

# Danbury Park Community Primary School

*Be wise, be happy, belong!*

## Newsletter



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

**16<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

Dear Parents,

### Reading Awards

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

**Lucas B – Ruby**

**Emily B - Diamond**

For the time being certificates will be presented to the children in class at the end of each half-term period.

### Good news

As you will know from previous newsletters the school is committed to moving forward with our Sustainability project. Whilst some of our steps have moved back a little because of COVID-19, such as the work of the School Council on reducing the amount of one-time plastics we use in school, other aspects are forging ahead.

Some time ago Mr Gary Hicks, grandfather of one of our Year 5 pupils, was inspired by the children to approach school to discuss our use (or rather possible waste) of electricity. Although in the construction industry by trade for many years, Mr Hicks is in the midst of studying for a doctorate looking at electricity usage in public and community buildings. He asked if he could monitor our electricity usage and this he has been doing now for almost a year. This has led to some interesting data and questions. Over the summer he shared his research project and the work that the school is doing to become more environmentally friendly with the Chartered Association of Building Engineers and this has resulted in him and the school being awarded Highly Commended in the Built Environment Sustainability Awards.

Mr John Whittingdale, MP for our area, visited the school recently to speak with Mr Hicks, his associate Mr David Brown, and a group of children who were involved with this project. Mr Whittingdale was most impressed by the potential of this work and the mature and responsible attitude of our children in wanting to think about the future of our planet.



Today I was interviewed by Chelmsford Community Radio about our project and the work we are planning to do. More information will be shared with you over the coming weeks including our plan to install solar panels!

## Weekly Update

Thank you to everyone who responded so quickly to my Parentmail yesterday.

I had been thinking for some time now about our safety at the beginning and end of the school day. We want drop-off and collection to be as quick a process as possible but this necessarily still involves queues in a limited space.

Given that Essex yesterday announced that it is moving to Tier 2 COVID response, Brenda Wray, Chair of Governors, and I took the decision to ask adults and secondary school-age siblings to wear face masks at the beginning and end of the school day and when visiting the school office. The teaching staff will not be wearing masks to collect or hand over the children as they are part of their school bubble and clear communication is a vital part of primary education. However, if you wish to speak with staff on the school gate, they will put on a mask.

We would like to remind you that:

- Only one adult should drop-off or collect each family,
- Parents are asked to arrive promptly, but not too early as this causes excessive queuing or too late as this compromises the next bubble,
- Families should abide by the government's social distancing and COVID response rules,
- Families should avoid congregating and leave the area promptly.

We want to keep everyone as safe as we can during these difficult times, so your understanding and co-operation is appreciated.

## Christmas Cards

Your child should have brought home a Christmas card design last week together with an instruction leaflet for this year's fundraising. We hope you will be able to support us this year.

Please visit [www.apfsorders.co.uk](http://www.apfsorders.co.uk) and enter the unique artwork code found on the back of your child's artwork. Please place your order and return the artwork to school by **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October**. **The order cannot be printed without your child's artwork.** Cards, gift tags, wrapping paper and mugs can be ordered and families can personalise their cards with pre-selected greetings or write their own. Your orders should arrive back in school in mid November.

We are hoping to use the commission raised from the sales of these cards to subsidise a whole school virtual pantomime treat for all the children in December.

## Year 6 Visits to Secondary School

We appreciate that parents and children, where possible, need to visit the local secondary schools before making their selection later this month and that some schools are still holding tours during the school day.

Requests for leave of absence will be automatically authorised for this reason and also for the sitting of the 11+ Tests, but at this time we will not be sending home individual letters to acknowledge this.

**Please remember that the statutory closing date for applications from parents of Year 6 children (for a secondary school place in Year 7 from September 2021) is 31 October 2020.**

Applications can be made via our website [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions).

## Keeping Safe

We would appreciate your help in reminding the children about the need to wash their hands thoroughly using an appropriate amount of soap. As we get used to the new normal, we do need to do regular reminders and not become complacent. Whilst we are happy for children to bring small bottles of sanitiser gel into school, these must stay on the child's table and in school. Gel can only be used in conjunction with the school's handwashing regime.

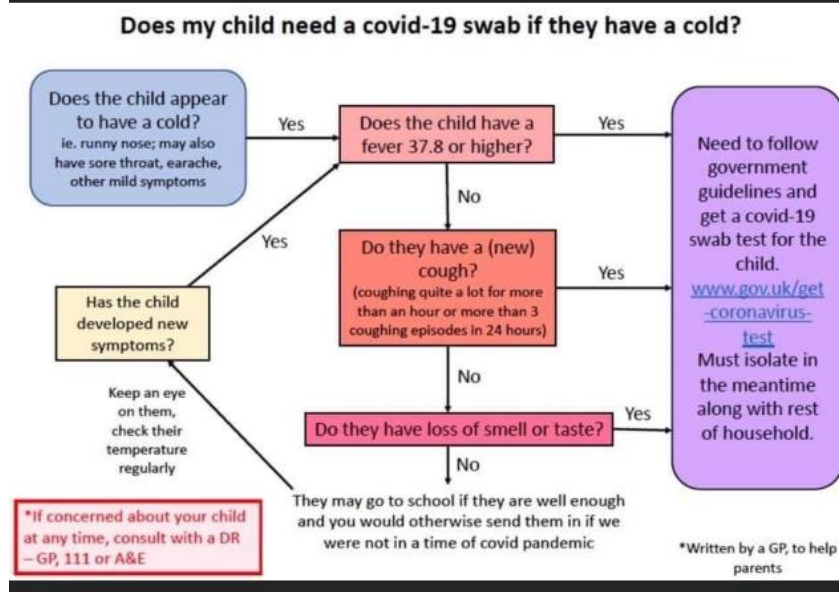
We have also noticed that some children are bringing lip balms into school and we would ask that these are left at home. The only things coming into school should be reading books, diaries, spelling books and some homework sheets. These should be in school book bags. PE kits should be left in school until the half-term break.

Any items for *Let's Present* should come into school in a carrier bag and they will be kept in a safe place and only handled by the child.

Please help us keep everyone as safe as we can during these difficult times. Thank you.

## COVID-19 Support

We thought this might be useful to parents in trying to decide if their child needs a test.



## School Photos

Your child will have brought home a proof card for their school photos which were taken on Wednesday. These are now ready to view on the photographer's website [www.getphotos.co.uk](http://www.getphotos.co.uk) using the QR code on your proof card.




If you have already scanned the QR code on the Proof and registered you will receive an auto email notification. If you have not done it yet you can still view by scanning the QR code on your Proof and following the instructions.

If you have not received your Proof or it has been lost please call Vancols Parent Line on 01206 273711.

The last date for orders to be made by is **5th November 2020**.

## Safeguarding

Each term we start our Computing lessons with sessions about online safety. These cover the three core aspects:

-  **Content** – Is what you are looking at and sharing appropriate?
-  **Contact** – Do you know who you are speaking to and interacting with and is this appropriate?
-  **Conduct** – Are you behaving appropriately?

This is adapted to suit the age of the children and is made relevant to what they will be using online. In Year 3 as the children move into the juniors, we ask them to sign our *Acceptable Use Agreement*. More information will come from the teachers shortly.

We ask that parents reinforce this and also use it as an opportunity to review practices at home. There are lots of resources available including from the 2 Johns who, hopefully, will be visiting us in June 2021:

<https://esafetytraining.org/>

**Other useful resources:**

What to do if your child sees something upsetting online (Safer Internet Centre)

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/advice-parents-what-do-if-your-child-sees-something-upsetting-online>

Online resources for parents & carers (Childnet International)

<https://www.childnet.com/ufiles/Parents-and-carers-resource-sheet-1019.pdf>

## School Lunches - Costs for Autumn Term 2020

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

2<sup>nd</sup> 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. Please note Key Stage 1 and EYFS are still entitled to Universal Free School Meals.

## Governor News

Letters were sent out last week regarding the election of a new parent governor. Mrs Georgina Clifford-Smith's term of office comes to an end this month and we would like to thank her for all her hard work and commitment to the school, particularly in Chairing the Curriculum Committee.

If you have any questions about the role of the governor, please do not hesitate to contact either Mrs Gooding or leave a message with the school office and one of our current governors will contact you.

The closing date for nominations is 4.00pm Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

**This is a very rewarding and interesting way of giving something back to the school.**

## Parking

This week I have had a conversation with tenants at the Industrial units on Well Lane. They are very concerned that some parents and families are using this as a cut-through.

They have asked me to remind parents that it is a private working area and is not safe to use as a pedestrian thoroughfare. They are rightly concerned for the safety of the children.

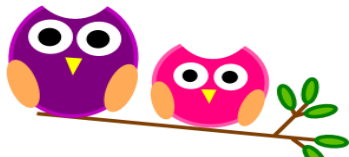
**Please consider our community and neighbours and please be safe.**

## Notification and Reminders

**Free School Meals** – Due to Covid-19 we understand that your circumstances may have changed or may change in the near future and you may now be eligible for free school meals. To check eligibility please contact Essex County Council on 0345 603 2200 or for more information and online application go to <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

**Nut allergies** – Please do not include nuts of any kind including peanut butter in your child's lunch box due to the risk of severe allergic reactions. Thank you.

**Danbury Food Bank** - The Danbury Food Bank organised by the Danbury Coronavirus Volunteer group is continuing to operate and 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.



# DPSA News



## DPSA AGM report

The DPSA AGM this year was held via Zoom with 15 people joining in. The roles required by the Charity Commission were filled as follows:-

Chairperson	Louise Hensman and Jo Emmerson to share the role
Vice-chairperson	Georgie Moore
Treasurer	Nicky Butcher
Secretary	Eve Rush

Over the last academic year the DPSA raised £6800.50 and provided for the school;-

- School defibrillator
- £6000 towards the daily mile track
- Safety bollards on the path at the top of the school car park
- New dictionaries and thesauruses for all classrooms
- Dustpans and brooms for the school hall cupboard
- 2 Johns internet safety training day for the children in school and then parents in the evening (postponed until 2021)
- Athletics annual subscription for the whole school
- Dictionaries for all the year 6 leavers

New members are always welcome to join the DPSA committee as are any new ideas for fund-raising in these difficult times. Please do let a committee member or your Class Rep know if you would like to join us at the next Zoom committee meeting.

## Pre-order Christmas Trees with The DPSA - order deadline Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October



Don't miss your chance to pre-order a Christmas tree and at the same time raise much needed funds for the school. The trees are premium quality Nordmann Firs with a choice of 3 sizes 5-6ft, 6-7ft, 7-8ft, which will be delivered direct to the school car park on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December for you to collect. This is a great way to avoid traipsing around multiple outlets looking for a decent tree. The order form is in the school newsletter. Please send orders to [thedpsa2020@gmail.com](mailto:thedpsa2020@gmail.com) and do a direct bank transfer payment to the DPSA account.

## Childrens' Pumpkin Carving Competition



This competition is also new for this year. Children need to create a design for a pumpkin, carve it at home and then send a picture of the child with their pumpkin to [danburyparkcompetition@gmail.com](mailto:danburyparkcompetition@gmail.com) it costs £3 to enter (bank transfer 'DPSA', sort code 201995, account number 03040310) and there are prizes for the best in each class. Look out for the flyer via your Class Rep and Parentmail.

**Closing date is Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November**

## Adventure Island Wrist Bands

**Adventure Island is open October half term and every weekend until 15<sup>th</sup> November.**



DPSA wristband vouchers are available to buy from the main tills at the Danbury Co-op. The Co-op are kindly doing this to support the school free of charge and each time we sell a voucher we raise much needed funds for the school.

The vouchers are again exceptionally good value:-

**Blue Bands** (over 1.2m height) **DPSA cost £18** - saving £4.50 on the internet price and £14 on the 'on the day'

**Green Bands** (1.0 -1.2m height) / **Red Bands** (under 1m height) **DPSA cost £15** – saving up to £3.75 on the internet price and up to £10 on the 'on the day price'

All vouchers bought can be exchanged at any time in 2020 for the appropriate wristband at the Adventure Island entrance. Anyone can buy them so please do spread the word to neighbours, work colleagues, family and friends.

**Have a good weekend. The DPSA**



# Pre-order your Christmas tree The DPSA and raise funds for school



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Christmas is just around the corner and this year the DPSA is delighted to be able to offer parents, friends and families fresh Christmas trees for sale at excellent prices.

The trees are a high quality, premium grade, Nordmann Fir from an experienced local supplier and will be supplied and delivered to the school on a pre-order basis.

Trees will be matched and allocated to the orders we have received and will be supplied as fresh as possible, netted and without roots. We are offering three sizes (5-6ft, 6-7ft + 7-8ft).

This is a great opportunity to secure a beautiful, fresh Christmas tree without the need to visit a shop or garden centre in these uncertain times. Collection will take place from the school on **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December from 9.30am**. The exact collection arrangements will be confirmed nearer the time.

To pre-order your tree please email the completed order form direct to [TheDPSA2020@gmail.com](mailto:TheDPSA2020@gmail.com) with full payment by **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October** - and don't forget to ask your friends, family and neighbours for their orders too!

All proceeds raised from the sales will go to The DPSA to buy much needed items for the school.

## **CHRISTMAS TREE ORDER FORM 2020**

Adult's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact No: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact email: \_\_\_\_\_

	Premium grade 5-6ft	Premium grade 6-7ft	Premium grade 7-8ft
Price	£45	£55	£65
No. required			
Total £			

Total amount: £ \_\_\_\_\_

Where possible please do a direct bank transfer to 'The DPSA', **Sort Code:** 20-19-95

**Account Number:** 03049310 and make payment at time of your order. Please use child's name and class for bank reference.

If you are unable to do internet banking please make cheques payable to 'The DPSA', put them in a clearly marked envelope with the order form and leave at the school office.



## Owl's Barn School Meals

Week commencing Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October

<b>Week 2 Monday</b>	Fillet of Fish Or Quorn Dippers in a brioche bun with mayo	Jacket Wedges Cucumber	<b>Key Stage 2 only</b> Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Chocolate Rice Crispy Cake Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
<b>Tuesday</b>	Spaghetti Bolognese Or Vegetarian Mince Bolognese	Garlic Bread Sweetcorn	<b>Key Stage 2 only</b> Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	100% Fruit Ice Lolly Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
<b>Wednesday</b>	Diced Chicken served in gravy or Roasted Quorn Fillet in gravy	Mini Roasted Potatoes Carrots	<b>Key Stage 2 only</b> Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Flapjack Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
<b>Thursday</b>	Homemade Cheese and Tomato Pizza Or Vegetable Nuggets	Pasta Twists Sweetcorn	<b>Key Stage 2 only</b> Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Ice Cream Arctic Roll Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
<b>Friday</b>	School closed			

## Dates for the Diary Week beginning 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020

**Mon 19<sup>th</sup>**

2.45pm

Whole school assembly via zoom

Last day to return artwork for Christmas Cards

**Tues 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Weds 21<sup>st</sup>**

2.45pm

Let's Present

**Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup>**

4.00pm

Closing date for nominations for parent governor

**Fri 23<sup>rd</sup>**

School Closed for staff training

**Half-term break. School reopens Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November**

Full term dates for this academic year 2020-21 and for next 2021-22 are available on the school website.  
Dates for the second half of term are given below.

Yours sincerely

Carol Gooding  
Headteacher



## Dates for Autumn Term 2020

Date	Activity
02/11/2020	School re-opens after the half-term break
06/11/2020	Autumn Term Pupil Reports to go out to parents
10/11/2020 10.00am	Meeting for Prospective Parents by Zoom NB places must be booked in advance
11/11/2020 11.00am	Remembrance Assembly for all Year 6 children on the playground
17/11/2020 2.00pm	Meeting for Prospective Parents by Zoom NB places must be booked in advance
19/11/2020	Flu vaccinations
25/11/2020 10.00am	Meeting for Prospective Parents by Zoom NB places must be booked in advance
Fortnight beg 30/11/2020	Autumn Term Assessment Tasks and Activities in class
01/12/2020 2.00pm	Contingency Meeting for Prospective Parents by Zoom If required
11/12/2020	Filming of Class Christmas Celebrations
15/12/2020	Christmas Pantomime
16/12/2020	Christmas Dinner
18/12/2020	Christmas parties/fun activity afternoon Last day of term

More details of Christmas activities will follow after the half-term break.