

Danbury Park Community Primary School

Be wise, be happy, belong!



Website: www.danburypark.essex.sch.uk

Newsletter

17th December 2020

Dear Parents,

Reading Awards

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

Bella G – Bronze	Alex S – Bronze	Poppy – Bronze
Oscar N – Emerald	Ophelia S – Diamond	Abbie G – Diamond

Certificates were presented with certificates in class yesterday.

For those children not in school this week, they will be presented as soon as we come back in January.

Weekly Round-up



This term has again been one quite like no other. We were so impressed by how keen the children were returning to school in September and how quickly they adapted to our new routines. It is very strange keeping the children within their class bubbles but it has become our new way of life. We have evolved and as each traditional school event has popped up, we have considered how we can do this whilst keeping everyone as safe as we can. This meant that we could still mark *Children in Need*, Remembrance Day, present our Christmas Celebrations, have a Christmas dinner and not least some fun class activities. This week the children have watched the pantomime and we hope that they have enjoyed the last week of term.

We have continued to celebrate progress in reading with special Headteacher stickers in the infants and Reading Awards in the juniors. Whole school assemblies have been held by zoom so we have all managed to be together twice a week. We provided parents with a summary of how your children have settled into school and although we have not been able to hold face-to-face meetings, we have used e-mail and the phone to communicate regularly. The teachers will be taking a well-earned break over Christmas so they will do a final round-up of class e-mails and Google Classrooms on the afternoon of our training day on Friday 18th December and then they will not be responding again until Monday 4th January.

It seems that the New Year will be no less challenging but at Danbury Park we will do our utmost to limit the impact not only on the children's education but on their whole experience of primary school. We hope for a brighter future and know that it will come eventually, we just have to be patient, support and care for each other and ensure we stay safe.

Arrangements for reporting positive cases of COVID-19 over the Christmas break

For the first six days of the Christmas break (i.e. up to and including 23rd Dec), parents will need to continue to inform us if your child tests positive with Covid-19. However, parents must only contact school if **symptoms developed within 48 hours** of your child last being in school. We will then identify and communicate with close contacts and advise self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school. Please do not contact school if **symptoms develop after 48 hours** away from school (i.e. from Sunday 20th onwards).

If you need to contact the school, please do this as soon as possible using the following e-mail address: COVIDnotifications@danburypark.essex.sch.uk . Please do **not** leave a telephone message during this time as the office phone will not be checked.

Please supply the following information:

- Child's name,
- Class,
- Details of symptoms and the date they appeared,
- Date of positive test,
- Last day they were in school.

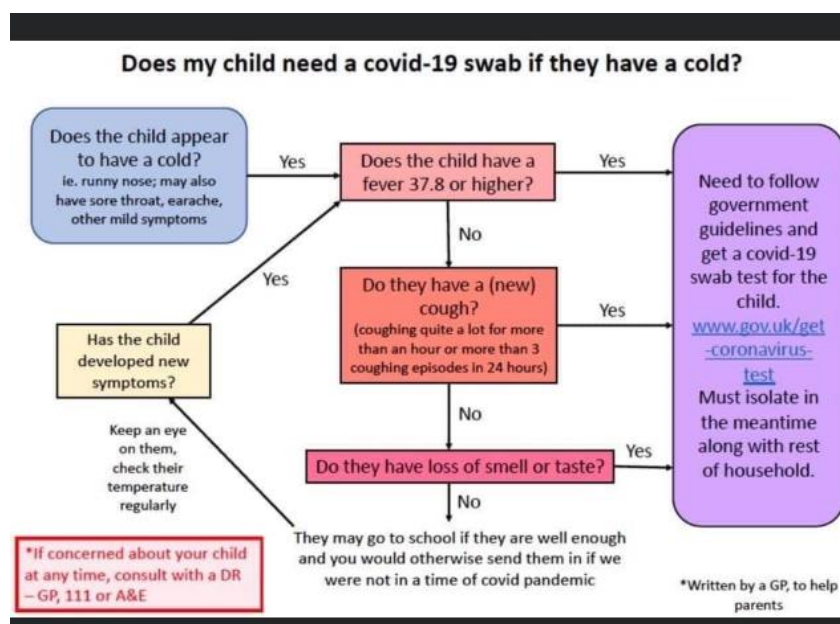
Please note that this e-mail will only be operational from **Friday 18th December until the end of 23rd December**. Emails will be checked daily at 11am and one final time at 4.00pm on 23rd with relevant action then taken. If we need to contact parents to advise self-isolation, this will be sent by Parentmail as an email. It is the responsibility of parents to check this regularly. We will not be able to answer individual questions about any cases, so please only email if you need to report a positive case. Please follow the Government guidance if you have further questions: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>.

If your child attends after school childcare, you will need to contact the provider separately as they will have additional contacts to inform.

Where pupils are required to self-isolate due to contact with a positive case during the holiday, schools do not need to be informed about their absence until the first day of the new term. We have a staff training day on Monday 4th January, when the school office will be open as normal.

COVID-19 Support

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



GOVERNOR NEWSLETTER

December 2020

“ Dear Parents,

As you are aware, this has been a term like no other and our Headteacher and staff have worked tirelessly to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our pupils, while also providing all they need to 'catch up' and make progress.

The government are as grateful as no doubt you are, and we thank all the staff for their efforts this term to maintain our usual high standards and to provide Christmas cheer for the pupils and themselves.

We as governors have supported and offered advice where appropriate and necessary and have managed to begin monitoring at a distance all the work that has continued despite the virus: repairs to the roof, installation of solar panels, the sustainability project and the education of the pupils in relation to the school improvement plan. Committee meetings have been conducted by Zoom and a pack of each committee's work is given below:

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The committees met and a summary of their work is as follows:-

BE WISE, BE HAPPY, BELONG

Curriculum and Pupil Related Committee - Mrs Katherine Moulding

- As the pandemic took hold and the first national lockdown started, Governor monitoring visits, albeit "virtual", focused on the school's SEND provision for pupils as well as safeguarding responsibilities as these were rightly not matters which could be paused.
- Since school re-opened in September, the committee has examined the plans for assessing where the children are in their learning so that supportive and effective recovery plans can be built. We have looked at how the school would make use of the catch-up funding from the government. The committee have also examined plans for the remote teaching provision for pupils having to isolate.
- Governor monitoring visits have continued virtually this term, looking at how pupils' well-being has been supported in school to help them deal with the pandemic, a situation for which they (as well as us adults) have no precedent. The results of the safeguarding audit were also reviewed and resulting actions agreed.

Resources Committee - Mr Rak Rahal

- As usual the Committee plays a key role ensuring the school has appropriate Financial Resources to support pupils and the Curriculum to the high standard we expect, which includes an oversight of the school budget in these extremely challenging times.
- The Committee was involved in the plan to install Solar Panels, which will have a positive impact to the school by reducing our electricity costs, and also to environment by generating "green" energy.
- We would also like to welcome George Fraser as the new Vice Chair to the Committee.

Personnel Committee - Mr Peter Irvine

- At the last meeting it was confirmed that the Covid Risk Assessment was under continuous review and is part of current normal working practice; all staff follow the guidelines rigorously.
- In relation to the committee's responsibilities in the school improvement plan, two governors were appointed as FGB to have regard for mental health/wellbeing in school: Mrs K. Moulding for pupils; Senior Leadership Teams will lead for staff with Mrs G. Wray as governor.

“

We wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

Brenda Wray, Chair of Governors

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Results of Settling in Survey December 2020

Earlier this term, the governors conducted their annual Settling-In Survey. The number of responses was lower than in previous years but this is possibly due to us having little face-to-face contact this term and particularly no parent consultations, which is an opportune time to ask parents to complete the paper survey. In total we had 17 replies to the online survey.

Percentages rounded to nearest whole number.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
My child has settled in happily at school this term.	65%	35%	0	0	0
I am confident my child is safe and well cared for while at school especially with the COVID arrangements in place.	65%	35%	0	0	0
Any concerns or issues I have raised during the half term have been handled well.	24%	35%	6% (1 response)	0	35%
All the staff are approachable and helpful.	18%	58%	6% (1 response)	0	18%
I have been informed of the topic my child is learning about this term.	35%	65%	0	0	0
The time my child is expected to spend reading, learning spelling, playing Maths games, etc., and any additional homework as set by the upper junior teachers is manageable.	17%	47%	12%	0	24%

Analysis of results (based on number of replies to each question):

- 100% of parents agree that their children have settled in happily at school this term.
- 100% of parents agree that they are confident their children are safe and well cared for while at school.
- 59% of parents' concerns or issues raised handled well, while 35% "Do not Know" as none were raised.
- 76% of parents agree that staff are approachable and helpful, 18% "Do not Know".
- 100% agree they have been informed of the topic being learned this term.
- Only 4 parents disagreed across the entire survey.
- There no additional comments from Parents.

Thank you to those parents who did contribute. We do value your opinions and we use them to consider how we can make our great school even better!

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 **15th January 2021**.

Safeguarding

Keep your children safe online at Christmas - Parent Live Sessions on Facebook

Children will have spent much more time on devices in 2020 – either for schoolwork or during leisure time. That is nothing to feel bad about, and we encourage the positive use of technology. However, as we prepare for online Christmas festivities, gifts of new devices or games, or perhaps online tutoring and catch-up sessions, we wanted to let you know about an opportunity to help keep your children safe online.

There will be live drop-in sessions for parents on Wednesday evenings at 7pm on the @LGfLDigiSafe Facebook page this December with tips for what to watch out for, how to stay safe, what to talk about and parental controls for new and existing devices, as well as the opportunity to ask any questions you may have. Head to facebook.com/LGfLDigiSafe to sign up for a reminder on the day. The event will be run by experts in the DigiSafe team at LGfL.

Why not attend this event before you wrap new devices or let your children loose on their holiday games and apps.

Please also remember before buying Christmas presents that games have age ratings linked to their content, not their difficulty (games are rated 18 for the same reasons as films - inappropriate language, sex and violence). There are plenty of great reasons to make technology part of your Christmas, so remember to talk about positives with your child – one great way to find out what they do online and also have fun together is to ask them to show you what they do and to teach you to play their games.

Finally, if you need general help and support over the holidays, you can call the NSPCC / O2 parent online-safety helpline on 0808 800 5002 for general advice or help with parental control settings for your home internet or devices.

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.

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.

Notification and Reminders

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.

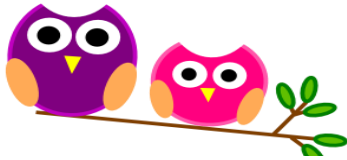
School Lunches - Costs for Spring Term 2021

1st Half Term = 29 days at £2.25 = £65.25

2nd Half Term = 25 days at £2.25 = £56.25

Total for Spring Term = £121.50

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. Thank you. Please note Key Stage 1 and EYFS are entitled to Universal Free School Meals.



DPSA News



Christmas Raffle Prize Winners

Thank you everyone that supported us by buying raffle tickets.

We have been able to raise over **£800**



£100 Cash kindly donated by ejcoombs Solicitors - Butcher family

£50 Cash kindly donated by Multibeton Underfloor Heating - Cornish family

KellyBronze 5kg Turkey Voucher - Sutton family

Marks & Spencer Hamper kindly donated by HCL Tree Management - Jenkins family

£30 Voucher Pizza Delivery from Lot 33 - Herdomain family

Coffee and Cake for 2, including a Beer carrykeg with beer from The Bell, Danbury - Thorne family

Christmas Floral Decoration donated by Natalie Westhorp - Buer family

Bottle of Gin with Glasses donated by Martin & Co, Estate Agents - Weterings family

Bottle of Gin donated by Martin & Co Estate Agents- Parker family

Treatment voucher for Natural Beauty by Chantel - Haweson family

Family meal voucher for Five Guys restaurant - Smith family

Family meal voucher for Five Guys restaurant - Read family

Totes Toasties Hamper - Sands family

Totes Toasties Hamper - Warren family

Stikins name labels voucher - Tyler family

Stikins name labels voucher - Barber family

Stikins name labels voucher - Cumbers family

Cream Tea for 2 at Tea on the Green - Hartwell family

Cream Tea for 2 at Tea on the Green - Buer family

Hotel Chocolat Gift Hamper donated by Church & Hawes, Estate Agents - Rutland family

Hotel Chocolat Gift Hamper donated by Church & Hawes, Estate Agents - Moore family

£20 Voucher Fish and Chips donated by Robinsons, Moulsham St - Bowman Family

School Tea-towels.



Thank you to everyone who has bought tea-towels. We have been able to raise **£975** which is another 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

Orders will not now go out until the New Year.

Children's Christmas Performance DVD

We have been able to raise over **£430**

If you haven't yet ordered one please email dpsadvd2020@gmail.com and we can arrange one for you. Orders will not now be filled until the New Year.



Christmas Tree Sales

Working with Branching Out Together selling pre-ordered Christmas Trees we were able to raise **£218**

Christmas Shopping? New Year Sales?

easyfundraising
.org.uk



amazon smile
You spend. Amazon gives.

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.

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>

Thank you for all your fantastic support over this last term.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Stay safe and we look forward to seeing you all in the New year

The DPSA



Owl's Barn School Meals

Week commencing Monday 4th January

Week 1 Monday	School closed to children			
Tuesday	Local Butcher's Pork Sausage or Linda McCartney Vegetarian Sausages	Creamy Mashed Potato Baked Beans Green Salad	Key Stage 2 only Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Chocolate Cake Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
Wednesday	Roast Turkey in Gravy Or Roasted Quorn Fillet in Gravy	Mini Roasted Potatoes Carrots Peas	Key Stage 2 only Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Ice Cream Pot Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
Thursday	Chicken Nuggets Or Macaroni Cheese	Jacket Wedges Sweetcorn Green Salad	Key Stage 2 only Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Strawberry Delight Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
Friday	Harry Ramsden's Fish Fillet or Vegetable Fingers	Chips Peas Cucumber	Key Stage 2 only Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Flapjack with Fruit Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt

Dates for the Diary Week beginning 4th January 2021

Mon 4th School closed for staff training

Tues 5th
2.45pm Whole school assembly via zoom

Weds 6th
2.45pm Let's Present

Thurs 7th

Fri 8th
2.45pm 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