

Danbury Park Community Primary School

Be wise, be happy, belong!

Newsletter



Website: www.danburypark.essex.sch.uk

3rd April 2020

Dear Parents,

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

Harry A - **Gold**

Lydia A - **Silver**

Perteet G - **Bronze**

Lucy H - **Bronze**

Certificates will be presented when we return to school.

Easter Break

Despite settling into a new routine over the past two weeks, this situation still feels very strange. Today we should have broken up for the Easter break when we traditionally would have looked forward to spending time with our extended families and friends sharing special meals and Easter eggs and looking forward to day trips out. This year life will be very different but I still hope that you will have time to switch off from work (adults) and learning (children) and be able to spend some time playing together in the spring sunshine in the garden.

Here at school we still want to support the families of our critical key workers who will probably not get the opportunity for a break. We are continuing to stay open by splitting into two teams: Team A will cover the first two weeks in April and Team B the second two weeks. In this way all staff will get some well-deserved rest time to spend with their own families after what has been a long and demanding term.

This means that we will not officially be setting any work for the children to do over what would have been the Easter break. The teachers will be preparing resources for what would have been the Summer Term and these will be coming out to you in time for school set learning to start again on Monday 20th April. Miss Johnston has told me that some parents of our infant children have been enquiring about borrowing school reading books but we regret that we cannot open the school as a library as this goes against government guidance and risks spreading the infection between households.

During what would have been the Easter break, Team A, which is led by Miss Johnston, Mrs Ireland, Mrs Hill, Mrs Eveleigh and Mrs Booth supported by our learning support assistants and the office staff, will continue to check their class e-mails and respond, whilst all other classes will take a break. This does mean that Team A will then need to take their break during the fortnight beginning 20th April whilst the other classes resume communications. We know that this is not ideal but these are unprecedented times that call for flexibility and understanding. We are doing our best to support all our families and staff in unfamiliar and challenging circumstances. In an emergency parents can always use the admin e-mail or telephone the school office and these messages will be passed onto the senior leadership team.

The school has adopted a new Home School Agreement to cover this difficult time which we would ask everyone to abide by and this is included at the end of the newsletter.

Please stay safe and support each other.

Family Ideas for Easter

From Chelsea FC in the community.

The Easter Soccer Schools may have been cancelled due to Government guidelines surrounding the coronavirus pandemic but Chelsea FC will instead be running Virtual Soccer Schools for budding young footballers.

In a first for the Chelsea Foundation they will be offering online sessions for boys and girls aged 4 to 14 throughout the traditional Easter holidays.

Starting on Monday this unique experience brings their coaches directly to families with special videos from their Foundation coaches available on a daily basis for families to access and take part in whenever, and wherever they can.

No space? No problem. The sessions are specially designed for the home. All you'll need is a ball and a device with the internet to watch the videos. No special football equipment required!

All sessions are available **FREE** of charge, to book please click the link below:

https://mail.gbhs.co.uk/owa/cssp@gbhs.co.uk/redir.aspx?C=4N7CrdhABV_JyheEVtUozubD65XeGVQell63tmjICRgtsi9M4NbXCA..&URL=https%3a%2f%2fwww.chelseasoccerschools.co.uk%2fsoccerschools%2fcourses%2fcourses.htm%3fcoursesSearch%3dsearch%26groupId%3d%26regionId%3d%26ageFrom%3d%26ageTo%3d%26startDate%3d%26clientCode%3dVSS-02-HO-1

Online Resilience Course for Parents

Helping Children Thrive at Home



The charity, Bounce Forward are holding regular sessions for parents to build vital skills to help their children be more resilient during this uncertain time. Each hour-long session will be hosted by Lucy Bailey - Chief Executive Officer & Co-founder of Bounce Forward, with the content based on the science of resilience.

Session Topics

- Session 1: Introduction to resilient parenting
- Session 2: Optimism during uncertainty
- Session 3: Developing mental muscle
- Session 4: Compassionate communication
- Session 5: Mindsets and energy
- Session 6: Parenting to strengths

The first session is **free**, with the next five available at a nominal fee of £10 to support the charity.

Full details are available on the school website.

Teachers are regularly sending out e-mails with ideas for families and there is a wealth of information on the internet, a lot of which has been made free to parents. If you find something useful, share it and let another family know!

Book Week

Design Technology

The displays round the school look great and we wanted to share these with you as it may be quite some time before you will be able to see them in person. Ask your child about them and let them celebrate their achievements. Over the next few weeks, we will focus in on a couple at a time and explain more about what the children were doing.

Handa's Noisy Night Class Goldfinch

In Class Goldfinch the children took the story of *Handa's Noisy Night*. This is a story that is part of a series and has predictability and pattern which young children love. We want the children to build up their repertoire of stories that they enjoy and return to time and time again. This helps them develop a strong sense of story telling and construction so that they know without thinking that all good stories need a beginning, a middle and an end. From this we can then teach them how to tell and write their own stories and introduce more complex structure.



For our Design Technology aspect, the children made hand puppets. They sewed blanket stitch to join the fabric and then glued on features to bring their characters alive.

The Paper Bag Princess Class Hummingbird

The children in Class Hummingbird took *The Paper Bag Princess*, a favourite story, as their inspiration. They wrote riddles using a range of adjectives to describe a character without naming them. The children then had to guess who the riddle was about.

For Design Technology the children designed and made finger puppets representing the characters in the story. These were more fiddly than hand puppets so were joined using glue. Adding the features took a lot of patience and fine motor control skills.



COVID-19

There have been no new updates affecting schools this week apart from the Home School Agreement and arrangements for the Easter break. School will be open over the Easter break to children of parents who are critical key workers and where there is no parent working from home or any other alternative childcare available.

Any new documents will be uploaded to the school's website.

Safeguarding

The school nursing team has asked us to share some concerns about the dangers of children and young people using the *Houseparty* app whilst they are at home during this difficult time. The 2 Johns, who most of you know from delivering online safety sessions in school two years ago, have shared on their facebook page and website concerns with the app:

<https://www.esafetytraining.org/>



This term you should have received the Vodafone's *Digital Parenting* magazine.

They have recently created a new online safety resource – The Digital Family Pledge. It is a free online tool to help families (parents included!) set good digital habits.

The Pledge covers four important topics: screen time, online bullying, social media, and gaming – and using a series of quiz like questions prompts families to discuss and agree some rules on how to use tech and act online. The information is tailored for children 5-13 years.

The Pledge is available at www.vodafone.co.uk/familypledge and is best completed on a mobile or tablet and together, as a family.

Let's work together to keep the children safe!

Yours sincerely

Carol Gooding
Headteacher

Danbury Park Community Primary School

Home School Agreement:

COVID-19 – Maintaining Educational Provision for children of Critical Workers and vulnerable children

The School's Role:

Schools are remaining open only to vulnerable children and the children of workers deemed critical to the ongoing management of Covid-19 that are unable to safely stay at home. The school will provide a place, during periods directed by the Government, for children who fit this criterion. The school reserves the right to question parents'/carers' eligibility for critical worker status and, in order to ensure that the number of children and young people accessing the offer of provision in the school is kept to the lowest number possible, will explore with you whether your child/ren can remain at home rather than attend school, on some or all days.

All normal and usual education activity has been suspended during this emergency period; the school will provide activities in order to supervise pupils.

The school will ensure there is adequate opportunity for physical activity and access to outdoor spaces where possible, taking on board the social distancing guidance issued to schools.

The school will continue to work closely with the Local Authority and the Headteacher Associations in order to offer a consistent and safe response to the current crisis. The health and safety of your child/ren is everyone's first priority and the school will act in accordance at all times with current Government guidance on hygiene (including cleaning) and social distancing.

The schools will provide food/vouchers for children eligible for Free School Meals.

The school will do all it can to accommodate eligible children and accepts that at times pupils will display challenging behaviour. In the event that schools feel this behaviour is too challenging, having made reasonable adjustments, they will seek advice from the Local Authority. Only as a final resort will the school inform the parent/carer that maintaining a place for the pupil during the emergency period has become untenable and that the parent/carer must make alternative arrangements for their supervision.

Where a pupil has an EHCP, the school will work with other partners to fulfil as many of the requirements of the EHCP as possible.

The school will continue to follow its existing policies on safeguarding arrangements and any concerns will be responded to in the usual way.

The Parent/Carer Role:

Parents/carers will adhere to Government and Local Authority guidance, in relation to critical worker status and vulnerable pupil eligibility and ensure that they only take up a school place when it is absolutely necessary to undertake their critical role in the COVID-19 emergency response.

Parents/carers understand that all normal and usual education activity has been suspended and will be supportive of the school, which may be operating with limited resources and staff.

Parents/carers will ensure their child/ren has food and drink for the duration of their time in school, unless they are eligible for Free School Meals.

Parents/carers will respect the decisions of schools in respect of the provision provided during this emergency period.

Parents/carers must abide with all hygiene regulations put in place by the school and instructions put in place for the dropping off and collection of children.

If parents/carers have concerns about their child/ren's mental health they must make the school aware so that appropriate measures can be put in place.

The Pupil's Role:

Pupils should demonstrate respectful behaviour towards others, showing self-discipline and responsibility for any consequences of their actions.

Pupils should attend at times agreed between the parent/carer and the school and engage in all planned activities.

Pupils must abide by the school's rules on the use of ICT equipment and mobile phones to prevent pupils harassing others, obtaining indecent images or any other improper use of electronic forms of communication.

Pupils must abide by all hygiene regulations put in place by the school relating to washing and the use of equipment and distance from each other where possible following the guidelines issued to schools.