

# Danbury Park Community Primary School

*Be wise, be happy, belong!*

## Newsletter



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

**15<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

Dear Parents and Children,

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

**Poppy R - Topaz**

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

The teachers in the junior classes are keen to keep the Reading Challenge operating so if you think you have read enough books within your band, have kept your Reading Journal up-to-date and feel that you would be ready for the next level, please let your teacher know and she will check with you. We know that this means you may have read books other than ones we have in school but as long as they have been suitably challenging material, we will understand and take them into account. Let's see if we can keep the awards coming!

### Weekly Update

This has been a very busy week in school following the Prime Minister's announcement last Sunday that if the country meets the government's five tests, schools will start to re-open as of 1<sup>st</sup> June for those children in Years R, 1 and 6 as well as providing childcare for the families of critical key workers where they have no alternative. As you can imagine this has caused a great deal of preparatory work and we are trying to consider ways in which we can make this happen whilst keeping the children and staff safe and operating within the guidance. We are still working on different scenarios but this will inevitably involve the redeployment of staff and modifying what we can provide in terms of online learning for those children still at home. The one certain thing is that teaching in school will not follow our normal routines, timetables or practices! I have include a letter from Clare Kershaw, Director of Education for Essex, at the bottom of this newsletter.

Thank you to all the parents of children in Reception and Years 1 and 6 for completing the survey sent out on Tuesday. I know that, understandably, you have many questions about school re-opening and that the answers to these may affect your decision. The number of children likely to be in school affects our scenarios as we need to keep the groups to under 15 children but probably even less because of the size of the rooms. At the beginning of next week, we will share with you our plans which I hope will help you.

I would like to take some time to thank our teachers for the fantastic job that they have been doing in providing learning resources and activities for the children. I know how much they would like to have normality restored and be with their classes in person. That interaction between teacher and pupil is so special and at primary age when a young child suddenly grasps a new concept (a "light bulb" moment), it is a privilege to witness. Behind the scenes the teachers are planning work, responding to the children on Google Classrooms, phoning families and proving pastoral support as well as coming in to supervise the children in school. They are missing the fruition of the academic year when they know the children very well and can see how much they have matured and progressed since September. They, like our supportive teaching assistants and admin staff, have gone above and beyond during this challenging time and I know how much you also appreciate this.

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

## Class News from Budgerigar

Each week Mrs Marsland is compiling a weekly round-up called *Budgie News* of what the children in Class Budgerigar have been doing. She then shares this with all the children. Here are some excerpts from last week's edition:

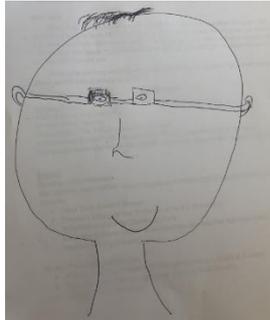
### Self Portrait Challenge and Answers

The challenge was to draw a self portrait with your eyes shut.

1



2



3



4



5



### Answers

1. Christopher
2. Beau
3. Ollie
4. Mrs Marsland
5. Harry A

Fred has sent in some excellent science, which included a full write up of his investigation as well as photos. Super Science Fred.

We've Got the water cycle in a bag

**Equipment:** sealable plastic sandwich bag, permanent marker, tap water, blue ink, and window with exposure to sunshine

**My Prediction**  
The sun is going to heat the bag causing the water to evaporate then condensation then precipitation.

**Method**  
We drew the water cycle on the bag and filled approximately 1/4 of the bag with water. Including the ink we taped the sealed bag onto a window.

**Results**  
After a day the water had evaporated causing water vapor.

**Conclusion**  
The sun heated the bag causing water vapor causing evaporation, condensation and precipitation.

Drawing of the Investigation

**Results**  
The sun heated the compost and the caused Evaporation. The water evaporates by heat causing condensation on top of the cup. Then the water got too heavy it fell and caused precipitation.

**Reflection**  
on reflection my prediction wasn't right. We can make a water cycle.



Lydia wrote a recount of her den building in her garden and, hopefully, she will be able to update us with some photos at some point.

I have been in my garden a lot recently, we have a slanted tree in the corner.  
My mum was chopping the Christmas tree down for fire-wood, I asked my mum if I could have the big branches from the tree, and the leaves.  
And the answer was a yes!  
I also spotted a wooden windowsill in the shed.  
And I could have that too!  
Firstly, for making my den, I laid the windowsill across the ground from one end of the slanted tree to, not quite the other side, but near it.  
I noticed that there was a long hole in the top of the windowsill.  
Secondly, I put the Christmas tree leaves in the hole, working my way up, which was by threading the leaves through each other.  
Since it was a bit unsteady at the front of my den, I put a long bit of wood down from the unsteady bit up to a part on the tree.  
Next, my mum helped me to tie some sticks to the tree so I could put more Christmas tree leaves up without them blowing over, I thanked my mum for that, but.  
I had a different idea.  
I climbed the tree to where some of the leaves were everywhere.  
And when I say everywhere I mean everywhere.  
So.  
What I did was wrap them around each other to make an arch at the very top.  
I climbed back down, by the time I did all of that, my mum had finished cutting the Christmas tree.  
I took the biggest, and a medium sized bit of the tree, put the big bit on the floor outside my den, and the medium bit at the back of the tree.  
I used a big pair of loppers to cut off the sharp bits on the remaining part of the Christmas tree.  
I put the tree along the part that you face when you enter.  
My mum was pulling up weeds that smelt amazing! I took them and placed them at the side of my den.  
Now my den smelt amazing!  
My mum had a plastic sheet that she didn't want anymore.  
I got that and put it above the entrance.  
I saved my big idea for last.  
That's because I haven't done it yet.  
So I'm going to explain it.  
The leaves from the slanted tree are growing.  
I'm waiting for them to grow more so that I can wrap them around the sticks and branches that I don't tread on!  
That is all about my den so far!



Well done Class Budgerigar. Super effort and work!

Each week we will try to feature a little something from each class so that we can all find out about the fantastic work going on at home.

**Keep up the great job you are all doing!**

## Keeping in Touch with our Community

Thank you for the drawings, cards and letters that have now started to come through to brighten the day of people in our community who are self-isolating or living alone. We will make sure that they are distributed in the village and pass on any responses.

Please keep them coming in. These can be done on the computer or by hand and then either e-mailed to the school ([admin@danburypark.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@danburypark.essex.sch.uk)) and we will print them off or left at the school office in a dedicated box. The children could do this independently to give you a rest! To safeguard the children we would encourage them to use the school's address if writing a letter and only give their first name and class and also not to give away personal details. A member of staff will check the cards and letters before passing them onto the Volunteer Group for distribution.

We want to show how caring and considerate everyone at Danbury Park School is!

## Early Years Update

This week the teachers and learning support assistants from Classes J and H, along with Miss Johnston and myself, enjoyed a busy few hours clearing the EYFS area. We cut back the overhanging branches from trees, swept the entire area and gave the toys and resources a thorough clean. We are now ready to start re-zoning the spaces.

To fund some of the infrastructure, we are using money raised from the School Lottery. Since October when we launched the scheme, we have raised £545.20. The Lottery is still open so if you want to join in, we would be grateful. There are additional prizes on offer as well! Just use the link below:

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/danbury-park-community-primary-school>



At this time, you may be tidying your houses and gardens, please hold on to any Lego, cars, construction and small world 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 in the infant library area and some herbs and plants for the sensory garden.

Donations can be left at the front of the school at any time but the office is open from 8.30am to 4.00pm every week day.

## Useful Resources

We have been asked to pass on a message from **Essex Community and Family Learning Team**:

*If you would like to connect with other parents on one of our LIVE virtual classrooms then check:*

<https://aclessex.com/community-family-learning-online/>

## Mental Health and Well-being

For some children the enormity of this crisis is going to be difficult for them and you as parents to manage. Below are some ideas of how you can support your children.

### Top Tips for Parents

Talk to your children about what is happening and reassure them. They need to feel safe and secure in order to learn. And they need plenty of opportunities to talk, listen and play.

Establishing a routine is very important – but don't make it too rigorous. Make it about actions rather than time. Getting up slightly later is ok as long as children get dressed, have breakfast and clean their teeth, for example. And build in plenty of breaks – this is about fulfilling your child's needs and your own. Find something you want to do and build in self-care, downtime and a bit of boredom. It is that element of nothingness which enables creativity.

Have someone to talk to – connect with people. It is more important than ever before: whether on the phone, text, *WhatsApp* or *Facetime*, that connection will keep you sane and grounded – and give you some perspective on things that went well or badly.

Exercise – whatever that looks like, it will make you feel better.

Don't be too hard on yourself. Some days are better than others but try to look at it as a whole. Don't have unrealistic expectations of yourself or others – and give people time when they need it. It is more exhausting being at home and doing stuff online.

Try to change your mind set from thinking about all the things you can't do, to the opportunities that you do have – from tidying that cupboard, reading that book, to painting a mural on the fence. Small, achievable targets give satisfaction – and that is something to consider with homework. Think about the attention span of the child involved – 10 to 15 minutes of Maths is achievable. A prolonged period may not be. Even as adults we only tend to work in 30-minute bursts.

Try to separate the work space from the 'chill' space but remember learning is not just about English and maths – everyday life and its challenges can be a learning experience. Cooking, gardening or playing games for example, are all fun ways to learn – and can be used to develop key skills like reading, tables and division. The biggest learning curve for children can be having to wait for things. Having to plan and think a bit more and finding that not everything can be immediate is a great learning experience. Why not have discussions every so often around what they think they have learnt this week – and encourage children to keep a 'lockdown scrapbook' (perhaps online) to write about their activities? For older children you may just need to be a sounding board – in order to help them crystallise their project work, for example. Remember you don't need to solve their problems – you just have to listen. And encourage your teenagers to have conversations about things like the effect of the crisis on the economy going forward.

<https://courses.aclessex.com/AvailableCoursesList.Asp?COL=NameDisplay&SRT=ASC>

### Little Havens

Little Havens would like to offer families the use of their garden if this would help to meet a need in a time of crisis or will help de-escalate a situation that can be improved by spending some time away from the family home.

The government has produced advice for parents on [COVID-19: guidance on supporting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing](#) and also an information leaflet on [Covid-19 - an easy read - looking after your feelings and body](#) which you may find useful.

## Community News

You may be aware that there is a consultation regarding the building of the Nuclear Power Station at Bradwell. We have been given these notices which we understand have been put through doors of houses in the village. Please check the details and have your say as we believe that this will involve additional traffic through the village and therefore impact on our school:



**DANBURY PARISH COUNCIL**  
Proposals for the Construction of a New Nuclear Power Station at Bradwell - Public Consultation on Pre-Application Stage

The Parish Council will respond to this consultation and needs to hear your views (both positive and negative)

**by - 31 May 2020**  
on the proposals for:

- Design and environment
- People and jobs
- Accommodation for workers
- Transport for freight and workers

Transport proposals being considered include the A414 through Danbury at the early stages of construction.

A virtual exhibition and information explaining the proposals and how to respond to the consultation is available here: <https://bradwellb.co.uk/>

If you have any queries advice is also available by calling Planning Aid England on - 030 1400 9044

Please respond to [parish.council@danbury-parish.gov.uk](mailto:parish.council@danbury-parish.gov.uk) or by post to Danbury Parish Council, Main Road, Danbury, CM3 8NG.

If you are unable to access the post box, please contact the Danbury Coronavirus Volunteer Group to arrange collection.

Public consultation ends on 3 July. If you do make a response directly, the Parish Council would appreciate a copy so that your views can be considered in the next stages of the consultation process.

**DANBURY PARISH COUNCIL**

Points to bear in mind when considering responses:

- The main areas to be considered for Danbury during this pre application stage consultation are Sections 4 and 5 of the Consultation Documentation available at <http://bradwellb.co.uk>
- Construction will take around 12 years to complete and start in approximately 2023 - providing there are no delays
- The construction site will be around 10 times the size of the current Bradwell Power station site and will involve up to 10,500 workers during the construction period with around 900 permanent jobs on completion
- There will be significant implications for increased HGV and other traffic movements along the A414 through Danbury for at least the early construction period of 1-3 years
- It is not clear whether traffic movements and volume through Danbury will change during the remainder of construction period
- The effect on the environment needs to be considered - the potential increase in pollution, noise and vibration levels as well as effects on the highways in terms of wear and tear....etc
- There may be job opportunities as a result particularly within transport, construction, technology and hospitality

Danbury Parish Council has a long standing policy on the provision of a bypass from Heybridge Approaches, Maldon across country by passing the villages of Ulting, Langford and Hatfield Peverel to a dedicated junction onto the A12 - this bypass would become the A414 enabling the current road to be downgraded to a B Road. This policy will form part of the Parish Councils response to the consultation

**DEADLINE FOR RESPONSES TO THE PARISH COUNCIL - 31 MAY 2020**

By submitting your views to Danbury Parish Council, you are agreeing to them being summarised and collated into a response. Responses will not be attributable to any one individual. Your personal information will only be used in relation to this consultation and will be stored in accordance with the Danbury Parish Council Retention Scheme.

## 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 revised copy is included at the bottom of this newsletter. Please note that this is scheduled for review and update this term.

**Advance Notice: We have rescheduled the 2 Johns workshops for the children and parents for 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021.**

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

## Reminders

**Poetry Competition** – please send entries to Jessica Walton and Mary Huntingdon at [danburycontact@gmail.com](mailto:danburycontact@gmail.com) and remember to send one to the school and your teacher for the newsletter.

**Essex Library Services** – online activities include *rhymetimes*, *story times* and *crafts times*. Please see their *website for details*.

**Danbury Food Bank** - The Danbury Food Bank organised jointly by The Mission and the Danbury Coronavirus Volunteer group 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

Dear Parent / Carer,

## **Coronavirus (Covid-19) Update – Phased Reopening of Schools**

Firstly, I want to thank you once again for your contribution to the national response to the Coronavirus pandemic. For the majority of you, being at home with your child(ren) and supporting their continued learning, alongside your own work and wellbeing, is a significant challenge in what are both unprecedented and worrying times. However, we do know that this action has helped to reduce the spread of the virus and is helping to save lives.

I am sure that many of you will have watched the Prime Minister's address to the nation on Sunday evening and read subsequent details either online or in the media about the plans to begin to re-open schools more widely.

You will have heard the Prime Minister indicating that the government believes that as well as schools being open to the children of critical workers and for vulnerable pupils, it may be in a position to implement a phased re-opening of schools from 1<sup>st</sup> June at the earliest, starting with pupils in nurseries, reception, year one and year six. This will be in addition to accommodating children of critical workers and vulnerable pupils.

Secondary Schools and Alternative Providers are considering their approach to offering some face to face time for pupils and we are working with Special Schools on their plans to gradually increase the number of children and young people on site, again from the 1<sup>st</sup> June at the earliest.

This is part of the government's conditional plan which it says will remain under regular review, which is yet to be finalised and will only happen if the level of new infections continues to decrease and the government's other conditions are met.

We are working with schools to support their plans for a gradual and phased re-opening. Their plans will be guided by a thorough Health and Safety Risk Assessment taking in to account their physical capacity on the school site and staffing levels.

We know that you will understand that the safety of everyone in the school community is paramount. We all want to get more pupils back into school as soon as it is safe to do so. However, in supporting schools to re-open in a phased and gradual way, the first priority to consider will be the health and well-being of all pupils and families and the staff.

Whilst all schools are working hard to respond to the guidance provided by the Department for Education, depending on each individual school context, some primary, infant and junior schools may not be able to offer full time provision for the relevant year groups, and any new arrangements may not be introduced exactly from the 1<sup>st</sup> June. Schools will be writing to parents over the next week to outline the offer and response that they are able to make, which will be based on the health and safety risk assessment that they have been asked to complete.

The guidance made it clear that it is not compulsory for parents to send their children to school at this time and there will be no penalties if you choose to keep your child(ren) at home.

All schools will continue to provide a home learning offer to all pupils not accessing support on site and will also keep in regular touch with the families of all pupils, whether or not they are attending school.

Further information for parents and carers can be found in the attached government guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

If you are the parent of a child with an Education, Health and Care Plan we will also be writing to you in the next week, via your child's school or setting, to update you on the temporary changes made by the government to the SEND legislation and what this means for your child. We will also be sharing this information via the Local Offer and the Essex Family Forum.

I want to assure you that schools are working closely with the Local Authority and the Headteacher Associations in order to offer a consistent and safe response to the proposed plans.

Finally, I would like to reassure you that the health and safety of children and staff remains everyone's first priority during this period.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please do contact your school in the first instance.

Thank you for your continued co-operation at this time.

Kind regards,



Clare Kershaw  
Director of Education

Sent on behalf of:  
Essex County Council  
The Association of Secondary Headteachers in Essex  
Essex Primary Headteacher Association  
Essex Special Schools Education Trust