update

This week the Early Years team had a special zoom meeting to welcome back Miss Bridge, who is getting ready for her return in June and to talk about how we can best make use of the current situation. We are working on plans for the induction of our new entrants ready for September, so that even if they can't visit, we can show and tell them what school is all about. Letters went out to all new parents today with more information.

We are also using this time to rejuvenate the EYFS outdoor area. Mrs Crouch, Miss Bridge, Mrs Thirkettle, Mrs Thakkar, Mrs Anstee and Miss Johnson have been busy researching lots of idea. In the spirit of becoming a responsible school we have been thinking about different ways of reusing and recycling. We have come across lots of ideas for making outdoor resources using wooden pallets and we are looking for families, including grandparents, who might be bored at this time but have the skills to make items such as those below:



At this time, you may also be tidying your houses and gardens, please hold on to any toys that you think we could use but also fabrics and craft materials. We are particularly looking for some fabric (maybe old curtains) to recover some little chairs and some herbs and plants to create a sensory garden.

More details to come next week but please get thinking about if and how you could help.

## Safeguarding

The THINKUKNOW website has been updated with more support for families. As the children are probably using more technology and going online more frequently, it is important that parents regularly talk about how children should keep themselves safe and what to do if they feel unhappy about anything.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>



Now that we have launched Google Classrooms, please remind the children about the Acceptable Use Agreement that is signed when children start Danbury Park School. A copy is included at the bottom of this newsletter. Please note that this is scheduled for review and update this term.

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

## Danbury Food Bank

We have been informed that there is now a Food Bank operating in Danbury organised jointly by The Mission and the Danbury Coronavirus Volunteer group. The Food Bank is available to anyone who is currently struggling and families do not need any "official" referral. Donations have generously been made by local residents and businesses.

Anyone can use this facility and it will be in the strictest confidence. Just phone the Danbury Coronavirus Volunteer Helpline, who will pass on details to the Food Bank on 07395 904761 or 07752 261274.

Yours sincerely












Carol Gooding  
Headteacher

# **Danbury Park Community Primary School**

## **Acceptable Use of the Internet Agreement and eSafety Rules**

ICT including the internet, e-mail and mobile technologies, etc has become an important part of learning in our school. We expect all children to be safe and responsible when using any ICT.

If you have any concerns or would like some explanation please contact the Headteacher.  
This Acceptable Use Agreement is a summary of our eSafety Policy which is available from the School.

-  I will only use ICT in school for school purposes.
-  I will only use my class e-mail address or my own school e-mail address when e-mailing.
-  I will only open e-mail attachments from people I know, or who my teacher has approved.
-  I will not tell other people my ICT passwords.
-  I will only open/delete my own files.
-  I will make sure that all ICT contact with other children and adults is responsible, polite and sensible.
-  I will not deliberately look for, save or send anything that could be unpleasant or nasty. If I accidentally find anything like this I will tell my teacher immediately.
-  I will not give out my own details such as my name, phone number or home address.
-  I will not arrange to meet someone unless this is part of a school project approved by my teacher and a responsible adult comes with me.
-  I will be responsible for my behaviour when using ICT because I know that these rules are to keep me safe.
-  I know that my use of ICT can be checked and that my parent/carer contacted if a member of school staff is concerned about my eSafety.