



Danbury Park Community Primary School

Be wise, be happy, belong!

Newsletter

Website: www.danburypark.essex.sch.uk

6th October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Reading Awards

Congratulations to

Harry T - **Ruby** Hollie T - **Ruby** Isla W - **Ruby** Freddie G - **Ruby**

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

Weekly News

Last week in assembly we announced the results of the School Council elections that each class has been holding. Congratulations to the following children who were chosen by their classmates to be School Councillors for the year:

Class A

James
Freya

Class B

Phoebe
Caleb

Class C

Amber
Theo

Class D

Isla
Harry T

Class E

Chemmy
Nathan

Class F

Felix
Florence

Class G

Eleanor
Ada

Class H

Albert
Freya

Class J

Mae
Bobby

Well done! Mrs Evans is looking forward to meeting all the children and working with them to make our great school even better.

Bikeability



This week saw the start of the Year 6 Bikeability course where the children learn about riding safely on the roads. The children work in small groups with two instructors on an intensive two-day programme, initially on the playground and then progressing out onto the local roads.

This programme is invaluable in building the children's confidence and independence and in setting them up for the transition to secondary school.



It was an eggcellent investigation where we found out where the egg shell was strongest and weakest. The children discussed why there were these differences and decided that it would be important that the egg stay intact when it was first laid and then when the chick was ready to come out it would need to be able to peck where it is weakest. Where do you think the egg would be strongest and weakest?

The group were told that one of Farmer Tim's hens keeps laying eggs on a high surface in the hen house. He's losing lots of eggs as they fall off the surface and smash when they hit the floor. The surface is 1 metre from the ground. The challenge was to make an egg protector using junk materials.





The children selected from a variety of fabrics, card, paper, corrugated card, felt, wool and masking tape.

Daniel and Amber discussed where the chicken would lay the egg so they thought about using a variety of materials to cushion the landing as well as trying to direct where it fell.



The Science of Eggs

All unsupported objects fall towards the Earth due to the force of gravity acting between the Earth and the object. There will be some air resistance pushing back on the egg as it moves through the air, but this is small due to the small surface area of the egg.

An egg is stronger at its top and bottom because of its more domed/arched shape at these points, which distributes any force applied more effectively than across its side. This would be where a force is applied if a hen sits on an egg. The strength of the shell is weaker at the sides (much less domed) and this is where a chick needs to crack the shell to get out. Therefore, greater force can be applied to the ends of an egg before it cracks.

What a great first session. The next science club will be held on Wednesday 11th October and is entitled, "Escape!" They will need to bring a small figure like a playmobile or lego figure (to give an idea of size) and small margarine tubs or foil trays.

Mrs Marsland

Year 6 School Journey

A few weeks ago Mrs Marsland, Class Avocet's teacher met with the parents of the children to explain about the residential school journey that we have planned for June 2024. That may seem a long way off but these activities take a lot of planning and forethought. School Journey has been a fixture in the school diary for many years but as a school we are now at a point where we are having to re-think how this will work in the future.

With rising costs, and school only able to ask parents to contribute to specific aspects of the visit, we are now having to subsidise the week by some £ 2,500. This is mostly because of the additional staffing costs that are required and as you will know there is increasing pressure on school budgets. Over the past three years school has struggled to find enough staff who are able to commit to a week away. Our staff have families and personal commitments and last year we came so close to cancelling the journey as there were insufficient staff members who could go. In the end, thanks to Mrs Ayris and Mrs Barker, LSAs, who came forward at the last minute, the journey could proceed but they both had children in Year 6 and for them, having mum around all day, the school journey was not quite the same.

This year we continue to face the challenge of finding enough staff to supervise the children safely, so we have taken the decision that the Year 6 School Journey, in its current format, cannot continue. We felt it only fair to let parents and children know in advance so that their expectations can be managed.

We are already investigating exciting alternative excursions linked to the curriculum that will take place in the summer of 2025. We want the children to leave Danbury Park School with lasting fond memories, so the children will still have a programme of different exciting experiences to look forward to.

Mathletics Challenge



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

Eider who amassed a total of 17 hours 54 minutes narrowly beating Class Budgerigar

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

Philip in Class Cuckoo beating Matilda in Class Dove by 1 minute!

Well done and keep up the good work!

Talented and Thoughtful Children

Daniel was part of his team's sporting success at the weekend.

He took part in the Under 11s team at the Herts Futures Baseball Tournament in Hemel Hempstead. His team, the Essex Redbacks won in their age group, having won or drawn in all 4 games played. The team played against teams from Sheffield, Hertfordshire and Northampton and were very excited to win!



Sidney played contact rugby for the first time, with a new team and won man of the match!



Here is the photo of the children who had a great time at the Nuclear Races the other week!

Well done!

Whilst we enjoy seeing the photos of our fantastic children participating in activities and events outside school, we must ask that photos do not contain any other children or adults without their express permission. If parents are submitting a group photo, all parents should e-mail the office to give permission for the photo to be used.

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: 18 October 2023

Time: 9.00am to 12.30pm

Location: Witham town hall, Witham

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](#).

Walk to School Month

WALK TO SCHOOL MONTH 2023

#MOVE WITH US

OCTOBER 1ST - OCTOBER 31ST

5 REASONS TO WALK TO SCHOOL THIS MONTH

1

Walking is good for your body - daily exercise helps you feel good and healthy

2

Walking makes our minds stronger -
Walking helps improve our mental health

3

walking can make you feel happy and is a great way to start your day

4

Walking is good for the environment - walking is the healthiest way to travel

5

Walking is good as a group - walking is a great way to talk with friends



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 **31st 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

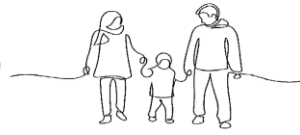
We would also recommend that parents sign up for the free services of the 2 Johns. For those new to the school the 2 Johns are ex-police officers with a wealth of experience who offer information and training to schools, children, staff and parents. They last visited us in the Summer term and held workshops 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!

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



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

Letters sent out this week:





Owl's Barn School Meals

Week beginning 9th October 2023

Week 3

Fresh bread and milk available daily

Monday	Homemade Tomato Pasta Bake or (V) Cheddar Whirl	Homemade Bread Sweetcorn Cucumber	Key Stage 2 only Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Chocolate Sponge and Chocolate 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	Tutti Fruiti Flapjack Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
Wednesday	Roast Chicken with Yorkshire Pudding Gravy Or (V) Quorn Piece in Gravy	Roast Potatoes Carrots Green Beans	Key Stage 2 only Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	100% Organic Fruit Iced Lolly Fresh Fruit Fresh 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	Shortbread Biscuit 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	Iced Finger Bun Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt

SCHOOL DINNERS COSTS FOR AUTUMN TERM 2023

1st Half Term: 6th September – 23rd October 2023 = 32 days at £2.70 = £86.40
2nd Half Term: 30th October – 20th 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 9th October 2023

Mon 9th

All day

Year 6 Bikeability

Tues 10th

All day

Year 6 Bikeability

Weds 11th

2.45pm

Harvest Assembly for families of children in classes J & H

2.55pm

Let's Present in classes

Thurs 12th

2.45pm

Harvest Assembly - for families of children in classes G & F

7.00pm

DPSA AGM in the school hall

Fri 13th

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

Dates for Autumn Term 2023

Date	Time	Event
October		
9 th		Year 6 Bikeability
10 th		Year 6 Bikeability
11 th	2.45pm	Harvest Assembly to parents of children in J & H (watched by classes A & B)
12 th	2.45pm	Harvest Assembly to parents of children in G & F (watched by classes E, D & C)
	Tbc	DPSA AGM
17 th	3.40 – 6.10pm	Parent Consultations – all classes
18 th	Am	Exotic Pets visitors - Classes J and H
19 th	3.40 – 6.10pm	Parent Consultations – all classes
20 th		School closed for staff training
23rd – 27th		Half-term break
November		
2 nd	7.00pm	Governors' Resources Committee meeting with site walk at 6.30pm
3 rd		Flu Immunisation
	2.45pm	Class Budgerigar Assembly
8 th	9.30 & 10.30am	Prospective parent tours
10 th	2.45pm	Year 6 Remembrance Assembly to parents and school
14 th	1.45pm	Tour for prospective parents
15 th	Am	Pre-school activity morning
17 th		Children in Need
	2.45pm	Class Cuckoo Assembly
21 st	2.45pm	Class Eider Assembly
22 nd	9.30am	Tour for prospective parents
24 th	2.45pm	Class Dove Assembly
Week beg 27 th Nov		Whole School Assessment Week
December		
2 nd	12.00 – 2.00pm	DPSA Christmas Fayre -tbc
12 th	9.30am & 2.15pm tbc	EYFS & KS1 Christmas Play
13 th	9.30am & 1.45pm tbc	KS2 Christmas Play
14 th	12.00pm	Christmas Dinner
20 th	Pm	Christmas Parties
		End of Term

