

Danbury Park Community Primary School

Be wise, be happy, belong!

Newsletter



Website: www.danburypark.essex.sch.uk

6th November 2020

Dear Parents,

Reading Awards

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

Lucy H – Silver

Toby B – Ruby

Josh H – Ruby

Annie R – Ruby

Harry T – Emerald

Certificates will be presented in class toward the end of the term

Weekly Update

This week has seen the start of the second national lockdown but for schools there is very little change. We will continue to follow our Risk Assessment, which includes:

- Keeping the children within their class bubbles so staggering the start and end to the school day, break times and lunchtimes;
- Regular handwashing throughout the day;
- Limiting the sharing of equipment in school;
- Encouraging the children to stay socially distanced from each other and the adults in school;
- Limiting what equipment and resources are circulated between school and home (and vice-versa);
- Limiting visitors to the school;
- Enhanced cleaning of the classrooms and school;
- Following government guidance and regulations on potential and identified cases of COVID-19.

We are aware that with the weather turning colder and the need for increased ventilation, some children are finding that their classrooms are slightly cooler than they would have been in the past. We are encouraging them to keep their jumpers and cardigans on but we would like to reassure you that we will **not** be keeping doors and windows wide open to the extent that the children are cold. We are adjusting the ways we ventilate the rooms so that we make the most of break and lunchtimes to allow a good circulation of fresh air. Please remember that the children do need their coats in school every day as we will be going outside for regular breaks even if it is raining.

We would like to remind parents and families that at the beginning and end of the school day, there should only be one adult per family dropping-off and collecting children and adults and secondary age siblings should wear masks unless there is a medical reason for not doing so. Families should arrive and leave the school promptly and avoid gathering in groups. We have received a concern from a member of the public that parents have been congregating in the village after drop-off and we would ask that parents set a good example to the children and follow the government ruling. We all want to stay as safe as we can during this difficult time.

Should there be any significant changes to what schools are required to do, we will share this with you.

Children in Need



Friday 13th November

Charities are finding the current pandemic especially challenging so we feel that it is important to support when we can. **Friday 13th November** is *Children in Need* day so we are inviting the children to wear a bright jumper, cardigan or sweatshirt to school in exchange for a donation to the charity. Any donations should be brought into class in a sealed envelope which teachers will give to the office. Given the current situation, we understand if parents would prefer to give a private donation online this year rather than sending cash into school. Please note that the children should wear their school uniform polo shirts, pinafores and trousers etc under their jumpers and please note that we are not doing wacky hair or face paints.

Christmas Plans



We are busy putting together plans for December so that the children can enjoy as much of a traditional Christmas in school as possible. As you can imagine, each activity is having to be carefully thought through so that it is as "COVID secure" as possible. These will include:

-  **Christmas Dinner** – Mrs Hind and her team will be preparing their delicious Christmas dinner, which we will enjoy within our bubbles.
-  **Christmas Celebration** - In place of our large scale infant and junior Christmas plays, each class is working on a presentation combining music, dance and drama. We have booked Keith Bonsor to film the celebrations as he has done in the past and he will produce one DVD for parents to purchase so that families can enjoy the children's work. In this way the children will also be able to watch their friends in other classes.
-  **Mobile Making** – as we cannot have the usual army of volunteers helping with sewing and design and technology, we are combining our Enterprise project with the making of class mobiles. The children will be making a special ornament to hang on the mobile which we will then sell to parents to raise funds for each class.
-  **Christmas Pantomime** – we have already booked a virtual pantomime which every class will watch in the last week of term.
-  **Christmas Parties** – we will hold some fun activities in our classes on the last day of term.
-  **DPSA** – sadly we cannot hold our Christmas Fayre but the DPSA are getting creative with alternative ideas to raise fund including the traditional raffle.

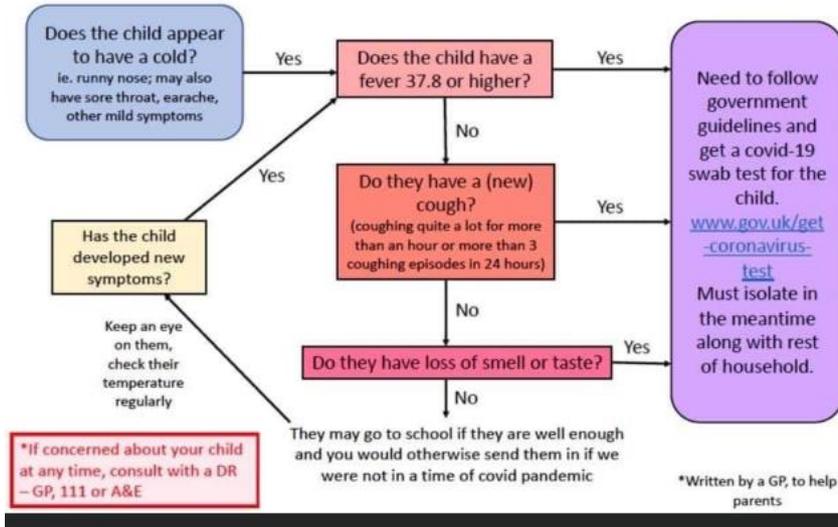
In everything we do, we are trying to consider the impact on the environment so I know that you and the children will be pleased to know that we are using up our existing supply of glitter and now sourcing biodegradable alternatives and we are reducing our use of single use plastics.

More details will follow nearer the time and of course these activities may have to be adapted in the light of COVID-19 and the situation at the time. However we are determined that Christmas will go ahead at Danbury Park School!

COVID-19 Support

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

Does my child need a covid-19 swab if they have a cold?



School Lunches - Costs for Autumn Term 2020

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

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

The nomination for the parent governor vacancy closed before the half-term break and I am pleased to announce that we have 5 candidates. We are impressed with the number of parents interested in supporting the school in this way and it is a very rewarding and interesting role.

Your child should have brought home this week two ballot papers – one for each parent regardless of how many children you have attending the school. Please follow the instructions in the letter and send the sealed envelopes in with your child.

Please remember that the ballot closes at **3.30pm Friday 20th November.**

Sustainability

Are you interested in taking action on climate change?

Essex County Council has teamed up with Community Energy South to support the Danbury Community to develop renewable energy, energy efficiency and fuel poverty projects. Essex County Council have already installed solar panels on our school and Danbury Outdoors and they want to help make more projects happen.

Essex County Council are asking members of our community to support local action on climate change by [completing this short survey](#). Your answers will help them develop projects for Danbury.

You are also invited to join a meeting:

Empower Danbury: The Community Energy Conversation

Date: 12th November

Time: 6pm-7pm

Please register for the event [here](#).

Safeguarding

We still have the 2 Johns booked for the summer term and we hope that by then these workshops will be able to take place. For parents new to the school at the DPSA AGM last year, we discussed keeping children safe in the digital age and the committee agreed to support a second visit from the 2 Johns. In Summer 2018 the children and parents found their information and advice useful and supportive.

On Wednesday 9th June 2021 we will be holding special workshops with all children from Reception through to Year 6 about online safety. These have been designed and will be led by the specialist team of professionals including police officers and teachers. Our aim is for the children to hear from experts about how to keep themselves safe! After school there will be training for all school staff which will be followed by an information session for parents. In the ever changing world of technology it is vitally important that parents understand what their children are involved in and the risks they face.

More details will follow nearer the time but please spread the word and save the date!

In the meantime please have a look at their website as there is lots of information for parents and it is always current and up-to-date which helps you stay ahead of what is happening and potential dangers:

<https://esafetytraining.org/resources/parents-carers-area/>

Let's work together to keep the children safe!

Governor Survey

Every Autumn Term our governors conduct a survey of parents to research how well you feel your child has settled into school. This is even more important given that we had the enforced closure for the summer term and that life is not normal. This year we are holding an online survey and the link can be found below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BSRRBHS>

Please take some time to complete it as your views are important to us and help make Danbury Park the best school it can be. If you would prefer a paper copy of the survey, please contact the school office.

Notification and Reminders

Green Wool – Mrs McIntosh and Mrs Buer in Class Flamingo are asking for donations of any green wool that you may have spare for a class project. This can be left at the school office.

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.

Flu Vaccination Thursday 19th November

An email was sent last week with all the details of this year’s flu vaccination which is being offered in school to your child. This year the consent forms are all being completed electronically and submitted directly to the NHS Essex Partnership University Foundation Trust who organise the vaccinations. There is a link within the email to enable you to complete the form. Please note that our school code is **114992**. There is also a link to a leaflet to explain the vaccination programme. If you need a paper form please contact them directly on 01376 302769 or ask in the school office. Please complete the consent forms as soon as possible. Thanks.



DPSA News



Childrens' Pumpkin Carving Competition- last date for entries TODAY 6th NOVEMBER!



If your child has created a design for a pumpkin and carved it at home send in a picture of your child with their pumpkin to danburyparkcompetition@gmail.com it costs £3 to enter (bank transfer 'DPSA', sort code 20-19-95, account number 03049310). There are prizes for the best in each class. **Closing date is Friday 6th November. Results will be announced in the newsletter next week.**

Christmas Raffle

The DPSA has got together some amazing prizes for a grand Christmas raffle. As there will be no Christmas Fayre this year tickets will be sold via book bags and Mrs Gooding will draw the raffle at school. Raffle tickets will be sent home in book bags next week. Please do sell as many as you can to family, friends and neighbours. The more you sell the more money we can raise.

The prizes so far are:-

£100 cash

donated by ejcoombs solicitors

£50 cash

donated by Multibeton underfloor heating

5kg Kellybronze turkey

donated by Kellybronze

Marks and Spencer's Food Hamper
Christmas Floral Decoration

donated by HCL Tree Management
donated by Natalie Westhorp

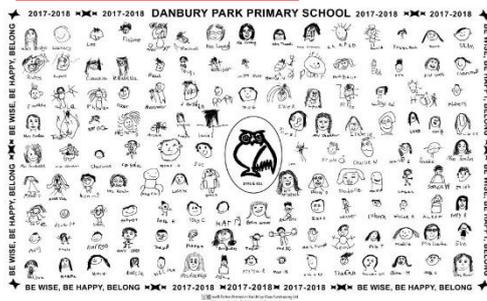
Family of 4 Meal voucher for Five Guys Restaurant
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Stikins name labels – voucher for free pack of name labels
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If you own, or have connections to, a business and would like to donate a prize please do let your class rep know who can pass the information on to The DPSA. All prizes will be listed in the school newsletter.

School Tea-towels



In October the children and teachers produced some fabulous self-portraits to put on to two unique school tea-towels. There are two designs, one for EYF/KS1 and another for KS2. The tea-towels will cost £5 each and will make lovely keep-sakes of your child's time at school, they also make fantastic gifts for family and friends this Christmas. Every tea-towel sold raises much needed funds for the school. Look out for the order forms coming to you very soon via Class Reps and Parentmail.

Name Labels



Stikins are name labels for clothes and school equipment. They are a great way to ensure items are never lost again and they are very easy to use as they just stick in. The same label can be used for clothes, shoes, water bottles, etc. Visit the website www.stikins.co.uk to order and **use the code 5641** at the checkout and the DPSA will automatically receive a donation for our funds.

Easyfundraising.org.uk



Please sign up as it's free to register and simple to use - you just need an email address and a password. Every time you make a purchase on-line through the easyfundraising website the retailer donates a percentage to the school. It doesn't cost you anything. Over 4,200 well know retailers have signed up to easyfundraising including Next, Argos, M&S & John Lewis.

Have a good weekend. The DPSA



Owl's Barn School Meals

Week commencing Monday 9th November

Week 2 Monday	Fillet of Fish Or Quorn Dippers in a brioche bun with tomato sauce	Jacket Wedges Cucumber Peas	Key Stage 2 only Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Lumpy Bumpy Cake Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
Tuesday	Spaghetti Bolognese Or Vegetarian Mince Bolognese	Garlic Bread Sweetcorn Green Salad	Key Stage 2 only Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	100% Fruit Ice Lolly Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
Wednesday	Chicken served in gravy with Yorkshire Pudding or Cheesy Stack Wrap	Mini Roasted Potatoes Carrots Green Salad	Key Stage 2 only Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Flapjack Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
Thursday	Pepperoni Pizza or Homemade Cheese and Tomato Pizza	Pasta Twists Sweetcorn Green Salad	Key Stage 2 only Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Ice Cream Arctic Roll Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
Friday	Beef Burger in a roll Or Quorn Burger in a roll	Chips Peas Baked Beans	Key Stage 2 only Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Chocolate Crispy Cake Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt

Dates for the Diary Week beginning 9th November 2020

Mon 9th
2.45pm

Whole school assembly via zoom

Tues 10th
10.00am

Virtual Tours for Prospective Parents (please note places must be booked in advance)

Weds 11th
10.55am
2.50pm

Remembrance Assembly for all Year 6 pupils
Let's Present

Thurs 12th
7.00pm

Governors' Resources Committee Meeting

Fri 13th
2.45pm

Children in Need - wear a bright jumper, cardigan or sweatshirt
Whole school assembly via zoom

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
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 10.550am	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