



Danbury Park Community Primary School

Be wise, be happy, belong !

Newsletter

Website: www.danburypark.essex.sch.uk

4th March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Reading Awards

Congratulations to the following pupils who have passed their reading award this week:

Katie P- **Emerald** Mya-Rose -**Ruby** Florence C - **Ruby** Daisy P- **Platinum**

Reading certificates will be presented in class during the term.

Weekly Update

This week has turned into an increasingly more challenging time as COVID has taken hold of our school in a way that we have not seen before. We have seen a rise in the number of children infected throughout the school and some have been quite poorly. We have noticed that for some children, it starts with them feeling and being sick and they very quickly deteriorate. We would ask that at this time, if your child says they feel unwell, you err on the side of caution and that you keep your mobile phones to hand in case we need to contact you.

Unfortunately last week I tested positive and only returned to school yesterday but I was only one of many staff members unwell or needing to be with their families. We are very grateful to our team of learning support assistants who have stepped in to cover classes. They know the children well and what they have been learning, so in most cases can pick up the teachers' planning and continue the classroom learning. They have done an admirable job. We always try to engage a supply teacher for longer term staff absence where we can but at this time, this has proved very difficult. COVID has also impacted our school office and Mrs Brooke is currently unwell so our admin assistants are stepping in and doing the best they can in order to keep the school running behind the scenes. There is so much that has to come together to keep a school operational and we would ask that families are patient and understanding at this time.

On a lighter note the children looked great today as they embraced the opportunity to dress up and celebrate our Book Fortnight. Photos will be in next weeks' newsletter along with some reports from the classes. At the time of writing we have only raised £288, it is still not too late to send in a donation to help cover the cost of Mike Dodsworth, the storyteller, who is visiting next Friday. Please note that this year, we are not collecting for Comic Relief. We respect that many families may be under financial pressure at the moment, so we will leave you to support the charity in whatever way you wish.

We are supporting the **Essex Year of Reading** and there is an inspirational message from Frank Cottrell-Boyce, an author, who explains why reading is so important. Please take the time to have a look:

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h5rwcoNCOS4>

Over the next few weeks we will share with families more ideas on how to support your children at home and about the projects we are engaged in as a school.

Class Jay's Visit to the Farm



Class Jay had a fantastic time yesterday morning visiting the lambs at Mr and Mrs Kissock's Farm. Olivia in class Jay lives on the farm and had shared information about the lambs in her Let's present. The children were then very keen to see the lambs for themselves.

We were lucky to see the sun for our walk this morning and headed off through the very muddy country park. When we arrived at the farm, a sheep was just giving birth to triplets! We looked at the milking machine and the food needed to feed the sheep. The highlight of the morning was being allowed to hold a lamb. We took it in turns to cuddle lambs which were only a few days old. We also named two of the lambs - Poppy and David. The walk back to school was hard work as it was up hill all the way but it was definitely worth it.

To quote one child, "This has been the best day of my whole life."

A very big thank you to the Kissock family, it was great.

Community News

We have been asked to pass on information about the Sustainable Danbury's community seed swap event on 12 March at 2pm at St John's Church Meeting Room.:

Bring surplus seeds to swap, plant a beanstalk or a pumpkin for the autumn, learn how to make sustainable pots, tick off things on your scavenger hunt sheet and make and decorate a seed packet to take some wildflower seeds home for your own garden, courtesy of Claremont Nurseries.

(Bring a box to carry your plants home. Planting will take place outside so wear something warm!) All welcome. Tea and cake will be available.

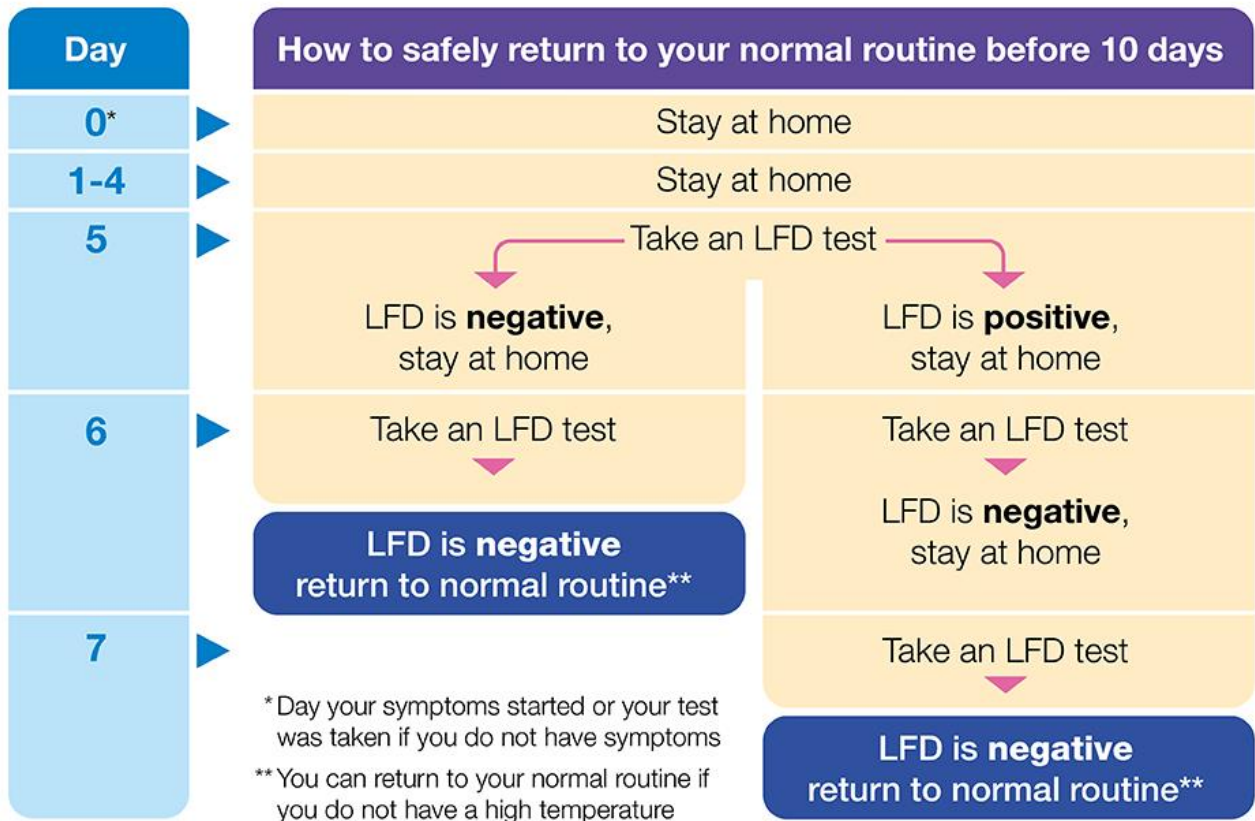
Crisis in Ukraine

As a school we are shocked about the recent events in Ukraine and we would like to support those in need. Mrs Booth, Class Avocet's teacher, is working with a group to organise the collection of donations to be taken to Eastern Europe to help families who have had to flee their homes and leave everything behind. Please send it warm clothes, toiletries, baby supplies etc to the school office in carrier bags and Mrs Booth will collect them.

We are talking to the children about what they are hearing in the news but please be assured this is being done in a sensitive and age-appropriate way.



COVID Guidance Flowchart



Parent Survey – School Uniform

In line with government requirements we are reviewing our school uniform to ensure that it is **affordable** and **easily available** to **all** our families. At this time we do not feel there is a need to make any changes to the uniform itself.

As part of the survey we are reviewing our existing contracts and would appreciate your views. We have set up an online survey and would be grateful if you could spend just 2 minutes answering the questions using the link below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Y9TQ6R8>

A paper version is available from the school office if you would prefer.

The survey will be open until Monday 14th March.

Thank you.

Safeguarding

Prevent Duty

In July 2015, the **Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015** placed a new duty on schools and other providers of education and care, in the exercise of their functions to have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'. The guidance states that schools should be safe spaces in which children and young people can understand and discuss sensitive topics, including terrorism and the extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology, and learn how to challenge these ideas.

This aspect of safeguarding and child protection is regularly included as part of our regular programme of staff training. At Danbury Park School we take seriously our duty to:

- Teach a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life and must promote community cohesion;
- Be safe spaces in which children can understand and discuss sensitive topics, including terrorism and the extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology, and learn how to challenge these ideas;
- Be mindful of our existing duties to forbid political indoctrination and secure a balanced presentation of political issues.

Our children do love to engage in discussions and debates and they are confident to share their thoughts and also what they have heard, so our staff have a good overview. Parents can play their part by discussing topical issues through presenting a balanced view, so that the children can be supported in drawing their own conclusions.

If we are ever concerned, we will contact parents and we are here to help, should you need it.

Let's work together to keep the children safe!

Notification and Reminders



Food and Drink in School – Please remember to check any food brought into school for nuts. We have children and staff with potentially fatal allergies so we are a nut free environment. With Natasha's Law now in force, we are having to tighten up on treats brought into school, so we are sorry but we cannot distribute treats brought into school to mark your child's birthday. Please save these for your child's party or celebration.

Please send your child in with suitable unbreakable water bottles. No glass bottles are permitted.

Pay 360 – Thank you to all the parents who have now joined the new online payments system. Our office staff are happy to support you if you are experiencing difficulties. Please note that we are now well on our way to being a cashless school as part of *Our World, Our Future* project. By having the online system, staff need to make fewer journeys by car to the bank, thus reducing emissions and we are using less paper.

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>

Letters/Parentmail sent out this week

-  DPSA –, Eastival ' Donation Sheet
-  Year 6 School Journey booklet and form to return by 25th March 2022



Week 3

Owl's Barn School Meals

Week beginning 7th March 2022

Fresh bread and milk available daily

Monday	Homemade Tomato Pasta Bake or (V) Cheddar Whirl	French Bread Cucumber Sweetcorn	Key Stage 2 only Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Jam Sponge and Custard Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
Tuesday	Minced Beef Wrap or (V) Vegan Mince Wrap	White/Wholegrain Rice Peas Green Salad	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling Cheese, Baked Beans, Tuna Mayo	Shortbread Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
Wednesday	Roast Turkey and Sage Onion Stuffing in Gravy or (V) Quorn Fillet in Gravy	Roasted Potatoes Carrots Green Beans	Key Stage 2 only Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Strawberry Mousse Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
Thursday	Homemade Pork Meatballs in Tomato Sauce or (V) Vegan Meatballs in Tomato Sauce	White/Wholegrain Pasta Sweetcorn Green Salad	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling Cheese, Baked Beans, Tuna Mayo	Cranberry Flapjack Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
Friday	Omega 3 Fish Fingers or (V) Cheese and Tomato Quiche	Chips Baked Beans Cucumber	Key Stage 2 only Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Ice Cream Pot Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt

School Lunches - Costs for Spring Term 2022

2nd Half Term: 22nd February – 1st April 2022 = 29 days at £2.25 = **£65.25**

Please pay monies up to 1st April 2022 ONLY as the summer term falls within the new financial year. Thank you.

Please pay via the online payment system Pay 360 – Thank you

Meals should be paid for in advance 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 note Key Stage 1 and EYFS are entitled to Universal Free School Meals.

Dates for the Diary
Week beginning 7th March 2022
Beginning of Book Fortnight

Mon 7th March

Tues 8th March

Weds 9th

2.45pm

Let's Present

Thurs 10th

Fri 11th

Visit from Mike Dodsworth, Storyteller

Full term dates for the academic years 2021-22 and 2022-23 are available on the school website.

Yours sincerely,

Carol Gooding
Headteacher

Midday Assistant Vacancies

We still have vacancies for Midday Assistants to help us at lunchtimes. This is a rewarding and busy job helping the children enjoy their school dinners and playtimes.

We can be flexible on days so please contact the school office for more details.



Danbury Park Community Primary School

Dates for Spring Term 2022

Date	Time	Event
March		
4 th	2.45pm	Class H Assembly
WB 7 th		Book Fortnight continued
11 th		Mike Dodsworth, visiting Storyteller
18 th	2.45pm	Class F Assembly
WB 21st		Assessment Week
		Display change
21 st	6.30pm 7.00pm	Pay Committee meeting Personnel Committee meeting
22 nd		Class D Mayan Day
25th	2.45pm	Class G Assembly NB Date change
26 th		DPSA Easter Fayre
April		
1 st		Last day of term

Please remember all events are dependent on the COVID situation at the time.