

Danbury Park Community Primary School

Be wise, be happy, belong!



Newsletter

Website: www.danburypark.essex.sch.uk

17th November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Reading Awards

Congratulations to:

Oliver N - Ruby

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

Weekly News

On Friday afternoon our Year 6 pupils led our Remembrance Assembly through sharing what they had learned from visiting the Imperial War Museum in London and through studying the works of the WWI poets and writers. They created soundscapes trying to capture the atmosphere and emotions around the Great War as well as a textile hanging with Mrs Coupland, one of our dedicated and regular volunteer grandparents. The children also conveyed their personal responses. Freddie played his guitar with a gentle but thought provoking piece *Everybody Hurts* as we ended with Ms Westcott playing the *Last Post* on the trumpet and a minute's silence.



This was quite a long assembly and of a very serious nature but all the children sat and listened attentively.

We are really pleased that Mrs Karen Lees, Class Eider's teacher last year, will be re-joining the staff at Danbury Park School in January when Mrs Hill starts her maternity leave. We are looking forward to working with her again and she is looking forward to coming back. She will be visiting school in the next few weeks to meet Class Flamingo and to start planning with Mrs McIntosh for the Spring Term.

Please see the notice further in the newsletter about the school car park which is again causing problems.

Year 6 Remembrance Assembly Report

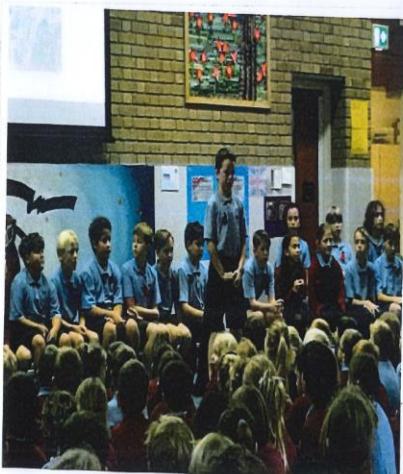


Year sixes remembrance Assembly

On Friday 10th November all Danbury Park year sixes performed a special remembrance assembly to commemorate all of the soldiers that sacrificed justly for us...

Our thoughts on the IWM

We started off our assembly by presenting our work we did about describing what the trip to IWM made us feel. Such as, "I was really shocked by how cruel the trenches were!" "I had a part where I talked about my thoughts. I said, 'It made me change the way I looked at the world wars. It also made me feel how my life is not that bad and I am very lucky. Personally, I think the worst part was trench warfare - being stuck in the same disease-



ridden place for what probably seemed like an eternity. That really shocked me." We also showed three mini films that different people made. The mini films starred Isla, Halle and Jacob W. These were all created at the IWM. Although only 3 films were shown, everyone did do one.

Start of war, poems and Music soundscapes

After sharing our thoughts on WW1, Leo, Jaydon and Zach explained how WW1 started since that is a key thing to know. Next we went on to talk about our soundscape in music. We basically had to make a situation out of instruments. For example leaving for battle. My group's soundscape was supposed

to sound like the very middle of the battle; this means there is a lot of fighting and loud noise. In between showing our soundscapes, we performed two poems: Reported Missing by Amy Gordon Keown and The Soldier by Rupert Brook. These poems were presented in small groups as we all did one big poem at the end.

Remembrance Banner and other poems

After next we showed the audience a remembrance banner we all contributed to. Despite everyone contributing to it, it was mainly Mrs Coupland, Teigi and Halle that made it because they sewed the poppies on the corner. As well they put together everything on it except the mini poppies. We still had three more poems to



perform and as two were by the same poet we did those two next. The one
The poem we did first was called perhaps. The person introducing it
was me. The second poem was called To My Brother. These poems
were both by Vera Mary Brittain and they recounted her sad experiences
during the First World War.

Music and In Flanders Fields

We were extremely lucky to have two wonderful musicians playing
Everybody Hurts by R.E.M on a guitar and The Last Post on a trumpet.
Miss Westcott was our trumpeter and Fred was our guitarist.



Lastly, we all performed In Flanders Fields by John McCrae which Mrs Marshall
stated was unimprovable, I think that was my favourite poem out
of the five.

**By Luke P
Class Avocet**

We are pleased to report that we have received a thank you from the Royal British Legion for our support with the Poppy Appeal for raising £276.32.

Conclusion

Overall, we presented the assembly with the correct, respectful tone
and we delivered the right message according to Miss Johnston. My mum
claimed, "As well as informative it was interesting."⁹⁹

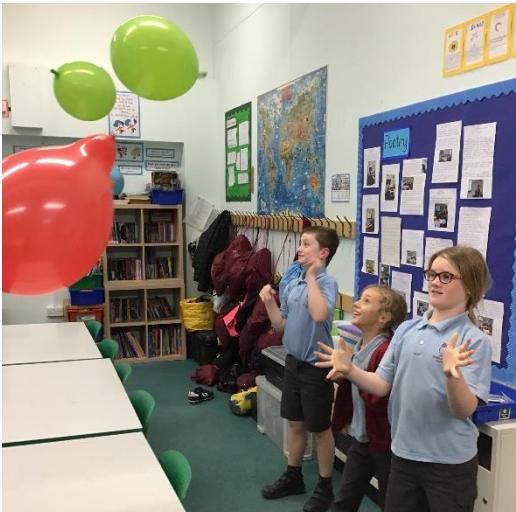
Science Club



In science club this week we worked with balloons.

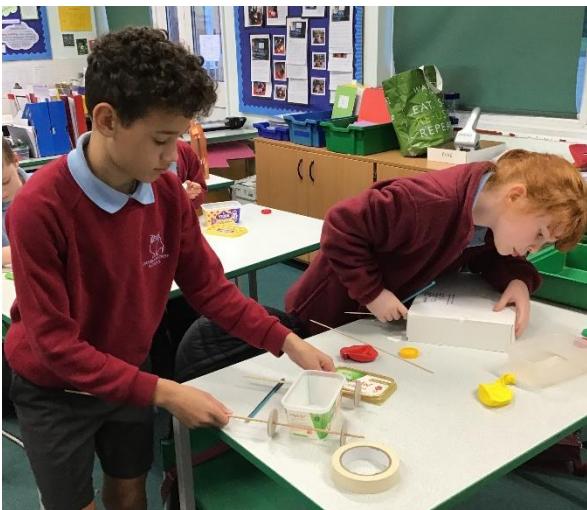


First we blew them up and released them all at the same time and then we repeated this but the second time we let them go in small groups so we could observe what was happening.



We notice all of the balloons shot away either upwards or forwards but all of them move away from the person. The more air that was blown into the balloon the further it travelled. Mrs Marsland explained a key fact around Newton's 3rd Law of Motion that whenever there is a force in one direction, known as an action, an equal and opposite force is also created.

Our next task was to design and built a balloon powered car using recycled materials for the chassis and attach wheels on axles.





Next week we will design a racecourse and to race our finished balloon powered cars!



Mathletics Challenge



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

Class Dove who has made an excellent collective effort and amassed an amazing total of 25 hours 53 minutes.

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

Jimmy in Class Dove narrowly beating Ibraheem in Class Budgerigar

Well done and keep up the good work!

Primary Mathematics Challenge



Last week, ten Year Six pupils participated in the Primary Mathematics Challenge. The challenge consisted of 25 questions, 20 of which were multiple choice. The questions were graded; starting with easy ones first and graduating to harder questions. The final five questions required an answer where no choices were given. The challenge is an international competition aimed at pupils in upper Key Stage 2.

Prior to the event, the children were given the opportunity to try questions from previous years. They then met to discuss their answers and how they tackled the questions. Finally, they met last Thursday to complete this year's 25 questions.

Well done everyone who took part.

Mrs Ireland
Maths Lead

Car Park

We are aware that the car park at the front of the school is again causing problems for parents and visitors. Last year Mrs Ireland, KS2 Lead and Class Dove's teacher, spent a lot of time in the morning directing traffic but her priority is the education of the children and she is needed in class - learning starts as soon as the children come into school. We have signs to show where cars should not be parked but these are disregarded and parents abandon their cars in the middle of the car park causing an obstruction and not allowing the traffic to flow through. This causes traffic to back up on Well Lane and Main Road which is dangerous for pedestrians. We have even had parents blocking staff in and parking across the entrance to the staff car park which prevents staff entering and leaving the site.

We know that the car park is developing some potholes and I am in communication with Danbury Outdoors about this. Unfortunately, neither establishment has any spare funds to carry out repairs, so we are considering what we can do. We are speaking with Essex County Council about this but if anyone has any connections with companies that carry out repairs, please let the school office know.

We all need to use the carpark with consideration but also safely so that no-one gets injured.

Christmas Events



As Christmas is fast approaching and we have lots of events planned, we thought parents might appreciate a full list of what is coming up!

Saturday 2nd December 12.00 – 2.00pm - DPSA Christmas Fayre. There will a range of stall and activities as well as Father Christmas so we hope that we will see lots of families getting in the festive spirit and supporting the DPSA.

Monday 4th Dec until Thursday 7th Dec - Every year we hold a toy collection in aid of Chelmsford Children's Social Care Services and we will again be doing this. This year more than ever, there are children in our local area, who need our support. Families are invited to bring in a new or very nearly new toy, game, puzzle etc. wrapped in Christmas paper to put under the tree in the hall. Please leave one end of the donation open and label it clearly "boy aged 5 – 7" as appropriate, so a 10 year old does not get a baby's rattle! Donations may be left under the Christmas tree in the hall. **Please note that there is only a short window for gifts to be brought into school as we are very tight on space at this time of year.**

Monday 4th Dec – The Christmas post-box will go out so that the children can post their cards during morning registration. Please make sure each envelope is clearly labelled with the recipient's name and class as this helps our Year 6 deliverers. As a school that is working hard to protect our environment, we ask that the children consider the impact of sending cards and maybe only do this for close friends. After Christmas, the school will have a recycling bin specially for cards at the front entrance, which will be there for our community to use. More information to follow shortly.

Tuesday 12th Dec at 9.30am and again at 2.30pm – The infant children will perform *Are we nearly there yet?*
Wednesday 13th Dec at 9.30am and again at 1.45pm - The junior children will perform *A Hint of Snow White*.
Letters will be sent out on Monday with full details.

This year the plays will not be filmed.

Thursday 14th Dec – Christmas dinner will take place and there is no need to book in advance. We are inviting the children to wear a Christmas jumper or t-shirt to school that day with their school skirt/pinafore or trousers so that we all look very festive.

Wednesday 20th Dec - Christmas parties will take place amongst the classes in the afternoon and the children can bring in some party clothes to change into after dinner. We will end the day with a whole school Christmas sing-a-long.

On **Thursday 30th November** Mr Lawday, our caretaker, and I will be putting up the stage. The stage is quite easy to assemble but is very heavy. If anyone is able to help us before school on that day, we would be grateful. We are here from 7.30am and it should take no longer than an hour. If you can help, please let the school office know. Thank you.

Details of all events will be provided by class teachers, in separate letters and the newsletter as each event approaches.

Safeguarding

This week, 13th -19th November is Anti-Bullying Week, and this topic is regularly covered in our assemblies and classes. Bullying is the **repetitive, intentional hurting** of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an **imbalance of power**. We always explore this in more detail and in an age appropriate way with the children in our PSHE lessons.

The Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service provide schools with resources and have also suggested the following help for parents:

Talking to your child about bullying video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kyDtI5jg6g&t=1s>

Young Minds parents guide to bullying

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-a-z-mental-health-guide/bullying/>

Anti Bullying Alliance Advice for Parents

<https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/tools-information/advice-and-support/advice-parents-and-carers>

Let's work together to keep the children safe!

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.

Plea for Wool

Class Eider has asked that if anyone has any odd balls of wool of any colour that you no longer need, they would be very grateful for them.

Please either send them straight into class or leave them with the school office.

Thank you.

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.

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
Search for Danbury Park School



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



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 cmurphy@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

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:

- ✉ Class C – Assembly Letter
- ✉ Class E – Assembly Letter
- ✉ Letter for Class Flamingo
- ✉ Whole School –DPSA Christmas Fayre Donation Sheet/Competition



Owl's Barn School Meals

Week beginning 20th November 2023

Week 1

Fresh bread and milk available daily

Monday	Homemade Cheese and Tomato Pizza	White/Wholegrain Pasta Sweetcorn Cucumber	Key Stage 2 only Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Shortbread Biscuit Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
Tuesday	Local Butcher's Pork Sausages or (V) Vegan Sausages	Creamy Mashed Potatoes Baked Beans Mixed Vegetables Green Salad	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling Cheese Baked Beans Tuna Mayo	Flapjack Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
Wednesday	Mild Beef Chilli with Nacho's or (V) Vegan Mince Chilli with Nacho's	White/Wholegrain Rice Carrots, Peas Green Salad	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) 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
Friday	Omega 3 Fish Fingers or (V) Omelette	Chips Peas Green Salad	Key Stage 2 only Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Iced Sponge Cake Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt

SCHOOL DINNERS
COSTS FOR AUTUMN TERM 2023

2nd Half Term: 30th October – 20th 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 20th November 2023

Mon 20th

Tues 21st

Am Year 1 Teddy Lympics - invited pupils only
2.45pm Class Eider Assembly to families and school

Weds 22nd

Am EYFS Welly Walk
9.30am Tour of Prospective Parents - places must be booked in advance
2.55pm Let's Present in classes

Thurs 23rd

Fri 24th
2.45pm Class Dove 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
November		
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
6 th	7.30 – 9.30 pm	DPSA Wreath Making Evening
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