



# Danbury Park Community Primary School

*Be wise, be happy, belong!*

## Newsletter

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

**10<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Reading Awards

**Congratulations to:**

**Harriet T - Ruby**

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

### Weekly News

Today the two eldest and two youngest girls and boys from Year 6 accompanied me to the Danbury War Memorial to lay a wreath on behalf of the school as our act of remembrance for all those who have given their lives or been injured fighting for our freedom.



This will be followed by an assembly in the afternoon led by all the Year 6 children to the whole school and their families. In the past we have joined with St John's Primary School and Heathcote School at the War Memorial but due to the passing traffic, we found that it was hard to hear the children's voices and the significance of the occasion was lost. Last year the Year 6 children led the assembly in school and it was incredibly meaningful and poignant and so we decide to make it a regular event. In preparation, the children went to the Imperial War Museum in London with Mrs Marsland earlier this term and they have been researching the significance of the poppy. Photos and reports will follow next week.

**Please remember that it's Children in Need on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November and we are inviting the children (and adults) to come to school in brightly dressed non-uniform. On this occasion we ask that the children do NOT wear make-up or have wacky hairstyles. Also please remember that the children will be going out to play so they need suitably warm clothing and footwear and their coats. We will be collecting cash donations, which the children should give to their class teachers on Friday morning, as this means that all the money raised goes to the charity.**

Good News!



This week we received an announcement from Growing Communities to inform us that Danbury Park Community Primary School was runner-up in the Bee Good Primary School Plot Competition. This was a project that the children in last year's Class Goldfinch worked on with Miss Johnston last summer.

The judges commented on the incredible amount of work that the class had put into creating the Busy Bees Happy Place. They said, *"Not only is this a fabulous name but the design of the plot was well thought out for the age group and one could see the final result would look amazing once in full bloom. I am sure the bees loved the plot which also provided a wonderful haven for all. The outstanding work and commitment shown by the children is inspirational - well done! Once again thank you for entering the Bee Good Competition and going that extra mile for our Bees it means the world to us at Growing Communities."*

The Runner-up Prize is a set of educational books about bees, a bee hotel and seeds for the next growing season to keep our garden topped up!

**Congratulations to last year's Class Goldfinch and Miss Johnston!**

## Mathletics Challenge



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

**Budgerigar** who amassed an amazing total of 10 hrs 56 minutes again narrowly beating Class Eider

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

**Jenson** in Class Budgerigar

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

## Emergency School Closures – SNOW!

As we approach the time of year when inclement weather and snow is more likely, we would like to advise you of the school's emergency closure procedure. The decision to close the school is never taken lightly but there may be rare times when the site is unsafe or insufficient staff can get into the school and closure is unavoidable. Please note that the local radio stations no longer give out announcements.

Schools will notify Essex County Council and the information will be available on their website at:  
<http://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/Dates/Pages/Emergency-School-Closures.aspx>

We will also put a message out on Parentmail and on the scrolling news on the first page of the school website. We will aim to do this by 7.30am.

If the weather and traffic are bad, please take care and get to school safely. We will understand if you delay your journey and arrive later than the usual time.

If you have not yet joined *Parentmail*, please ask at the office.

## Vacancies at Danbury Park School

We are again looking for a Midday Assistant to join our hardworking and happy team at lunchtimes supporting the children through the lunch break. We need someone to work on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11.45 am to 1.30pm. This is an interesting and rewarding position. For more information and an application form, please contact Jacki Brooke in the school office.

## 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.

**Last week we had a number of children arriving after 8.55am when the school gate had been locked. Unless your child has permission to walk to school on their own, parents MUST bring their child into the school office in order to sign them in and give a reason for their lateness. This way you know that they have been handed over to our care and are safely in school.**

## Safeguarding

With Halloween just past and Christmas fast approaching we have been asked to pass on the following information relating to a product called **Candy Dynamics Toxic Waste Slime Lickers**.

This information can also be found on the Food Standards Web page here. <https://www.food.gov.uk/news-alerts/alert/fsa-prin-39-2023>

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

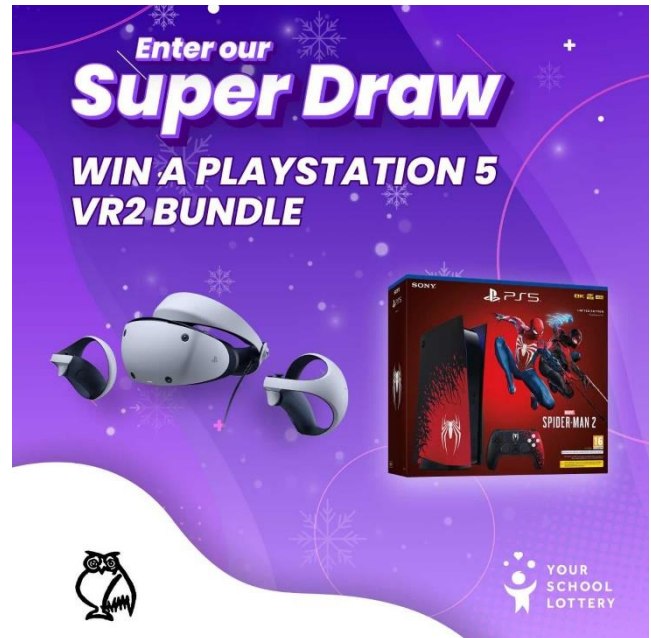
## Danbury Park School Lottery

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 the KS2 garden, 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.

Chelmsford CVS in partnership with THE SALVATION ARMY ideas hub

# WINTER COAT APPEAL

Can you help families in need with your good-condition & clean, used warm coats?

**Please donate to:**

**Chelmsford CVS**  
Burgess Well House, Coval Lane,  
Chelmsford CM1 1FW

**01245 351888**

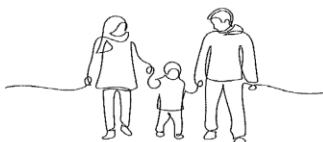
*Thank you*

Registered charity no. 1112483 Company no. 05586169



# 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](mailto: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](http://www.bccs.org.uk)



[headoffice@bccs.org.uk](mailto: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

### ParentMail Letters sent out this week:

-  Year 6 and EYFS – Reading partners letter
-  Years 5 & 4 - NFER letter



## Owl's Barn School Meals

### Week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023

**Week 3**

**Fresh bread and milk available daily**

|                  |   |   |  |  |
|------------------|---|---|--|--|
| <b>Monday</b>    | Homemade Tomato Pasta Bake<br>or<br>(V)Cheese Stack Wrap                            | Homemade Bread<br>Sweetcorn<br>Cucumber             | <b>Key Stage 2 only</b><br>Jacket Potato with a choice of filling            | Chocolate Sponge and Chocolate Custard<br>Fresh Fruit<br>Fruit Yoghurt |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | Mince Beef Wrap<br>or<br>(V)Vegan Mince Wrap  | White/Wholegrain Rice<br>Peas<br>Green Salad        | Jacket Potato with a choice of filling<br>Cheese<br>Baked Beans<br>Tuna Mayo | Cranberry Flapjack<br>Fresh Fruit<br>Fruit Yoghurt                     |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | Roast Chicken with Yorkshire Pudding, Gravy<br>or<br>(V)Quorn Pieces in Gravy       | Roast Potatoes<br><br>Carrots<br><br>Green Beans    | <b>Key Stage 2 only</b><br>Jacket Potato with a choice of filling            | Jelly and Fruit<br>Fresh Fruit<br>Fruit Yoghurt                        |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | Homemade Pork Meatballs in Tomato Sauce<br>or<br>(V)Vegan Meatballs in Tomato Sauce | White/ Wholegrain Pasta<br>Sweetcorn<br>Green Salad | Jacket Potato with a choice of filling<br>Cheese<br>Baked Beans<br>Tuna Mayo | Shortbread Biscuit<br>Fresh Fruit<br>Fruit Yoghurt                     |
| <b>Friday</b>    | Omega3 Fish Fingers<br>or<br>(V)Cheese & Tomato Quiche                              | Chips<br>Baked Beans<br>Cucumber                    | <b>Key Stage 2 only</b><br>Jacket Potato with a choice of filling            | Iced Finger Bun<br>Fresh Fruit<br>Fruit Yoghurt                        |

### SCHOOL DINNERS COSTS FOR AUTUMN TERM 2023

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

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



**Dates for the Diary**  
**Week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

**Mon 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Tues 14<sup>th</sup>**

**1.45pm**

Prospective Parent Tour for places in September 2024 – places must be booked in advance

**Weds 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Am**

**2.55pm**

Pre-School Activity Morning

Let's Present in classes

**Thurs 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Fri 17<sup>th</sup>**

**2.45pm**

**Children in Need**

Class Cuckoo Assembly to families and school

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                        |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>November</b>                     |                           |                              |
| 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<br>beg 27 <sup>th</sup><br>Nov |                           | Whole School Assessment Week |
| <b>December</b>                     |                           |                              |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>                     | 12.00 –<br>2.00pm         | DPSA Christmas Fayre         |
| 6 <sup>th</sup>                     | 7.30 –<br>9.30 pm         | DPSA Wreath Making Evening   |
| 12 <sup>th</sup>                    | 9.30am &<br>2.15pm<br>tbc | EYFS & KS1 Christmas Play    |
| 13 <sup>th</sup>                    | 9.30am &<br>1.45pm<br>tbc | KS2 Christmas Play           |
| 14 <sup>th</sup>                    | 12.00pm                   | Christmas Dinner             |
| 20 <sup>th</sup>                    | Pm                        | Christmas Parties            |
|                                     |                           | <b>End of Term</b>           |