Danbury Park Community Primary School
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Class Juniper Topic Letter – Autumn 2026

Hello! I am delighted to welcome you and your child to Class Juniper for another exciting school year! It has been wonderful getting to know the children already – they have shown great enthusiasm for learning, a positive attitude towards their work and genuine kindness towards one another. I am really looking forward to the term ahead. This letter will give you an overview of what we will be learning this term.

Our Topic: Crime and Punishment

This term, we will be travelling through time to discover how crime and punishment have changed from the Anglo-Saxon period to the present day. The children will explore how laws, crimes and punishments have evolved over the centuries and consider why these changes have taken place. We will investigate infamous historical events, compare different justice systems and discuss whether punishments were fair or effective. This fascinating topic will encourage the children to think critically about how society has changed and how our modern justice system has developed.

Reading

Reading is central to everything we do in school. We encourage children to read regularly at home and at school – both independently and with an adult. Listening to your child read, discussing books and sharing stories together really supports their development. Children should continue to make daily entries in their reading journals at home and are encouraged to explore a range of authors and genres. In the back of their journal, the children should keep a log of the books that they have read and can request a reading conference when they are ready to progress to the next level.

English

This term, we will begin our journey with reading *Outlaw* by Michael Morpurgo, using the story as inspiration for some of our writing. We will be writing newspaper reports based on the legend of Robin Hood, learning how to write in a formal journalistic style. Children will develop their use of direct and indirect speech to include witness accounts and quotations, as well as creating engaging headlines and organising information clearly. We will then study Alfred Noyes' classic narrative poem *The Highwayman*, exploring the language and imagery before creating our own poetry and written responses. Later in the term, we will write diary entries based on the witch trials, using emotive language to write from the perspective of someone living through these events. Alongside our writing, we will continue to develop our grammar, punctuation and vocabulary throughout the term.

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Spelling tests will take place every Wednesday. Please support your child by helping them learn the weekly spellings and encouraging them to explore spelling patterns, rules and ambitious new vocabulary beyond the weekly list.

Maths

We will begin the year by developing our understanding of place value before moving on to addition and subtraction strategies. Later in the term, we will focus on multiplication and division, followed by measuring length, perimeter and area.

We will continue to use Times Tables Rock Stars and Mathletics both in school and at home to reinforce fluency and confidence in number work. Quick recall of multiplication and division facts has a huge impact on children's mathematical progress, so regular practice is strongly encouraged. The Year 4 children will sit their Multiplication Tables Check in the Summer, where they have to answer 25 times tables questions, so they will need to practice these regularly.

Science

Our science topic this term is Materials. Children will investigate the properties of different materials and explore reversible and irreversible changes through practical investigations. They will make predictions, carry out fair tests, draw conclusions and present their findings using scientific vocabulary. Later in the term, we will begin our Forces topic, exploring the effects of gravity, friction and air resistance. Through a range of practical investigations, children will discover how forces act on objects and learn about simple mechanisms such as levers, pulleys and gears.

Art & Design Technology

In Art, we will use The Highwayman as inspiration to explore light and dark through charcoal and ink, experimenting with different techniques to create dramatic artwork.

In Design Technology, children will design and sew their own pencil cases, developing their measuring, cutting and sewing skills while evaluating and improving their finished products.

PE

PE lessons will be held on Wednesdays and Thursdays. During the Autumn term, we will be developing our skills in fitness, gymnastics, dance and rugby. Your child is welcome to come to school wearing their PE kit on these days.

Religious Education

This term, we will begin by exploring Islam, focusing on the question: What is the best way for a Muslim to show commitment to God? After half term, we will move on to Christianity, exploring the concept of Incarnation through the Christmas story.

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Personal, Social & Health Education

Our PSHE learning will focus on developing positive relationships, understanding ourselves and others, and building the skills needed to stay safe both in school and online. Through discussions and activities, children will explore friendship, respect, managing emotions and celebrating differences.

Let's Present

Every Thursday, children will have the opportunity to give a short presentation (around five minutes), followed by a question-and-answer session. This term's presentation theme is 'People Who Inspire Me'. It is a wonderful opportunity for the children to develop confidence, speaking skills and active listening.

Our new class email is juniper@danburypark.essex.sch.uk. Please use this for questions or queries for me. I will endeavour to respond within 48 hours, during working hours. If your email is urgent, please contact admin@danburypark.essex.sch.uk as I am usually unable to read emails during the school day.

Thank you for your continued support. I am really looking forward to working with you and your children throughout what I am sure will be a fantastic year!

Miss H. Foskett

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