



# Danbury Park Community Primary School

*Be wise, be happy, belong !*

## Newsletter

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

**24<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Reading Awards

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

Sophie T - **Gold**

Poppy H - **Silver**

Emily T – **Diamond**

Freddie T – **Emerald**

Leo C - **Emerald**

Rupert F - **Emerald**

*Reading certificates will be presented in assemblies and in class throughout this term.*

### Weekly News

Over the past few weeks, we have commenced the Year 5 & 6 Football league matches with the boys playing against Gt Leigh's Primary School and Boreham School. Gt Leigh's were an excellent team and sadly we lost 6-1.

Against Boreham we were joined by Toby C as part of the squad. We were more evenly matched and after an excellent game, we drew 2-2.

Well done to the team!



We are busy arranging our matches for the girls' team and for the High 5 Netball league. Letters will be coming out shortly to the selected teams for each match and all families are welcome to support us at home matches.

You may have seen this week a documentary about schools built with a potentially dangerous form of concrete: Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC). We sought advice from the Local Authority back in January of this year and they have assured us that our school building does not contain any of this material. We hope that this puts parents' minds at rest.

The DPSA Easter Fayre was a great success and we have heard that they raised over £1,500. It was great to see so many families having a good time and supporting this event. We would like to say a big thank you to the committee members and parents, grandparents, staff and governors who helped run stalls on the day.

## Our World, Our Future

### Book Fortnight Class Reports

Some of the highlights from the two weeks included: the opportunity to visit different classes to hear the teachers and LSAs read, reading half hour when parents and grandparents joined us for reading and dressing up for Book Day.

The whole school finished the week by completing a Scavenger hunt titled 'Where in the world?' There were 12 pictures of book characters hidden around the school and each one was holding a flag. The challenge was to find them all and see if they could name which countries the flags came from.

Class Goldfinch had the most correct entries from the infant classes and, for KS2, it was Class Budgerigar. Well done!

I would personally like to thank all of the parents for supporting us and helping to make the book fortnight such a success. The attendance for each reading half hour was amazing! The displays around the school reflect the children's enjoyment and hard work, they look great.

**Miss Johnston**  
**English Co-ordinator**

### Book Fortnight in Class Goldfinch

In Class Goldfinch we have been reading the book 'Betsy Buglove saves the Bees'. We are learning about pollinators and how we can help the bees and butterflies. Our learning for the two weeks was based on this book. The Year twos got to be Scientists learning about the life cycle of bees. Meanwhile, the Year Ones created 'Save the Bees!' posters sharing facts that they learnt about why bees are important.

We also learnt about the parts of a bee, drawing labelled diagrams and the process of how honey is made. Using this information, we wrote explanation texts to explain the process.



We enjoyed reading with our parents on Wednesday afternoon. The hall had just enough space for all of the visitors that came to share a book with us. The 30 minutes went really quickly and we didn't want it to end. Thank you to everyone that came in to read with us. Our Class Governor joined us for this session too. She enjoyed listening to the stories and non-fiction books we read.

During the second week, on Tuesday, we had paired reading with children from Class Dove, it was great fun and we really enjoyed sharing books with the junior children so much so we have asked if we can do this again with them in the Summer term!

**Class Goldfinch**



## Book Fortnight in Class Dove

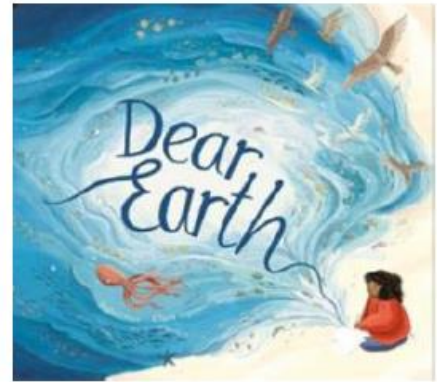
Book Fortnight began with the children listening to the story, *Dear Earth* by Isabel Otter.

The book celebrates the wonders of our world and reminds us that if we all work together to spread the message that Earth is special and worth saving, we can keep our beautiful planet.

After reading the book, the children researched what is meant by our carbon footprint and what is causing this footprint to grow. They then looked at ways in which we could reduce our footprint. This knowledge was used to produce a report about the dangers.

We also read the poem, *Names* by Brian Moses, a tongue-in-cheek poem about how it's not our responsibility to make changes to the world. The children then responded explaining why it is our responsibility to take care of Earth.

Finally, the children wrote a letter of apology to Earth explaining their sorrow and what they would be willing to do to solve the problems that humans have created.



The children also had the opportunity to read to their parents and grandparents, which they thoroughly enjoyed, and then they used their own reading skills to entertain a pupil from Class Goldfinch.



At the end of the fortnight, everyone dressed up as their favourite book character and went on a search around the school looking for Where's Wally. We all enjoyed the many different opportunities.





## Year 3, Class Eider Book Fortnight

For Book Fortnight in Year 3 we chose to use *Mother Earth is Weeping*, written by Claire Donald and illustrated by Simon Taylor, as our starting point.



The tale is written as a poem and is a conversation between the Moon, the Sun and Mother Earth. It begins with the Moon asking Mother Earth why she is weeping, then goes on to look at all the different reasons that Mother Earth has identified as environmental issues. Sun and Moon then try to reassure her that actually there are people trying to help, particularly the younger generation and that she should feel more positive about the outlook.

We read the poem as a class and developed our performance skills by rehearsing and practicing different sections. We also spent time analysing the poem to see what we could notice and understand. Within the book each verse looks at a different theme and we picked out phrases for each one, putting them together to form group poems. We have published these with our art work behind them - they look very striking.

We wanted to know more about the author and the illustrator, so we researched on the internet to see what information there might be. We discovered a website which did provide some information and also a contact email address, so we decided to write emails to ask more specific questions.

We also wanted to know a bit more about our class focus for Our World, Our Future - which includes finding out about deforestation and the use of palm oil. We were fascinated to learn about all the different products that we use that actually contain palm oil and we wanted to make more effort to raise awareness about this issue, so started creating posters to warn of the dangers.

Later on, we used the book cover design as a starting point for lots of art work, including creating backgrounds that reflected the earth, moon and sun themes. We used watercolour paint, chalk pastels and oil pastels to create the effects of fire, water and forests, as seen on the *Mother Earth* illustrations. We also linked this work to the method and style of art that writer and illustrator Eric Carle (*The Very Hungry Caterpillar*) created when he illustrated his books.

We liked talking about and looking at different well-known illustrators and one of these was Quentin Blake. We learnt how to draw faces in his style and picked up some of his techniques, practicing with pens and watercolours to create the same effects. For the hall display we then wanted to create a scene of faces of people campaigning to tackle climate change, so painted some larger versions. We can really see how we have managed to capture his style.

Other activities we enjoyed included sharing books with adults in the hall, pairing up and sharing books with other children, going around to listen to stories by teachers in other classrooms and reading different books that we wouldn't always get the opportunity to read. We used every opportunity to get in to books and really enjoy them - especially dressing up as the characters on the last day!



## Class Flamingo

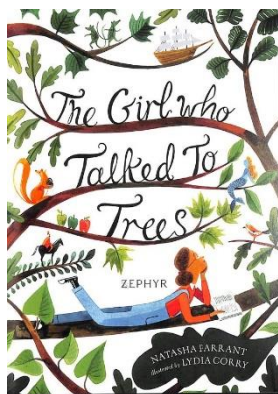
During Book Fortnight, Class Flamingo enjoyed the opportunity to read with and listened to a variety of different people, such as children from Class Cuckoo, other teachers and visiting family members.



In class, we read *The Journey Home*, where the children followed the adventures of some endangered animals trying to find their way to a safe home. As part of their work, the children wrote some incredibly emotive letters from the animals to humans, letting them know the damage they are doing to their homes and asking them to stop. The children have also worked hard to write and publish their own picture book version of *The Journey Home* about another set of endangered animals, which they cannot wait to share with others.

## Class Avocet

During Book Week class Avocet have looked at the book, *The Girl who Talked to Trees*, by Natasha Farrant & illustrated by Lydia Corry which has seven short stories based around the main character, Olive, and her passion for trees.



After reading the opening we discussed what could happen in the rest of the book from details stated and implied. At the end of chapter one we thought that Olive was hopeful that she could come up with an idea to save her beloved oak tree.

In chapter two a seedling began to talk to Olive and we discussed which writing technique the writer was using -

Was it an anthropomorphic device or personification?

We found out that personification is the use of figurative language to give inanimate objects or natural phenomena humanlike characteristics in a metaphorical and representative way. Anthropomorphism, on the other hand, involves non-human things displaying literal human traits and being capable of human behaviour.



Sharing a text with parents



We were pleased to use our prior knowledge of the Forest Laws (researched during our crime and punishment topic in the autumn term) to understand why the boy in chapter two was desperate to escape the king and his men in the forest. The writing task on display are our summaries of chapter two - the common oak along with our art using watercolours for a stylised oak tree which was based on the illustrator's art tutorial we watched in class.





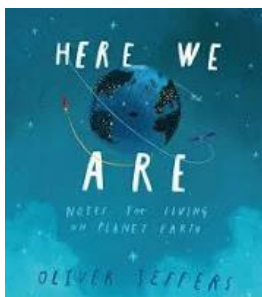


This booked linked well to our carbon cycle work which is class Avocet's Our world, Our future topic. We were able to share our work on the carbon cycle with class Eider and used some science sessions to measure the carbon capture of some trees on the school field. During our science investigations, we used the tree leaves to identify the species and found that the greater the circumference of the tree, the greater the carbon the tree captured.



Class Avocet looking fab dresses up as a book character!

## Class Cuckoo



During Book Fortnight, we enjoyed reading 'Here we Are: Notes for Living on Planet Earth' by Oliver Jeffers. This inspired us to find out more about ways we can care for our planet, as it says in the book, "Well, that is Planet Earth. Make sure you look after it, as it's all we've got".

We went on to read about and investigate the problem with plastic, and have created persuasive leaflets and posters. We also created sea-life using recycled cardboard, which you can see on display.



We all really enjoyed sharing stories with children in Class Flamingo. We could also choose which class to go to, to listen to an adult read to us. Our parents and grandparents came in to read to us. It was really special. We took place in the 'Where's Wally' hunt too. We found we were really good at recognising flags from around the world! Finally, we finished the week with our dressing up as a book character, can you guess who we all are?



By Phoebe M and Fred





The Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel got underway this week and we have been logging our journeys every day. Well done to the families in Classes Budgerigar, Cuckoo and Eider as each day more and more children have walked to school. The challenge continues next week, so please use this as opportunity to fit in a bit more exercise each day and help reduce the pollution and harmful emissions around our school.

### **What do you need to do?**

Encourage your child(ren) to walk, use a wheelchair, scooter or cycle to school on as many days as possible during the event.

### **Including everyone**

We want to make sure that everyone can get involved in Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel.

We know it may be more difficult for some pupils to take part than others. Why not be creative and try parking further away from school and walking for the last 10 minutes of your journey!

### **Why we are taking part**

Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel is a great way to build physical activity in children's daily routine which is important for their physical health and mental wellbeing.

Active school runs also help to reduce congestion and air pollution outside the school gate. [A 2021 YouGov study](#) showed nearly half of UK children worry about air pollution near their school. And that children thought active travel was the best way to bring down these pollution levels. Plus there are some great prizes to be won every day if we get enough children taking part!

### **Useful resources**

To help you prepare, Sustrans has developed a handy free guide to walking, cycling or scooting to school. It is packed with advice to help you have hassle-free journey to school.

Download your free family guide using this link: <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/sign-up-to-receive-your-free-school-run-guide/>

For more information about the event go to [www.bigwalkandwheel.org.uk](http://www.bigwalkandwheel.org.uk) . Enjoy the challenge!

## **Safeguarding Mental Health and Well-being**

There are some excellent resources available to parents on the Place2be website. Mrs Macey has been working with them to study for her Level 3 Mental Health Lead award and we feel that parents might also appreciate their knowledge and expertise:

<https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/>

**The DPSA has kindly agreed to fund workshops with the 2 Johns on 23<sup>rd</sup> May. Please keep this date free in your diaries as there will be an evening workshop for parents that we are sure you will find illuminating.**

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

## **Attendance**

### **Important information - Term time holidays**

Improving school attendance is a key priority for all schools across Essex. Where families choose to take a family holiday during term time, this can detrimentally impact a pupil's progress and can prevent them from fulfilling their true academic potential. Our school attendance policy, available via our school website, clearly sets out the process that parents should follow if they wish to apply for leave during term time. Please note that applications should only be made, if you feel that there are exceptional circumstances which mean that the leave cannot be taken during the school holidays.

**We would ask all parents to note that, where families choose to go on holiday during term time and the absences are coded as unauthorised, Essex County Council may not issue penalty notices and may instead proceed to prosecution and place the case directly before the Magistrates for their consideration in court. If found guilty by the Magistrates, parents could face a fine of up to £2,500 and/or 3 months imprisonment.**

## **Midday Assistant Vacancies**

We still have vacancies for Midday Assistants to work during the week supporting the children with their lunchtimes.

This is an important and rewarding role so if you are interested, or know someone who might be, please contact the school office for details and an application form.



# Find out what to do if your child is unwell

Download our  
free guide



Scan me

CHILDREN'S  
HEALTH  
MATTERS

Treat at  
home?

Call  
111?

Visit  
A&E?

We have been contacted by the Mid Essex Alliance, part of Mid and South Essex Integrated Care System (ICS) to share this important information with you. Across mid and south Essex, there is continued pressure on local health systems. **Data shows that there is increasing paediatric emergency presentation in local A&E departments. However, for much of the time, the outcome of the attendance is recorded as self-care/advice and no treatment is given.**

As a response, the ICS has re-launched a campaign to promote the **Children's Health Matters guide**, updated with new information for winter 2022/23. The free guide was co-designed with local parents and is packed with expert advice and guidance on what to do when children are unwell with common childhood illnesses. **It explains how to treat children at home, when to see a GP or call 111, and when symptoms are more serious and you should seek emergency help.**

In addition to the CHM guide, they have a family health newsletter that families can subscribe to - subscribers get 10 weekly email newsletters each covering a different aspect of family health and wellbeing - the link to subscribe is below:

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKMSEHCP/signup/32458>

## Parking and Road Safety

Please remember to use the local roads and the school car park with consideration and care for others. Please keep the roadway down into the car park free so that traffic can move off and onto Well Lane without causing a blockage on Main Road which then compromise the safety of the zebra crossing. We are still looking to recruit someone to man our school crossing patrol, so please spread the word.



Please park with care and consideration for our neighbours.

## Danbury Park School Lottery

We would like to remind parents about the school lottery and thank those who regularly donate their winnings back to the school.

The Schools' Lottery is where parents can take part in a weekly draw with proceeds going to the school.

In a year we usually raise over £1 000 which we spend on special projects like the EYFS outdoor classroom and which we could not otherwise afford. Every little contribution helps!

**Please visit the website and support us:**  
**[www.yourschoollottery.co.uk](http://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk)**  
**Search for Danbury Park School**

You must be 18 years of age to play and tickets cost just £1 a week.



**WIN A  
YEAR OF  
HELLO FRESH**

- Tickets cost just £1 a week
- Win a whole YEAR of HelloFresh!
- Please help give our fundraising a boost
- Save money and eat fresh in 2023

**PLAY NOW:**  
Go to  
[www.yourschoollottery.co.uk](http://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk)  
Search for: Danbury Park Communi



Supporters must be 16 years of age or older. See website for Terms & conditions. Enter by 25/02/2023.

### Mathletics Challenge

We have restarted the Mathletics Challenge for the Spring Term and the class that made the most use of Mathletics from 13<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> March was:

**Class Dove** who amassed a collective 7 hours 58 mins (not as many hours as in the past week weeks but still the class winner)

and the pupil was:

**Philip F** in Class Eider

A special well done to the children in Class Budgerigar who rose to Mrs Murphy's challenge to make a real effort to up their collective hours!

**Well done and keep up the good work!**

## Notification and Reminders

**Tights and Socks for Infants** – We like to hold a stock of tights and socks for the infants in case of accidents. If you have any in good condition that your children have outgrown, please bring them into the school office.

**Named Uniform** – please can all parents check that their child's school uniform is clearly named. We continue to have a large pile of unnamed school uniform and we are sure you are as frustrated about missing jumpers as we are.

**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>

To check your eligibility, please use the free online checker link:  
<https://pps.lgfl.org.uk/>

This is the eligibility criteria ECC use:  
**Entitlement and what is required**

The Government set the criteria for free school meal entitlement. To be entitled, you need to receive:  
Universal Credit with an annual income of £7,400 or less

- Income Support
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income Related Employment & Support Allowance
- Pension Guarantee Credit
- Child Tax Credit (But not working tax credit) with an annual income of less than £16,190
- Parents with Asylum Seeker status who receive support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Working Tax Credit 'Run-on' – the payment someone may receive for a further 4 weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

### **Letters/Parentmail sent out this week:**

 **Reading – A guide for Parents**

 **KS2 – Spring Term Assembly - 9.15am for Classes H&J – 2.30pm for Classes F&G**

## SCHOOL DINNERS COSTS FOR SPRING TERM 2023

**2<sup>nd</sup> Half Term: 21<sup>st</sup> February – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 = 29 days at £2.50 = £72.50**

**Please note that all school meals should be paid for in advance and via Pay360.  
As we come to the end of the financial year, please could parents ensure  
that all accounts are settled in full.**





## Owl's Barn School Meals

Week beginning 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023

### Week 3

Fresh bread and milk available daily

<b>Monday</b>	Homemade Tomato Pasta Bake or (V) Cheddar Whirl	Homemade Bread Sweetcorn Cucumber	<b>Key Stage 2 only</b> Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Chocolate Sponge and Chocolate Custard Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
<b>Tuesday</b>	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	Cranberry Flapjack Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
<b>Wednesday</b>	Roast Chicken With Yorkshire Pudding, Gravy or (V) Quorn Fillet in Gravy	Roast Potatoes  Carrots  Green Beans	<b>Key Stage 2 only</b> Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Jelly and Fruit Fresh Fruit Fresh Yoghurt
<b>Thursday</b>	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	Shortbread Biscuit Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
<b>Friday</b>	Omega 3 Fish Fingers or (V) Cheese Stack Wrap	Chips  Baked Beans  Cucumber	<b>Key Stage 2 only</b> Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Iced Finger Bun Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt

**Dates for the Diary**  
**Week beginning 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

**Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel 2023 continues**

**Mon 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Tues 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Weds 29<sup>th</sup>**

Am	EYFS Welly Walk and Egg Rolling in the Country Park
9.15am -	Teddy Lympics (invited Year1s)
12.00pm	

1.30pm	Inter-house Hockey Matches
2.50pm	Let's Present

**Thurs 30<sup>th</sup>**

11.00am	Andrew Wiltshire, author visit to Class B
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**Fri 31<sup>st</sup>**

9.15am	KS2 Assembly to Year 3 & 4 families and classes J & H
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2.30pm	KS2 Assembly to Year 5 & 6 families and classes G & F
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**Easter Holidays**

Full term dates for the academic years  
2022-23 and 2023-24 are available on the school website.

Yours sincerely,

Carol Gooding,  
Headteacher

# Danbury Park Community Primary School

## Dates for Spring Term 2023

Date	Time	Event
<b>March</b>		
29 <sup>th</sup>	Am	Teddy Lympics for invited Year 1 children
	Am	EYFS Egg Rolling and Welly Walk
	Pm	Inter-house Hockey Matches
31 <sup>st</sup>	9.15am 2.30pm	KS2 Our World, Our Future assembly to parents Year 3 & 4 parents with classes J & H Years 5 & 6 parents with classes F & G
		Last day of Spring Term

**A full list of dates for the Summer Term will be published shortly.**