

# Danbury Park Community Primary School

*Be wise, be happy, belong!*



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

## Newsletter

**11<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

Dear Parents,

### Reading Awards

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

Brahman P - **Emerald** Claudia M - **Emerald** Emilia T - **Emerald** Jayden C - **Emerald** Arabella E - **Diamond**  
Fern D - **Bronze** Isabelle C - **Bronze** Oscar L - **Bronze**

**Congratulations** also to the following children who have passed music exams:

**Petr L – Grade 3 Clarinet**

**Certificates will be presented in class next week.**

### Weekly Round-up



This has been a very busy week in school as the inevitable happened and COVID directly affected our school. Despite our very best efforts the infection spread from outside influences over which we have little control.

As I trust you will appreciate school has to follow the direction of the Department for Education and the Local Authority but we hope that by moving one of our staff training days, we can at least close to the children one day early.

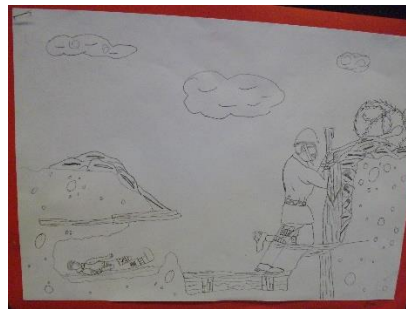
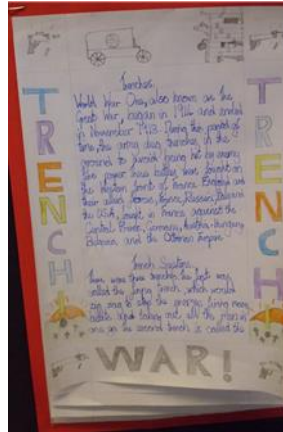
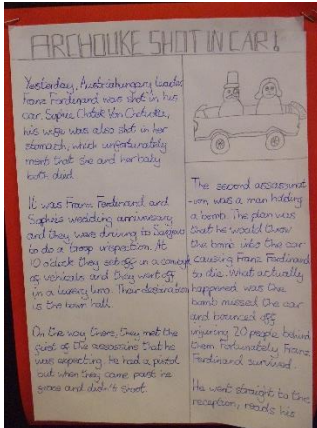
We are trying very hard to keep the Christmas spirit alive. The mobiles were hung in the school hall, thanks to the help from our friends at Danbury Outdoors and as ever they look very festive. The Class Christmas Celebrations are being filmed today and the children have enjoyed practising their presentations and particularly playing the percussion instruments instead of singing.

Next week will be more relaxed as we tie up the loose ends of this challenging term. If your child is not in school, we regret that office staff cannot disturb classes during the working day to collect belongings such as PE bags. These will be kept safe in class until January.

## Class News

### Class Avocet

During this term, we have been learning all about The Great War. We have studied the causes of World War One: the arms race, alliances and the impact of this, and the assassination of Franz Ferdinand. We also looked at life in the trenches and the trench systems. After practising various shading techniques, the children sketched a picture of a trench. The children are showing how wonderfully creative they are and their pictures demonstrate this, reflecting their individual interpretations. We have also practised various skills with water colours.



### English

We started the term by looking at World War One poetry. This was a good opportunity for the children to increase their range of vocabulary and writing style through analysing poems by significant poets such as Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon. The children have thoroughly enjoyed two texts related to the topic: *The Silver Donkey* and *Private Peaceful*. They have written in a variety of styles in response to tales within *The Silver Donkey*, developing techniques that create an impact on the reader. Every time we read *Private Peaceful*, the children listened with interest and anticipation, and they were always excited for the next instalment.

### Comments about *Private Peaceful*:

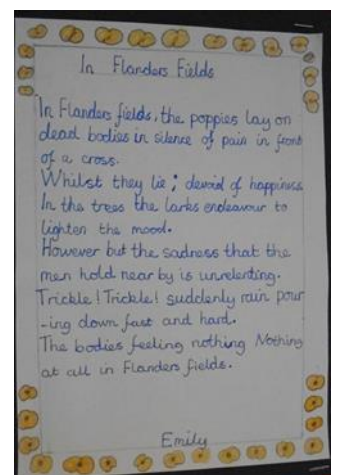
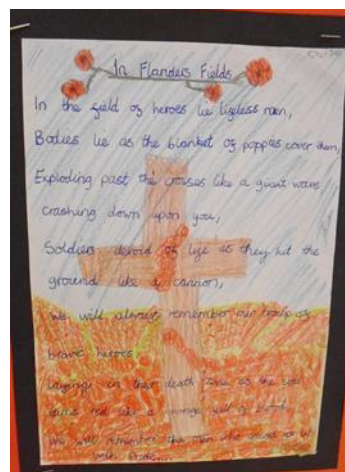
George – 'It was a well-written book with great description and an exciting storyline.'

Ollie – 'I am unable to believe that it is based on actual events.'

Caleb – 'Amazing how a book can affect your emotions so much.'

Emily – 'Heartwarming.'

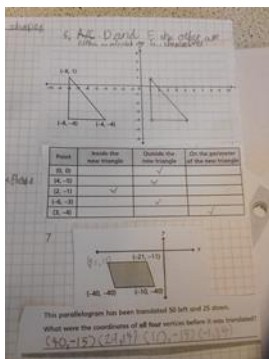
Grace – 'Heartbreaking!'





## Maths

During maths lessons, the aim is to have a working atmosphere. This is supportive, inclusive and aimed to ensure that every child is engaged, motivated and stretched! The work set is to enable easy access, underpin conceptual understanding and challenge young developing mathematical thinking minds. The children are wonderful to work with and are demonstrating a wonderful enthusiasm, supportive manner and healthy competitive nature. Harry was so keen, he chose to stay in just to finish the question he was on whilst everyone else went out to play!



## Science

Our topics in science have been classification and the circulatory system. The children particularly enjoyed doing an investigation about how the intensity of exercise affects heart rate. We went through the various aspects of how to write a scientific report, the importance of English within this and how it crosses all subjects, as well as the use of scientific language. The children organised themselves brilliantly on the playground to carry out the investigation, which covered English, PE, PSHE and of course – science!

Freya – 'Science is really fun, and I particularly enjoyed the investigation.'

The children have had a very enjoyable autumn term, and we have enjoyed having them back in school and seeing all the wonderful work they have produced.

## **Essex Libraries Winter Reading Challenge**

The special reading challenge organised by our local libraries is underway and we hope that you will encourage your child to take part. The challenge is very similar to the summer scheme with the children collecting stamps on a book mark for every book they read with the target of six.



## Community Links

We are working closely with groups in our community and wanted to share with you plans that we have.



Alongside our traditional Christmas gift collection for children through Chelmsford Social Care, we are also supporting the Danbury Coronavirus Volunteer Group by acting as a collection point for donations for their Christmas Gift & Hamper Appeal.

We would ask that donations are brought into the school office at the beginning and end of the school day and placed in the boxes under the counter.

As you can see from the suggested list, even a small thoughtful gift could make a difference to someone who may be feeling isolated this Christmas.

We are also wanting to support families who may be in need this year. The Volunteer Group have a large selection of children's winter coats, shoes and wellies.

If your family could do with this support, please let us know. This can be done confidentially by contacting the group directly or sending an e-mail into school simply requesting that Mrs Gooding speak with you. She will do this as soon as she can and she will make all the necessary arrangements.



Danbury Coronavirus Volunteer Group  
07752 261274

A volunteer initiative supported by the  
Danbury Coronavirus Volunteer Group

Helping those in need  
within our Community



### Children's Winter Coat, Shoe and Welly Boot Appeal

**NOW READY to gift to families  
within our local community**

Please contact [admin@danburypark.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@danburypark.essex.sch.uk)  
Marked for attention of Mrs Gooding  
Or the DCVG Hub on 07752 261274



### Advent Live Christmas Trail

Why not take the family for a walk around the village to look at the Advent window displays created by volunteers which will be illuminated between 4pm and 9pm each evening during December. For more details, a map and a children's activity sheet visit [www.danburymission.org.uk/christmas](http://www.danburymission.org.uk/christmas)

## Christmas Plans



- 🔔 **Christmas Dinner 16<sup>th</sup> December** – Mrs Hind and her team will be preparing their delicious Christmas dinner, which we will enjoy within our bubbles. We will be making hats in class and we are inviting the children to wear a Christmas jumper for the day.
- 🔔 **Christmas Pantomime** – every class will get the opportunity to watch the pantomime next week.
- 🔔 **Christmas Parties** – even though we are closing to the children one day early, we will still hold some fun activities in our classes on the last day of term.

## Sustainability

I hope that you saw the great article in the Danbury Contact magazine about our sustainability project which is now starting to gather pace. Last week Danbury Park School signed the *Let's Go Zero* pledge to commit to working towards making our school carbon neutral by 2030. The campaign is run by Ashden (a UK-based climate solutions charity) in partnership with Global Action Plan, and a coalition of sustainable schools organisations. As thousands of schools join the campaign, the campaign aims to show politicians that teachers, governors and pupils are determined to take on climate change.

Here at Danbury Park we have already made a great start!

## Safeguarding

We have been informed that parents might like to be aware of a new online game. It is called *Cunch-line Chronicles*, "Cunch" being a slang word for County. It is based on County Lines which is the drug running gang crime. It is registered as an 18 so is not suitable for children.

As usual we do not want to cause curiosity with the children and mention the game to them directly, however, please be mindful if you hear your children talking about it.

The BBC website has some excellent material to support children and families with keeping safe on the internet and when using electronic devices. We would urge parents to have a look and spend some time with their children looking at a relevant section in some detail. They cover online gaming, what to do if you see something online you don't like and bullying.

<https://www.bbc.com/ownit>

**Let's work together to keep the children safe!**

## Memories of 2020

We have recently sent you a Parentmail about a new community project. The Danbury Parish Council and the Danbury Corona Volunteers Group are seeking to compile a book of memories from 2020. They feel this would be a useful reference document for the future, but more importantly could be a communal record helping us all to acknowledge both the trials of this year and the amazing acts of kindness shown during this difficult time.

They are asking families to compile their memories of 2020, whether they relate to being at school, being homeschooled, sewing PPE or wearing masks. They want to capture memories from all ages and of all kinds. They would welcome any photographs or drawings that you would be happy to be published.

Templates were provided but you can also use any format you would like.

The school is happy to act as a collection point so please send in anything you want to share. Alternatively contributions can be e-mailed directly to Michelle Harper at [Michelle.Harper@danbury-essex.gov.uk](mailto:Michelle.Harper@danbury-essex.gov.uk).

## Contacting Teachers

These are challenging times at the moment and whilst we are working hard to maintain contact with parents, we are having to limit the face-to-face contact we can have with parents in order to keep us all as safe as possible.

If you wish to contact your child's class teacher please either send an e-mail to the class e-mail address (e.g. [classg@danburypark.essex.sch.uk](mailto:classg@danburypark.essex.sch.uk)) or telephone the school office.

Please remember that in primary schools, teachers are in class with the children all day except for their brief weekly allocated Planning, Preparation and Assessment time. They will phone you when they are able to do so but this is likely to be at the end of the working day. Urgent messages can be left with Mrs Brooke, Mrs Packham and Mrs Warner in the office.

Please note that the teachers only respond to e-mails during the normal working day which is Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 5.30pm and that this is more likely to be before or after school when they are not directly teaching their class.

We are aware that some families will be keeping their children off school next week. Whilst the school and classes are officially open, the Local Authority has advised us that we only need to upload work for those children who are self-isolating. As you can imagine juggling face-to-face teaching with online learning is difficult and time-consuming. Therefore, if parents choose to keep their child away from school, no formal work will be set or marked. We would suggest that you encourage your child to read, write book reviews, write stories and keep a diary. Maths is available on Mathletics and BBC Bitesize and for older children Times Tables Rock Stars.

The absence has to be recorded as "unauthorised" but we can confirm that no action, such as fines, will be taken by the school at this time.

Should your child test positive for Coronavirus and the symptoms became apparent within 48 hours of your child being in school, you should still inform us as a matter of urgency.

## Emergency School Closures – SNOW!

As we approach the time of year when inclement weather and snow is more likely, we would like to advise you of the school's emergency closure procedure. The decision to close the school is never taken lightly but there may be rare times when the site is unsafe or insufficient staff can get into the school and closure is unavoidable. Please note that the local radio stations no longer give out announcements.

Schools will notify Essex County Council and the information will be available on their website at:  
<http://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/Dates/Pages/Emergency-School-Closures.aspx>

We will also put a message out on Parentmail and on the scrolling news on the first page of the school website. We will aim to do this by 7.30am.

If the weather and traffic are bad, please take care and get to school safely. We will understand if you delay your journey and arrive later than the usual time.

If you have not yet joined *Parentmail*, please ask at the office.



## Admissions to Primary Schools for 2021-22

Essex County Council have asked us to remind parents that the application process for places for children due to start school in September 2021 is now open. All parents need to apply for a place including those with older children already in primary school. Details are available on:

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/topic/admissions>

The closing date is **15<sup>th</sup> January 2021**.

## Notification and Reminders

**Items from Home coming into School** - We have noticed over the past week that some of the children are starting to bring into school unnecessary items including Pokemon cards. Please could you check book bags and coat pockets so that only essential items are brought into school. This is to keep us all safe and limit the transfer of infection and the spread of the virus.

We have also noticed that more "forgotten" items are coming in through the office. We are trying to limit movement around the school and staff possibly contaminating class bubbles. Please could you check carefully each morning that your child has everything with them that they need.

**Track Suits for PE** – We do outdoor PE all year round and with the weather turning colder, all children need a track suit in school for their outdoor PE lessons. This should be navy blue. For girls who wear tights, they also need a pair of socks to wear to prevent their trainers rubbing their feet. It is unhygienic, particularly for the older children to wear their normal school jumper or coat for physical exercise as they do get hot and sweaty!

**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.

**Data Collection Sheets – REMINDER** – could you please return your data collection sheets as soon as possible so that we can ensure our records are up to date. Thank you.

## School Lunches - Costs for Autumn Term 2020

**We would be grateful if you could please settle your accounts  
by the beginning of the last week of term**

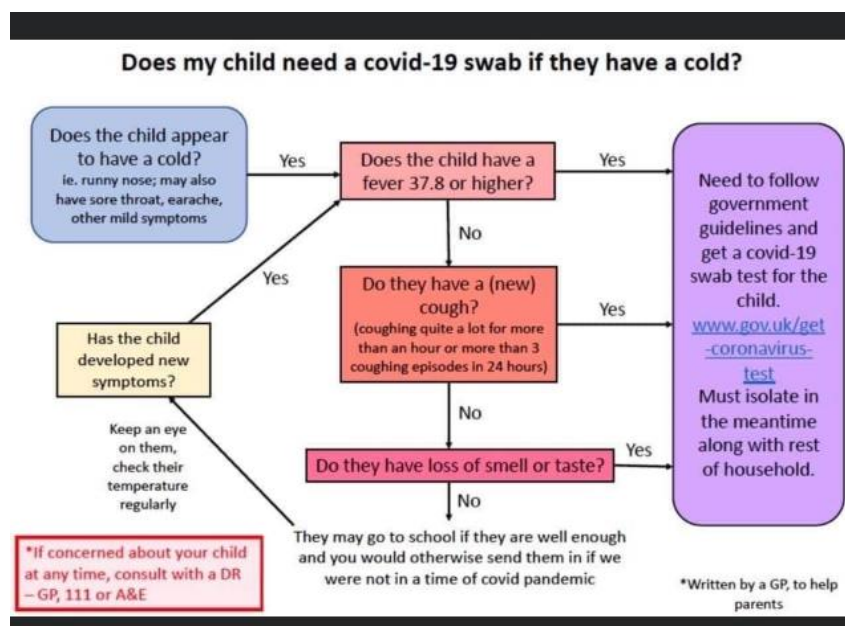
2<sup>nd</sup> Half Term      2 November – 18 December 2019 = 35 days at £2.25 = £78.75

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.



## COVID-19 Support

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



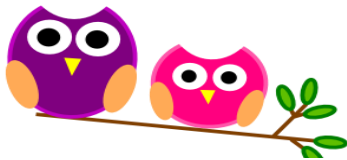
## Well-being

Active Essex have told us that they are conducting a survey with everyone in Essex, of every age, trying to find out how everyone is doing with their lives and wellbeing, during the period of COVID. This is important, as it will help guide both the county and district councils on how we plan for emerging on the other side of the pandemic.

Active Essex are keen to get the thoughts of schools and the families at the schools. We have been asked to share the survey link with everyone in our school community, including staff, and encourage people to complete it. It should take no longer than 8 minutes.

The link below is also being shared by local doctors' surgeries about Germ Defence and how to keep safe, which parents might find useful:

<https://www.germdefence.org/index.html>



# DPSA News



## Christmas Raffle – tickets need to be back in by end of school today



Tickets need to be **back in to the school office by today, 11<sup>th</sup> December**, for the draw on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December.

The prizes are:-

**£100 cash**

**£50 cash**

**5kg Kellybronze turkey**

donated by ejcoombs solicitors

donated by Multibeton underfloor heating

donated by Kellybronze

Marks and Spencer's Food Hamper

Christmas Floral Decoration

£30 voucher for Lot 33 Pizza delivery

Beer Carry-keg + 4 pints of draught beer

Coffee and cake voucher

Bottle of Gin + gin glasses

Hotel Chocolat Gift Hamper x 2 prizes

Totes Toasties Gift Hamper x 2 prizes

Family of 4 Meal voucher for Five Guys

£20 fish +chips voucher

Cream tea for two voucher x 2 prizes

Stikins name labels – voucher for a free pack of name labels x 3 prizes

donated by HCL Tree Management

donated by Natalie Westhorp

donated by Lot 33 Pizza Delivery, Danbury

donated by The Bell, Danbury

donated by The Bell, Danbury

donated by Martin and Co. Estate Agent, Danbury

donated by Church& Hawes Estate Agent, Danbury

donated by Totes

Restaurant x 2 prizes donated by Fiveguys

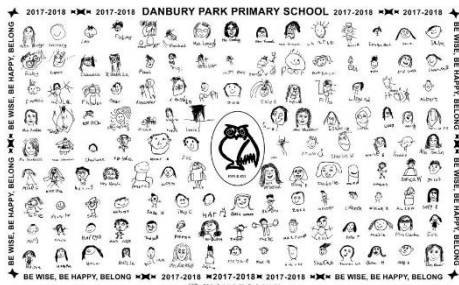
donated by Robinson's Fish and Chips, Moulsham Street

donated by Tea on the Green, Danbury

donated by Stikins



## School Tea-towels.



Thank you to everyone who has bought tea-towels. We have been able to raise **over £800** which is a fantastic amount.

We do have a few left so if you would still like to order one please do so soon using the form that has been sent out or emailing [thedpsa2020@gmail.com](mailto:thedpsa2020@gmail.com). Orders will not now go out until the new year.

## Children's Christmas Performance DVD - orders need to be in by Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December

DVDs are available at **£18 each** (£4 of which goes to DPSA funds). A USB version is available by special request and will cost £3 extra. Order forms have been sent out via Class Reps and by Parentmail and need to be returned by Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December



## Christmas Shopping?

easyfundraising  
.org.uk

You just need an email address and a password to register. Every time you make a purchase on-line through the easyfundraising website the retailer donates a percentage to the school.



The Co-op are currently adding an extra 50% to the donations they make which is a huge boost to the fund-raising. Extra cards are available at the school office.

amazon smile  
You Shop. Amazon Gives.



Please use this link to get to the Amazon Smile site and shop raising funds for the DPSA.  
<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/285968-0>

**Have a good weekend. The DPSA**



## Owl's Barn School Meals

Week commencing Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December

<b>Week 1 Monday</b>	Homemade Pepperoni Pizza or Homemade Cheese and Tomato Pizza	Pasta Twists Cucumber Sweetcorn	<b>Key Stage 2 only</b>  Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Shortbread Biscuit with Fruit Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
<b>Tuesday</b>	Local Butcher's Pork Sausage or Linda McCartney Vegetarian Sausages	Creamy Mashed Potato Baked Beans Green Salad	<b>Key Stage 2 only</b>  Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Chocolate Cake Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
<b>Wednesday</b> 	Roast Turkey, chipolata sausage, sage and onion stuffing with Gravy Or Roasted Quorn Fillet in Gravy	Mini Roasted Potatoes Carrots Peas	<b>Not available</b>	Festive shortbread biscuit 
<b>Thursday</b>	Harry Ramsden's Fish Fillet or Vegetable Fingers	Chips Peas Baked Beans	<b>Key Stage 2 only</b>  Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Variety of desserts
<b>Friday</b>	School closed			

## Dates for the Diary Week beginning 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020

**Mon 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Am**

**2.45pm**

**DPSA Prize Raffle Draw**

**Whole school assembly via zoom**

**Tues 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Weds 16<sup>th</sup>**

**12.00pm**

**2.45pm**

**Christmas Dinner**

**Let's Present**

**Thurs 17<sup>th</sup>**

**2.45pm**

**Last day of term for children**

**Whole school assembly via zoom**

**Fri 18<sup>th</sup>**

**School closed for staff training**

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