

Danbury Park Community Primary School

Be wise, be happy, belong!

Newsletter



Website: www.danburypark.essex.sch.uk

22nd May 2020

Dear Parents and Children,

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

Lucy K – **Topaz** William R – **Topaz** Avy S – **Emerald** Henry C – Year 4 Reading Challenge

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

Earlier this week you should have all received a letter with our proposed plans for re-opening on 1st June. I apologise that it was so long but I wanted to give you as much information as I could so that you could make an informed decision. It was quite a challenge but we listened to your concerns about your child possibly being taught by a teacher they do not know and we have tried to make provision for as many children as possible to experience at least some time in school. Today in Reception, Years 1 and 6 you will receive confirmation of which days we are expecting your child in school.

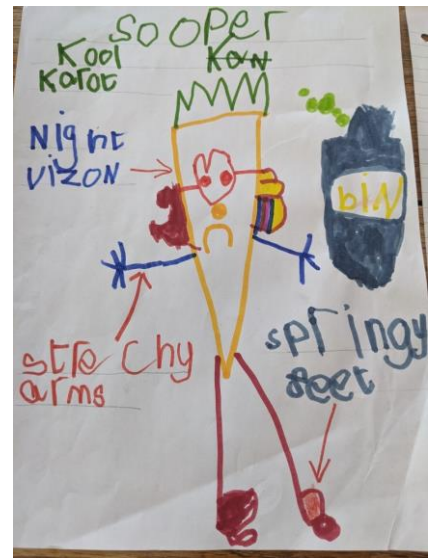
Next week is half-term and school will be closed as the staff try to take a well deserved break. The teachers will not be uploading work, responding to e-mails or making phone calls. Please refrain from sending any work in over this time as this will only create a backlog when we resume on 1st June. The work on replacing the boiler will continue as the contractors attempt to reconnect the hot water system ready for 1st June. We are keeping our fingers crossed that all goes well but **please check your e-mails towards the end of the break and on the Monday morning just in case we or the government decide that we cannot re-open**. If you do not receive a Parentmail from us then please assume we are able to open and the "new normal" is operating. I am sure there will be teething problems but please bear with us. We are looking forward to seeing the children again in their uniforms and ready for school, as long as it is safe to do so. Unfortunately for the time being staff cannot hold face-to-face meetings so please continue to contact your child's class teacher through their class e-mail or the office either by phone or at admin@danburypark.essex.sch.uk

Please let the children have a rest from learning over the half-term. I appreciate how hard it is juggling working from home, teaching the children and family responsibilities so if you can, please relax and enjoy the lovely weather playing in the garden or local park (socially distancing, of course)!

Please stay safe and support each other.

Class News from Class Jay

In class Jay the children have looked at the story *Supertato*. They have made a supertato and thought of their own vegetable super hero. They have made homes for Supertato and printed with vegetables. They have looked at the art work of Giuseppe Arcimboldo and made their own vegetable faces.



Well done, these are great! We're sure the children had fun creating these and eating them afterwards!

Mrs Marsland sent us some interesting facts on Danbury from Fred in her class.



Danbury Country Park

Danbury Country Park is 45 acres in size (22.5 football pitches!). It has gardens, lakes, ancient woodlands and wildflowers meadows.

Danbury Country Park has been in Danbury for 700 years and was created during the reign of King Henry III as a medieval deer park. King Henry III was born at Winchester Castle in Hampshire, England on 1st October 1207.



Henry III was crowned at the age of nine on the 28th October 1216. He was crowned ten days after his Dad (King John) died.

No one knows how King Henry III died. He went to bed and never got up ever again. He was 65 years old when he died.

In Danbury Country Park there are animals including squirrels, ducks and deers (if you are lucky!). Also, there are water birds, owls and bats. (There are over 7 species of bats and owls).



Keeping in Touch with our Community

We have received some lovely responses to the letters, cards and pictures that Mrs Anstee delivered to our community. Mrs Anstee had a lovely telephone call straightaway from a nurse called Alex at St Joseph's Nursing Home who was clearly delighted with the great deal of thought that had gone into everything. She remarked that it was 'just gorgeous' and 'absolutely lovely' plus commenting on the children's beautifully neat handwriting. Alex asked us to pass on her comments in the newsletter to thank the children.

We also received the following message:

Dear lovely children of Danbury Park School.

Thank you so much for the lovely letters and beautiful artwork you sent us. Our residents were absolutely thrilled with it and really enjoyed reading it and looking at it. So many talented young people. We would love to meet you all when we are Covid free.

Kind regards

Denise Hansen

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) 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.

Early Years Update

This week the learning support assistants have been cleaning and repainting whilst teachers have been rather busy planning for re-opening. Work will resume as soon as we have some free time but the whole area is looking so much clearer and better organised!

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.

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 9th June 2021.

Let's work together to keep the children safe!

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 in 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 1460 8040

Please respond to parish.council@danbury-parish.gov.uk or by post to Danbury Parish Council, Main Road, Danbury, DM3 8NQ.

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

Public consultation ends on 31 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 Ulling, 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 Records Scheme.

Reminders

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