



# Danbury Park Community Primary School

*Be wise, be happy, belong!*

## Newsletter

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

**19<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Reading Awards

#### Congratulations to

Chloe M – Emerald Jasmine B – Diamond Amber H – Diamond Ruby C – Topaz

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

### Weekly News

This week I attended a conference with headteachers from the Chelmsford area and we were lucky to hear presentations from two primary schools about the Pupil Forum that we, as a group, set up last year. One of the schools was Danbury Park and Ella and George from Year 5 came along with Mrs Ireland to share the work they had done together. This was based on *Our World, Our Future* and the work each class is doing trying to make our planet safe. Ella and George were selected last year as they were school councillors in Class Dove. They were a credit to the school and explained confidently and knowledgeably about our project. Well done!

Essex County Council have recently launched a new free app to help members of the community measure and reduce their carbon footprint and this supports our work in school. Download the [Carbon Cutting Essex App](#) and discover small changes which we can all make to reduce our carbon footprint. Users can learn more about climate change and how we can take action through taking part in a range of fun activities. Each month, the app focuses on a different theme around climate action with October focussing on how we can reduce food.

We had a successful DPSA Annual General Meeting last week and we would like to congratulate and thank the officers who were elected for the year. We talked about fund raising projects and how the DPSA can help the school when budgets are not getting any easier. One project we would like to get off the ground is the refurbishment of the KS2 toilets but we have no idea how much this will cost. We are putting out a plea to parents to see if there is anyone in our community who could help us draw up plans of how the toilets are now and what we want to do. We need a plan in order to invite different companies to give us quotations, to find out how much money we need to raise and to get the right permission from ECC. If you, or think you know someone who can help, please contact Mrs Brooke in the school office.

At the end of the newsletter before the dates for the year, you will find a summary of our school improvement plan for 2023-24. This explains what we are working on as a school. The children also have a version in the school hall so they also know how we are trying to make our great school even better. We hope you found the parent consultations informative and useful and we would ask parents to spare a few moments over the half-term break to contribute to the Ofsted Parent View survey at: <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

## Class Eider's Stone Age Adventure

This week, Class Eider had an immersive Stone Age Day experience on the school field. The company set up a camp and cave on the field and brought in lots of artefacts to share with the children. The children watched in awe at flint knapping, fire lighting and even tried many Stone Age jobs such as making candles, throwing spears, carving, playing drums and many more.



On Monday, we had a Stone Age Day experience. When I first arrived on the school field, I saw old bones, sharp flint, pointy spears, burning fire, fancy necklaces and headbands and animal skins. There was a lady dressed in Stone Age Clothes. She was wearing a leather dress, a necklace made from animal teeth and a headband decorated with shells and claws. She was called Mema.

**Neve C**

First, Mema taught us about the Stone Age timeline. The three periods are split into Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic. After, she moved the timeline on to The Bronze and Iron Age. Once we had finished the timeline, we collected dry sticks for a fire. Mema used two flint stones to start a spark which started our fire while we said the magic words of 'Fire, Brother, Comma'.

**Nathan E**



After, we chatted about the different Stone Age jobs and how hard life was for them. My favourite job was flint knapping and scraping the animal skin to make them soft. In the afternoon we did cave paintings and went for a walk to forage. My favourite part of the day was trying out all the different jobs.

**Emma N**

Class Eider were so engaged and showed off their impressive knowledge to Mema who commented on what a wonderful class they were to work with. Well done Class Eider and thank you to our parent helpers and class governor for supporting the day.





## Mathletics Challenge



The class that made the most use of Mathletics last week was:

**Eider** who amassed an amazing total of 24 hours 31 mins

And the pupil who made the most use of the programme was:

**Stanley F-K** in Class Eider

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

## Talented and Thoughtful Children



### Boxing

I box with a boxing club called Box to Burn and I have been boxing for nearly 2 years. I train on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Recently, I got a trophy for being the hardest working boxer at the club and I had a boxing fight a couple weeks ago which I won. At the weekend, I was invited to Poland for a boxing fight and I won it. It was a very fun weekend at Poland.

By Archie

## Essex County Council SEND Roadshow

Essex County Council, alongside Essex Family Forum and The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information Advice and Support Services will be hosting free, Roadshows in October and November. These events will feature representatives from health, education, social care, and other local charities and support groups.

Date: 1 November 2023

Time: 9.00am to 12.30pm

Location: Budworth Hall, Ongar

Date: 2 November 2023

Time: 9.00am to 12.30pm

Location: Ingatestone Community Centre, Ingatestone

This is a chance for parents/carers/families to come along and ask any questions about special educational needs and disabilities.

For more information and details on the event please visit the [Essex County Council SEND website](#).

## Attendance

Part of our safeguarding duties and procedures is ensuring that when children are absent from school, we know where they are and that they are safe. Please remember to inform school by **9.20am each day** if your child is absent from school and to follow this up with a written letter of explanation on their return. If we do not know where your child is, we are required to use the emergency contact numbers you have given to school. So, it is vitally important that if you change your phone numbers, or your family and friends do, that you inform us.

The government, local authority and school take attendance seriously and school is required to follow up on irregular attendance and prolonged absences and also for unauthorised absences, so please do not be offended when we ask for proof of doctors' and dentists' appointment or ask for details of holiday bookings or delayed flights or sickness on return after school holidays. The government is also asking parents to send their children into school with mild illnesses and we would, of course, contact you should their condition deteriorate.

### 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.

## Secondary School Places for September 2024

The application period for Year 7 entry in September 2024 opens this week and parents of Year 6 children who live in Essex can apply for a secondary school place on the Essex Education Portal on their website. Parents have until **31<sup>st</sup> October** to submit an application.

Parents who live in other Local Authority areas such as Southend or Thurrock must apply to their own Local Authority, but they can name Essex schools on the application.

Parents of children with an EHCP should not apply (except for grammar schools); their transfers will be arranged by the SEND Ops Team.

For parents who cannot apply online or who prefer to apply on paper, ECC have a paper application form that can be printed from the ECC website: [Admissions booklets, policies and forms: Application forms | Essex County Council](#) or they can request from ECC that one to be posted to them.

Full information about applying is on the ECC website: [Secondary school places | Essex County Council](#)







## Safeguarding

At Danbury Park School we take e-safety seriously. At the beginning of every school year, as part of our computing curriculum, our pupils are taught about E-safety. This is then re-visited every term to reinforce the message of personal safety. The elements of computing are embedded across all subjects in the curriculum and our pupils regularly use the internet as part of their learning. In school, we use a filtering system to prevent children accessing inappropriate sites.

Over the past years we have also organised parent information workshops to help families keep abreast of the new technology with the aim of helping keep the children safe at home.

Our top tips are:

-  Set up your computer in a shared area at home so that you can see the sites your children are accessing;
-  Set your security levels so that you can limit access to sites and time spent on electronic devices;
-  Talk to your child about what they are doing online;
-  Talk to your child about keeping their personal information private.

There are some excellent resources available and we would like to suggest the following sites which provide more detailed information:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/parentsguide/>  
[http://old.kidsmart.org.uk/downloads/cn\\_parentleafletV2.pdf](http://old.kidsmart.org.uk/downloads/cn_parentleafletV2.pdf)







We would also recommend that parents sign up for the free services of the 2 Johns. For those new to the school the 2 Johns are ex-police officers with a wealth of experience who offer information and training to schools, children, staff and parents. They last visited us in the Summer term and held workshops for children, staff, governors and parents. In the meantime, please check out their pages and follow them on *facebook*, as they issue timely alerts about new trends:

<https://esafetytraining.org/>

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

## Danbury Park Community Primary School Policies

We would like to remind parents that many of our school policies are readily available on the school website including:

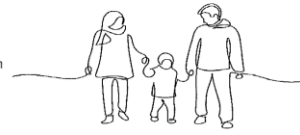
-  Child Protection,
-  Online Safety,
-  Child-on-Child Abuse,
-  Behaviour
-  Anti-bullying
-  The Governors' Statement of Behaviour Principles.

All these are regularly reviewed and updated.

Paper copies are available on request from the school office.

## Child and Family Counselling Services

Parents are now able to access direct support for their child by referring them into the safe hands of our Child and Family Counselling Services (CFCS). We have a team of highly experienced Counsellors, Specialist Child and Adolescent Counsellors and Play Therapists available within the counselling team who work in our specially adapted therapy rooms.



We offer support to children, young people and parents through talking, play and art therapy.

CFCS provides therapy to children, young people and families. We support many different issues such as:

- Self-harm
- Identity
- Anxiety
- Bullying
- Bereavement
- Parental separation and family issues or conflict.

The pathway is overseen by our Head of Child and Family Counselling Services, who is supported by a team that are both passionate about and dedicated to the wellbeing of children and young people. The team has achieved very positive and reparative outcomes for children and families.

### What can you expect?

After an initial contact, we will arrange an assessment to explore the issues your child may be experiencing and will then identify which model best supports the difficulty your child may be facing.

### Who do you contact?

If you are worried about your child and would like to talk to us further, please either email Catherine cmunns@bccs.org.uk or call on 07792 732206 and we will be pleased to help.

Take a moment to read about the experience a parent shared with us:

*I had contacted a number of professional services to assist me in helping my daughter. At the suggestion of my daughter's school a referral was made to BCCS and it was then that I met one of their counsellors. After months of unanswered questions and "hitting brick walls" I finally had answers, structure and a profound understanding of how a small little girl's mind works.*

*For me, there has been nothing so worrying as watching your child struggle and the BCCS counsellor's help has enabled me to help her for which I will be forever grateful.*



www.bccs.org.uk



headoffice@bccs.org.uk

BCCS, 133 High Street, Billericay, Essex, CM12 9AB

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society - Registered Charity Number: 1000661



BCCS  
a children's charity for  
Essex and East London

## 5 top tips on how to BE BRIGHT & BE SEEN

- 1** Brightly coloured or fluorescent clothing shows up well in daylight and at dusk when you're heading to and from school.
- 2** If you're out and about when it's dark wear reflective items to make sure you can be seen in car headlights. Reflective vests, sashes or wristbands work well. Remember, fluorescent clothing doesn't work after dark!
- 3** Don't forget to accessorise! Even small items such as clip on reflectors, armbands and stickers on your outfit or school bag are a great way to improve your visibility.
- 4** If you like to cycle, remember that it's the law to have clean and working lights at night (white at the front, red at the back), as well as a rear reflector. It's good to fit spoke reflectors too.
- 5** Of course, 'Being Bright' helps drivers to see you but that won't guarantee that you keep safe. You still need to make sure that you stop and look in all directions for traffic every time you cross.

**Be Bright,  
Be Seen**

**THINK**

## BE SAFE THIS HALLOWEEN

- Remember Halloween costumes are highly flammable
- Try to buy costumes from a reputable store or website
- Check costume labels for a UKCA or CE mark
- Encourage children to layer up
- Teach children to Stop, Drop and Roll
- Keep candles well out of the path of trick or treaters
- Consider switching to battery-powered candles
- Stay safe near roads
- Be visible

Kidaround Magazine

## Notification and Reminders

**School Gateway** – Thank you to all the parents who have now joined the new online payment system. Please ensure that you download the app as per the letter sent out at the end of last term. Payments for school dinners and trips need to be made via this app. 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.

**Measles** – The Primary Health Care Trust has asked us to remind parents about the measles vaccine, which is available through GP surgeries. They are anxious to vaccinate all children to prevent an outbreak of a potentially dangerous disease.

**Ink Pens** – We have now moved away from using fountain pens in the classroom and will going forward encourage the children to use Berol Writing Pens. These will be provided by the school.

**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>

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

Please apply on the link above

### ParentMail Letters sent out this week:

- 📧 Years 1- 6 - Poet visiting Danbury Park
- 📧 Online Consent form for Flu Vaccination – deadline 1<sup>st</sup> November – Reminder (thank you if you have already completed this form)
- 📧 DPSA – Christmas Wreath Making Evening (information sent out via DPSA)





## Owl's Barn School Meals

### Week beginning 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023

**Week 1**

**Fresh bread and milk available daily**

<b>Monday</b>	Homemade Cheese and Tomato Pizza	White/Wholegrain Pasta Sweetcorn Cucumber	<b>Key Stage 2 only</b> Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Shortbread Biscuit Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
<b>Tuesday</b>	Local Butcher's Pork Sausage or (V) Vegan Sausage	Creamy Mashed Potatoes Baked Beans Green Salad	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling Cheese Baked Beans Tuna Mayo	Flapjack Fresh Fruit Fresh Yoghurt
<b>Wednesday</b>	Mild Beef Chilli with Nacho's or (V)Vegan Mince Chilli with Nacho's	White/Wholegrain Rice Carrots , Peas Green Salad	<b>Key Stage 2 only</b> Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Peaches and Ice Cream Pot Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
<b>Thursday</b>	Chicken Nuggets or (V) Macaroni Cheese	Crispy Potato Wedges Sweetcorn Cucumber	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling Cheese Baked Beans Tuna Mayo	Apple Crumble and Custard Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
<b>Friday</b>	Omega 3 Fish Fingers or (V) Omelette	Chips Baked Beans, Peas Green Salad	<b>Key Stage 2 only</b> Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Iced Sponge Cake Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt

### SCHOOL DINNERS

#### COSTS FOR AUTUMN TERM 2023

**1st Half Term: 6<sup>th</sup> September – 23rd October 2023 = 32 days at £2.70 = £86.40**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Half Term: 30<sup>th</sup> October – 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023 = 38 days at £2.70 = £102.60**

**Total for Autumn Term = £189.00**

**Please note that all school meals should be paid for in advance via School Gateway.**

**Dates for the Diary**  
**Week beginning 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

**Mon 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Activities**

**Tues 31<sup>st</sup>**

**Weds 1<sup>st</sup> Nov**

**Pm**

**2.55pm**

Neal Zetter, poet, in school to work with children from Year 1 through to Year 6  
Let's Present in classes

**Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**9.05am**

**7.00pm**

Meeting for Volunteer Helpers  
Governors' Resources Committee Meeting

**Fri 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**2.45pm**

Flu Immunisation  
Class Budgerigar's Class Assembly

**Full term dates for the academic years**  
**2023-24 and 2024-25 are available on the school website.**

Yours sincerely,

Carol Gooding,  
Headteacher

# **Danbury Park Community Primary School**

## **Summary of the School Improvement Plan 2023-24**

A school's success relies on the staff and governors having a clear idea of what the school does well and what it needs to develop. An integral part of our work is evaluating, monitoring and reviewing what we do and questioning the impact on our children's learning.

The School Development Plan outlines how the school will continue to grow over the coming three years. This is then broken down further into the School Improvement Plan, which gives detailed information on what we want to achieve, how we are going to achieve it and how we will measure our success. It also informs the financial priorities for the school.

This year we continue our primary aim, which is to recover from the enforced closures and partial re-openings of school that happened from March to July 2020 and January to March 2021. During these periods, pupils missed a significant amount of time in school and whilst remote learning with parents and carers was in place, we accept that this can in no way replace face-to-face learning with a teacher and classmates.

Each year we set targets for pupil attainment and achievement at the end of Early Years, Key Stages 1 and 2 and Year 1 Phonics. These are agreed by staff and governors and are based on the prior attainment, performance and potential of each individual pupil. This means that targets will fluctuate from year to year dependent on the make-up of the cohort but they are always challenging and help us improve teaching and learning over time. Because the children have experienced unprecedented disruption to their schooling, our targets this year reflect this but are still aspirational and build on the success of last year.

Our targets, which include those for the end of Year 2 and the Year 6 statutory assessments, are:

- 80% pupils in EYFS achieving a good level of development.
- 95% pupils in Year 1 achieving the expected standard in the Phonics Screening.
- 80% pupils in all year groups achieving the expected standard separately in reading, writing and Maths
- 80% pupils in all year groups achieving the expected standard combined in reading, writing and Maths
- 3.5% absence; 0% persistent absence; 0% suspensions and exclusions.

Excellent schools are by their nature critical of everything they do and Danbury Park is no exception. We will continue to monitor, evaluate and review our provision and practice, including many aspects that are too numerous to mention, throughout the course of the year.

The views of parents, carers and pupils are important to us and we will continue to seek opinions through informal as well as more formal methods such as surveys and questionnaires.

**The governors and staff are committed to taking Danbury Park Community Primary School forward and to continuing its growth, development and improvement.**



## Key Priorities for 2023-24

What are we trying to improve?	How will we know when we've got there?
<b>The Quality of Education including Behaviour and Personal Development</b>  For most pupils across all groups and in all year groups, but with a specific focus on Years 5 and 6, to catch up on academic achievement in reading by the end of the academic year. For most pupils across all groups and in all year groups, but with a specific focus on Years 3, 5 and 6, to catch up on academic achievement in writing by the end of the academic year. For most pupils across all groups and in all year groups, but with a specific focus on Years 3 and 6 to catch up on academic achievement in Maths by the end of the academic year. For most pupils in EYFS and Year 1 to reach age related expectations in Maths by the end of the academic year	Pupil attainment, as measured at the end of the academic year, is in line with end of year expectations.  Pupils, who are significantly below starting points in September, make rapid progress throughout the year.  Pupils, who are on the SEND register or defined as disadvantaged, make good or accelerated progress from their starting points.
For pupils to be fully supported in their emotional health and well-being	Pupils in need of support are identified early; Support is put in place through school well-being mentors; specialist support is sought where applicable; Pupils report that they feel safe and supported.
For pupils to be fully supported in their emotional health and well-being through adult understanding of Trauma Perceptive Practice (TPP)	All staff at Danbury Park School are trained in TPP. The values of TPP are put into practice by all staff and this is evident throughout the school.
<b>The School Environment</b> For the school to work towards being carbon neutral by 2030	A long-term action plan is in place. The lighting in the school is replaced by energy efficient and environmentally friendly units (budget permitting).
For the school to be a purposeful and well-cared for environment	Plans are in place to refurbish the Key Stage 2 toilets.
<b>Leadership and Management Structures and Systems</b>  For the leadership of the school to continue to have due regard for staff's mental health and well-being  For communication to continue to improve with all stakeholders  For governor monitoring to be embedded in practice and methodology enhanced to follow best practice:	Staff feel supported and valued; staff morale is good; Where possible workload is reduced; staff are consulted on new initiatives and projects; The senior leadership team evaluate new initiatives and projects for impact on workload.  Feedback from surveys, parents, pupils and staff and other governing bodies inform us.  All monitoring visits are in accordance with the Governor Visits Policy and each governor with a responsibility submits a report to the full governing body and appropriate committee after the agreed visit.

# Danbury Park Community Primary School

## Dates for Autumn Term 2023

Date	Time	Event
<b>October</b>		
20 <sup>th</sup>		School closed for staff training
23 <sup>rd</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup>		<b>Half-term break</b>
<b>November</b>		
2 <sup>nd</sup>	7.00pm	Governors' Resources Committee meeting with site walk at 6.30pm
3 <sup>rd</sup>		Flu Immunisation
	2.45pm	Class Budgerigar Assembly
8 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 & 10.30am	Prospective parent tours
10 <sup>th</sup>	2.45pm	Year 6 Remembrance Assembly to parents and school
14 <sup>th</sup>	1.45pm	Tour for prospective parents
15 <sup>th</sup>	Am	Pre-school activity morning
17 <sup>th</sup>		Children in Need
	2.45pm	Class Cuckoo Assembly
21 <sup>st</sup>	2.45pm	Class Eider Assembly
22 <sup>nd</sup>	9.30am	Tour for prospective parents
24 <sup>th</sup>	2.45pm	Class Dove Assembly
Week beg 27 <sup>th</sup> Nov		Whole School Assessment Week
<b>December</b>		
2 <sup>nd</sup>	12.00 – 2.00pm	DPSA Christmas Fayre -tbc
6 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 – 9.30 pm	DPSA Wreath Making Evening
12 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am & 2.15pm tbc	EYFS & KS1 Christmas Play
13 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am & 1.45pm tbc	KS2 Christmas Play
14 <sup>th</sup>	12.00pm	Christmas Dinner
20 <sup>th</sup>	Pm	Christmas Parties
		<b>End of Term</b>