



Danbury Park Community Primary School

Be wise, be happy, belong !

Newsletter

Website: www.danburypark.essex.sch.uk

1st April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Reading Awards

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

Henry C – Platinum Emily B – Platinum Lucy K – Gold Fred P – Topaz

Reading certificates will be presented in assemblies during the term.

Weekly Update

We are very pleased that despite the on-going challenges posed by the pandemic this term Danbury Park School has managed to stay open and operational. We are impressed by the children's resilience and adaptability as many of them have had to cope with last minute changes of staff and timetables. The children and the staff have all worked hard and deserve a peaceful, restful and healthy Easter break.

This week we were able to hold our inter-house hockey tournament organised by the Year 6 House Captains and overseen by Miss Bridge, Class Jay's teacher and our PE Lead. The classes enjoyed watching the matches and cheering on their houses. The atmosphere was lively and a good time was had by all.



When the School Council met earlier this term, they expressed the wishes of the children that inter-house tournaments were allowed to take place again and we are pleased that we have achieved this goal. They also met this week with Mrs Evans and myself to share their concerns about the sort of tuck being brought into school in the juniors. They have some exciting and important news to share with parents further in the newsletter where you will also find information about how we will be commemorating Earth Day on Friday 22nd April. Please take time to read these articles so that you are prepared.

Thank you to all the members of the DPSA and parents who supported the Eastival last Saturday. A great time was had by all and a significant sum was raised in the process.

We hope you have a good Easter holiday and look forward to seeing everyone back on Tuesday 19th April.

Message from the School Council

Tuck Shop Returns

We as a school are delighted to announce that the tuck shop will be re-opening after the Easter Holidays. Some children from Year five and Year six will be chosen to run the stall daily. As we are a nut free school we will not allow any products containing nuts. On the other hand, the school will be rewarded with a treat day on Friday allowing them to bring in cake and healthy treats.

Please do not bring in any crisps, chocolates and sweets as they contain too much sugar. Various fruits will be sold and vegetables along with cereal bars for the children to enjoy. The system will work with the children coming into the hall in the morning to buy their fruit and go back to their classrooms.

Hema, Sophie and Oscar

We are pleased that the DPSA and Mrs Backshall, Class Budgerigar's LSA, have offered to help us run the tuck shop. We need a few days after Easter to get the fruit, vegetables and cereal bars in stock so we plan to open fully on **Monday 25th April**.

Please support the children in their endeavours to promote a balanced diet and healthy life-styles and choices. The children in the infants all receive free fruit and vegetables so unless school is aware of a medical need, they do not bring in any tuck. In the juniors we want to move away from the salty snacks, chocolate bars and sweets that have started to creep in since the pandemic started. These are not good nutritionally and although may be eaten as treats, we ask that these are saved for after-school or weekends.

Earth Day – Friday 22nd April

This year Earth Day is on Friday 22nd April 2022 and the theme is "Invest in our Planet" which ties in very well with the school's *Our World, Our Future* project. During the week the children will be finding out more about their class's special area of responsibility in promoting environmental awareness and how we take care of this in school.

We would like to invite the children to come into school on Friday 22nd in non-uniform dressed in green, brown or florals. Just remember that we still go out to play so clothes do need to be practical and suitable for the weather. We want to take this day as an opportunity to brighten up our school and consider the wildlife so we are asking for a donation of either a plant, some bulbs or seeds – all of which are readily available at supermarkets at this time of year. Mrs Gooding will be starting up her KS2 gardening club again and wants to get growing vegetables with the children but we also want to create a sensory and quiet area around the gazebos and include flowering and evergreen shrubs for the insects. Please send in any donations at anytime.

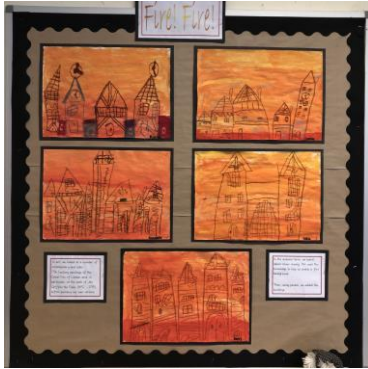
At home you can also join in and these are a few suggestions for promoting a good family discussion:

- Have a personal clean up..... in your area collect plastics, cans, bottles etc.
- Perform a household audit..... Concentrate on electronic devices. Make sure they are off when not being used. Around the house, replace energy efficient bulbs etc.
- In the house ensure that where possible, things are being recycled.
- Are we wasting water? Do we turn our tap off when brushing our teeth? Do we have a shower instead of a bath? Do we just boil the amount of water we need in the kettle?
- Plant some flowers at home as well – the bees will love them!

Class Assemblies

Over the past few weeks the children in Classes Flamingo and Goldfinch shared their learning with their families in our special class assemblies.

The children in Class Flamingo shared songs about the Great Fire of London and also a dance to show the life cycle of the caterpillar. They are pleased to tell you that the last chrysalis turned into a butterfly this week and that they were fortunate to witness this awesome event.



The children in Class Goldfinch also shared their learning about the Great Fire of London and demonstrated their excellent memory skills in learning a very long poem which told the whole story. They also had some delightful art work.

Well done to both classes for their confident and knowledgeable presentations.

Class assemblies for the Key Stage 2 classes will take place during the summer term.

Class Hummingbird School Trip

Class Hummingbird were lucky last and went off on an adventure through Danbury. The sun was shining and the children were rather excited! Mrs. Power, Mrs. Critchley and Mrs. Warren accompanied us. The children and adults wore the lovely high visibility jackets that the DPSA kindly provided for the school. They look brilliant and let everyone know which school we were from!



We started off walking through The Heights stopping to see the changes of the seasons. The children talked about the different flowers that have grown and the new buds and blossoms that have started to appear on the trees. Much to our surprise as we cut through the back of the heights a deer followed us!



We stopped and looked at the church and the materials that it was made of. We learnt about how old The Griffin is and discussed if it was built the same way our houses were today. The children talked about how different the houses all look. We then walked back past the church down to the library.



At the library, Vanessa and her team read us the brilliant story *The Dog, The Cat, Little Red, The Exploding Tomatoes* and *Grandma's Wardrobe*! The children loved the story and I have asked if we can buy a copy for school! The children had a carousel of activities and worked in groups of seven. The children did a letter hunt and had to work out the word it spelt, then they had to design a mask and finally they learnt about the history of the library. They looked around the outside and, on the walls found indentations where children use to sharpen their pencils.



We said our goodbyes and made our way down to The Mission where we were met by Mr. Hartwell. The children enjoyed their lunches and then made Easter cards for The Lunch Time Club. The children then went and gave them to the members.



On Thursday we received a lovely card from The Lunch Time Club thanking the children for their cards.

Afterwards, we played Easter games and then went back to the hall to share the Easter Story. The children did very well not be tempted by the chocolate eggs they were smashing! After the story, the children then made beautiful stained windows which are displayed in our class window! Mr. Hartwell kindly let the children look at the Pall Pit and explained what would be happening at Easter. Finally, to finish off a wonderful day the children had an Easter Egg Hunt.



We would like say a huge thank to Fleur, Vanessa and her team, and Mr Hartwell and The Mission for allowing us to visit and hope to see them all again soon!





Dear Parents/Carers,

We have reached the end of what has been a very difficult term for pupils, staff and yourselves. Learning to live with Covid is proving to be a challenging experience with absences of staff and pupils at the school on a daily basis. It is only with the excellent leadership of our Headteacher and her team, together with the dedication of all the staff, to continue regardless, that the school has been able to function with supply staff and LSAs filling the inevitable gaps as staff fall sick. The governors are extremely grateful to them all for having continued to provide a sound and broad education for all the pupils despite all the difficulties. They certainly deserve to enjoy the Easter break.

Committee business and monitoring of key areas have continued and the reports from committee chairs are as follows:-

Curriculum and Pupil Related – Chair, Mrs. Katherine Moulding

- 🦉 The committee received reports on English and Maths from Miss Johnston and Mrs Ireland respectively which highlighted the key focus areas. The Governors thanked them both for their detailed and comprehensive reports, and their continued commitment and hard work to lead these two key subjects for the school.
- 🦉 The committee received and reviewed Governor Monitoring visit reports on Safeguarding Children, EYFS, SEND & Pupil Well Being, KS1, English, Maths and Class Eider Governor visit.
- 🦉 The committee received and reviewed the Parent and Pupil settling in survey report from Mrs Wray. The Governors were pleased to note that the comments were positive.

Resources Committee – Chair, Mr. George Fraser

- 🦉 The committee has focussed in the Spring term on getting approval for the new outdoor gym area, which I am pleased to report has been obtained from the County Council. We look forward to the start of construction.
- 🦉 The committee has also prioritised the ongoing renovations within the school, with the boys' toilets next for refurbishment.
- 🦉 The new electronic payment system (for school dinners etc) has now been rolled out through all years making it easier for payments to the school office from parents.
- 🦉 We have also been assessing the impact of extra Covid costs on the school and ways to mitigate these.

Personnel – Chair, Mrs. Debbie Le Monde

- 🦉 Covid has impacted heavily on staff absence this term but, that said, the staff rallied to ensure continuity of our pupils' education and are to be commended.
- 🦉 Despite the challenging circumstances, Staff have still made time to attend to their own professional development training to keep abreast of current requirements for the benefit of the pupils.

We wish staff, parents, carers and pupils an enjoyable Easter break and can only hope that next term will be less trying for all of us.

Brenda Wray, Chair of Governors

COVID Guidance from 1st April

The government has issued the following guidance:

The population now has much stronger protection against COVID-19 than at any other point in the pandemic. This means we can begin to manage the virus like other respiratory infections, thanks to the success of the vaccination programme and access to antivirals, alongside natural immunity and increased scientific and public understanding about how to manage risk.

Unless we receive information from the Local Authority to the contrary the following procedures will apply:

- *Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend.*
- *Adults with the symptoms of a respiratory infection, and who have a high temperature or feel unwell, should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature.*
- *Adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious. For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice will be 3 days.*

Well-being

The Brentwood Catholic Children's Society (bccs) continues to support the emotional health and wellbeing of children, young people and families and are seeing an even greater need for their services at this time. As a school we use their services and their counsellors have helped many of our children and families over the years.

Please take a minute to read about their work and support them where you can:

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society – bccs –Spring Newsletter:

https://www.bccs.org.uk/application/files/2616/4734/6129/bccs_Easter_2022_Newsletter_single_page.pdf

Midday Assistant and Staffing Vacancies

We still urgently require Midday Assistants to help us at lunchtimes starting after the Easter break. 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.

You may also see that we are advertising for a full-time Key Stage 2 teacher to join us in September. Sadly at the end of this academic year Mrs Booth will be moving onto a new school and new ventures. We will be sorry to see her leave but wish her the very best for the future.

Safeguarding

Now that the weather is improving and you may be considering letting your older children walk to and from school on their own, it would be a good time to remind them about road safety. Main Road and the roads around the village do get very busy in the mornings and at the end of the school day. We are working with the Parish Council and the local community to improve safety in the village but this will take some time. A gentle refresher in road safety for the children from families would go a long way!

Last week and this week school participated in the annual *Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel* event which inspires pupils, staff and parents to be amazing and take active journeys to school. This would also improve the air quality around the school! Class Dove will be collating the data we have gathered across the school and will report back on their findings next term.

Let's work together to keep the children safe!

Notification and Reminders

Ink Pen Purchases - As we have moved to becoming a cashless school, the purchase of ink pens now needs to be made via Pay360 and not the school office. You will need to order the pen via the stationery tab on Pay360.

Once we have seen a payment of £1.50 on Pay360 the school office will deliver the pen to the child's classroom.

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

 Chelmsford City FC – Years 2,3,4



Week 1

Owl's Barn School Meals

Week beginning 18th April 2022

Fresh bread and milk available daily

Monday				
Tuesday	Local Butcher's Pork Sausage or (V) Vegan Sausage	Creamy Mashed Potato Carrots Peas Green Salad	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling Cheese, Baked Beans, Tuna Mayo	Marble Cake Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
Wednesday	Homemade Chicken Korma with Naan Bread or (V) Sweet Potato and Lentil Korma with Naan Bread	White/Wholegrain Rice Mixed Vegetables Green Beans	Key Stage 2 only Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Peaches and Ice Cream Pot Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
Thursday	Chicken Nuggets or (V) Cheesy Stack Wrap	Crispy Potato Wedges Sweetcorn Green Salad	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling Cheese, Baked Beans, Tuna Mayo	Apple Crumble and Custard Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
Friday	Omega 3 Fish Fingers or (V) Omelette	Chips Baked Beans Cucumber	Key Stage 2 only Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Iced Sponge Cake Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt

School Lunches - Costs for Summer Term 2022

1st Half Term: 19th April – 27th May 2022 = 28 days at £2.25 = **£63.00**

2nd Half Term: 7th June – 21st July 2022 = 33 days at £2.25 = **£74.25**

Total for the whole term = £137.25

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 18th April 2022

Mon 18th	Bank Holiday - School closed
Tues 19th	School reopens for the Summer Term
Weds 20th 9.10am 2.45pm	Reading and Phonics Meeting for Parents of children in Year 1 Let's Present
Thurs 21st 7.00pm	Governing Body Budget Setting Meeting
Fri 22nd	Earth Day - non-uniform Day (green, brown and floral attire)

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

Yours sincerely,

Carol Gooding,
Headteacher

Dates for the Summer Term will follow after the Easter break.

