

Danbury Park Community Primary School

Be wise, be happy, belong!

Newsletter



Website: www.danburypark.essex.sch.uk

17th July 2020

Dear Parents and Children,

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

Isabelle C – Year 4 Challenge

Sam T – Ruby

Leila C - Ruby

Elena M – Ruby

Ophelia S – Ruby

Isabelle M – Ruby

Well done also to **Joe K** in Class Avocet, who this week completed his **Kryptonite** challenge by analysing William Golding's *Lord of the Flies* and exploring the themes of human nature. He compared this to the more recent *Maze Runner* series and provided a mature and insightful perspective.

Weekly Update

As I write the last newsletter and reflect back on this academic year, I have to admit that I have never experienced such a challenging and difficult time. The year was all going to plan until March ... when we realised as a country that COVID-19 was a very real threat and that we would have to take drastic steps. In the past I have closed schools for a day or two because of gas leaks, lack of heating, lack of electricity but nothing as momentous as this. Optimistically I thought schools would be closed for a period of a month, maybe half a term but I had not envisaged this.

I am proud of the way the staff have stepped up and coped with the ever changing situation as we evolved from providing childcare for the children of critical key workers to resuming face-to-face teaching for some children, whilst maintaining distance learning for others. We were then pleased to be able to offer every child the opportunity to come back into school before the end of the year. Behind the scenes we haven't had a spare moment as we reacted to the steady stream of government and Local Authority guidance to continue to provide for all our children. The kitchen has provided meals; the midday Assistants have supervised lunchbreaks; the office staff have worked tirelessly keeping the school operating and unpicking scheduled events; the premises team have cleaned and cleaned some more! There have been many phone calls to families from teachers, teaching assistants, the office staff and myself to keep in touch and offer support, which we know have been greatly appreciated. The efforts of everyone have been above and beyond!

We would like to thank the children and families for all your support, understanding and appreciation during this time. When I wrote to you in March, I said that we would all need resilience, generosity and optimism and I think that together we have done this.

Today you will have received a letter with details of how we envisage school operating in September. However this may change and we will be in contact again at the end of August with an update. We hope that you have some time to relax over the summer break so that when we return in September we are all refreshed and ready to start anew.

Please stay safe and we will see you in September!

Year 2 Mini-Games

Well done to our Year 2 children who took part in the Chelmsford School Sports Partnership Virtual Mini-Games. This year was different as the schools couldn't get together but the children still competed as a team against other schools in the local area. The children did the events at home and their scores were collated and divided by the number of children that competed. The teachers sent in the results to the partnership.

We had 13 children compete and Danbury Park School won the competition! Well done to Toby, Jacob, Teigi, Jayden, Florence, Olivia, Poppy, Harry Ry, Harry V, Lucy, Marshall, Oscar and Luke, who all received medals.

End of year Arrangements

On Monday 20th July the teachers will send you an e-mail to let the children know who their teacher will be. We are sure that many of them will have worked it out already! The teachers will also be setting their new class a project for the summer holidays, to do if they wish.

On Wednesday 22nd July Google Classrooms will be shut down so that we can move children across to their new classes ready for September, so if you want to download any work for the summer that you haven't quite got round to yet, now is the time to do it! Please note that teachers will not be responding to any class emails during the summer break.

If your child has not been in school this week, their end of year report can be collected from the school office on Monday and Tuesday of next week between the hours of 10.00am and 2.00pm. We regret that we cannot collect topic folders and art work from classrooms at this time. Please do not worry, these items will be kept safe and your child will be able to take them home in September.

This term we usually hold Welcome to Years 1, 2 and 3 meetings so we can share with you how the next year group operates. Unfortunately we still cannot hold large gatherings and we are mindful that parents are probably now feeling overloaded. We will save these events until September when we will hold meetings if we can. Otherwise we will share the information with you either in paper form or electronically.

Summer Holiday Childcare

If any working parents are struggling to find childcare for school aged children over the summer holidays, please contact the Early Years and Childcare team by emailing the Early Years mailbox on Early.Years@essex.gov.uk and the team will support you in finding childcare in your area.

They will also be sharing details of summer holiday activity clubs that will be running over the summer holiday period shortly and we will pass these on when available.

Secondary School Transition

The Chelmsford School Sports Partnership has informed us that they have been in contact with the local secondary schools about creating transition videos for Year 6s. They are aware that the secondary schools have all missed not seeing the year 6s this half term where many of them do induction sessions or event sports camps.

The following schools have come up trumps and their PE departments have put together videos to hopefully help calm any anxiety and to create enthusiasm about the next stage in their schooling. If your child is going to any of the schools listed below, please go to the website. www.chelmsfordssp.com and in Parent Zone you can access the video for the new school:

Sandon
Moulsham

Great Baddow High School
St John Payne

Chelmer Valley High
Beaulieu Park

Boswells

Class Budgerigar's News



English work - a storyboard on the video clip *Mission Impossible* from Morgan.

The Tale of The River

Retold By Emma

For as long as any person remembered, they had lived by the river. It had everything, water for drinking, washing, and for the crops. The river had many fish that were very good to eat. The boats that went down to the local city could get back up to their village easily. Its banks and shallows were a lovely place to play. Everyone's traditions, their stories, songs, and beliefs were centred around the river. Every year they would hold a festival to the river with joyful parties held on brightly lit boats and they danced on the moonlit ripples. "Hooray, hooray" cried the children.

One year the river was lower than they expected, "Each season is different," the old people said, "Our river will NEVER fail," but the river did fail as less water came. "Unless it goes back to normal, we will have to be careful how much water we use for our crops." stated the men and the women joined in, "It tastes more bitter than normal and it is not as clean."

"The river is no longer a good place to play" sighed the children. That year, the festival was a terrible failure, there was not enough water for the carnival boats, and they were scarcely floating. No one shouted hooray and by the next month almost all the water had gone. The children grew sulky, "well what can we do now, let's go and find the source of the river!" shouted one of the children. All the children jumped up, "Yes let's go." and they went to tell their parents. "You have no idea what will happen!" the parents exclaimed. "If the river is still flowing, it will flow here, this is where it belongs. Our stories and songs say so and we say so too."

"We can we at least go and look." retorted the children. At last it was agreed and a great party of children left to find the river that gave them life.

After many days of walking, they crossed a mountain, and met a wonderful sight. "Look!" they cried, "The river came from a waterfall, and a fall of rock has changed its path, making another field bright and full of flowers". Once home, "Good news. The river is flowing in a new direction, so we should follow it."

"But here is our home," protested the parents "and ours too."

"This is where we have always lived and will always live." said their grandparents. Everyone had gathered round, "But we can't live without the river, we must move to wherever the river flows." pleaded a little girl. Eventually everyone agreed and they all went to their new home.



Art work from Ollie based on a research task on the sculptor Barbara Hepworth.



Fred designed a whole new school. He got very excited at the thought of the new development, and included an indoor monkey puzzle climbing area, a cinema, a sweet shop, swimming pools, outdoor golfing and mini golf! He started with web research where he found the Apple HQ and based it around that.

Ben B's new school plans which include tennis courts and a pool!



Goodbyes

At the end of this year we say goodbye to Mr Ian Scott, who has been a school governor for the last twelve year. Mr Scott has been a staunch supporter of the school giving of his time generously. Over the years he has been involved in many projects but most notably in recent times, the project to convert the caretaker's bungalow to additional space for the school. This project was not without complications and hurdles but with his support and tenacity, we prevailed! He has also accompanied classes on school journeys, assisted with Year 6 Sex Education and taken governor responsibility for English, Key Stage 1 and SEND. His contributions will be missed but we will continue to see him around school as he supports his grandchildren.

We also say goodbye and thanks to Mrs Joyce Woodham, who although not a governor for as long as Mr Scott, has also supported the school and shared her expertise.

We also say goodbye to Mrs Christine Pitt, one of our Midday Assistants. We would like to thank her for her support and wish her the best for her retirement.

Safeguarding

The 2 Johns have an excellent website with lots of support and ideas for parents on a wide range of topics. We know the children are online a lot more during this period so please talk to them and find out what they are accessing and remind them how to keep safe. Please take some time to have a look at:

<https://esafetytraining.org/school-closure>

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!

Governors' Newsletter July 2020

Dear Parents,

After a quiet start, this year has proved to be a challenging one for us all so we thought it would be helpful to advise you of how the governing body have supported the Headteacher, staff and pupils over the last few months.

As directed by the Local Authority, DfE and governing body associations, we have concentrated on urgent business (see below), held all meetings via Zoom and kept up to date with all the new directives. In this way we have ensured with the Headteacher the safety and wellbeing of those working in school and the pupils attending, and also the continuity of education for those still at home. We would like to thank all the staff for their selfless and unstinting commitment and hard work, and also to you as parents for your support of our endeavours.

The committees have undertaken the following –

Resources Committee – Mr.Rak Rehal, Chair

From a Resources Committee perspective the key priority for the 2019/20 school year has been to ensure that we have a viable Budget and Business Plan to fully support all aspects of the Curriculum and Infrastructure. In addition, the Committee has supported Health and Safety reviews, Internal Controls and Asset Management processes.

As with the rest of the school we have supported managing the current post COVID-19 environment.

Curriculum and Pupil Related Committee – Mrs. Georgina Clifford-Smith, Chair

At the Curriculum and Pupil related committee meetings that have been held via Zoom in lockdown, governors have heard about the work that teachers have been doing to ensure learning has been able to continue at home. We have been reassured that teachers will be starting where the children are in September, as they have all experienced home learning in a wide variety of ways. I have been extremely impressed at the continued dedication and care that all of the staff at our school have had for the children and their learning in what has been a very difficult time for everyone.

Personnel Committee – Mr.Peter Irvine, Chair

As Child Protection, Health & Safety and the Mental Health and Wellbeing of staff and pupils are of paramount importance, updated policies have been agreed and fully implemented. Both staff and pupils have been supported and all directives regarding arrangements in school for them have been followed rigorously.

We would also like to thank Mr.Ian Scott and Mrs.Joyce Woodham, who have now retired from the governing body, for their commitment and support of the school over a number of years and wish them well in the future.

We are however pleased to welcome Mrs.Deborah Le Monde as a new governor from 1st September.

We hope that you and your families will enjoy a safe and happy holiday.

Brenda Wray,

Chair of Governors

Summer Reading Challenge and Library News

The Summer Reading Challenge theme this year is 'The Silly Squad'.

Here is the link to join in <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>, there are quizzes and printable certificates online.

Please note that Danbury Library is now open.

Mental Health and Well-being

Essex Welfare Service (EWS)

We have been asked to remind parents of the EWS, a service to help vulnerable people in the community in need of support and unable to access it at this time: <https://www.essexwelfareservice.org.uk/>
At this time families are able to 'self-refer' if they are experiencing difficulties

EWS Contact: Call: 0300 303 9988

Email: provide.essexwelfareservice@nhs.net

Website: www.essexwelfareservice.org

Opening hours: Monday to Friday, 8am to 7pm Saturday and Sunday, 10am to 2pm

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.

Support for Families

The school nursing team has asked us to pass on the details of this organisation, which you might find useful.

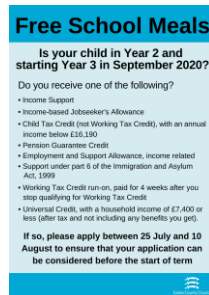


We build better family lives together. If you need support or advice, call our helpline on 0808 800 2222, email us at askus@familylives.org.uk or you can chat to us online via our [Live Chat service](#). You can also visit our [online forum community](#) to share dilemmas, experiences and issues with others who understand the ups and downs of family life.

Notification and Reminders

Year 6 School Journey – we have been informed that the school's insurance company have agreed to pay out for the deposits paid by parents. We will be issuing refund cheques and these can be collected from the school office on Monday and Tuesday of next week. If you cannot collect, we will post the refunds to you.

School Meals – As from September the price of school meals will be increasing to £2.25. This is because of rising costs to the school but I hope you will agree that they are very good value. Please note that the infant children are still entitled to their universal free school meal from the government.



Danbury Coronavirus Volunteer Group - The Danbury Coronavirus Volunteer group is still available to support the most vulnerable members of our community. Donations for the Food Bank 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 on 07395 904761. Helpline hours from 6th July will be Monday – Friday 9.00am to 1.00pm

Critical Key Worker Provision - Please note that space for the children of our critical key workers is now very limited so places do need to be booked in advance. Please telephone the school office which is open every day from 8.30am to 4.00pm. The guidance has not changed and in order to support those parents working on the frontline COVID-19 response, we ask that you only use this service if absolutely necessary and if there is no responsible adult at home. Please note that we have moved our INSET day from 1st June to 22nd July so school will be closed on that Wednesday to all children and for the summer break.

Yours sincerely

Carol Gooding
Headteacher



Owl's Barn School Meals

Week commencing Thursday 3rd September

Week 1 MONDAY				
TUESDAY				
WEDNESDAY				
THURSDAY	Chicken Nuggets Or Macaroni Cheese	Jacket Wedges Sweetcorn	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling Cheese/Baked Beans/Tuna	Ice Cream Arctic Roll Selection of Fresh Fruit
FRIDAY	Harry Ramsden's Fish Fillet or Oven Baked Vegetable Fingers	Chips Peas	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling Cheese/Baked Beans/Tuna	Viennese Biscuit Selection of Fresh Fruit

School Lunches - Costs for Autumn Term 2020

1st Half Term 3 September – 22 October 2019 = 36 days at £2.25 = £81.00

2nd Half Term 2 November – 18 December 2019 = 35 days at £2.25 = £78.75

Total for Autumn Term £159.75

Please send monies in with your child via the book bags in a named envelope making cheques payable to Essex County Council. **We would encourage parents to pay in advance for meals and if possible for the whole half-term.** You will only pay for those meals that your child has and any credits will be carried forward to the next term. Please remember school dinners cost £2.25 per day from September 2020. Thank you.