



# Danbury Park Community Primary School

*Be wise, be happy, belong!*

## Newsletter

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

**3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023**

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Reading Awards

#### Congratulations to:

**Poppy H – Gold    Eliza S – Ruby    Leo C – Ruby    Ahalya P - Ruby**

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

### Weekly News

The second half of the term has started with a flurry of excitement. To start the week the children were so excited about Halloween. As usual we reminded the children about being safe if going trick or treating. Then on Wednesday afternoon we had a visit from the poet, Neal Zetter and he performed his poetry to the children from Year 1 through to Year 6. We were given a wonderful short-notice opportunity for him to visit the school and he offered to do this free of charge, so we, and he, were delighted that so many parents supported him by purchasing his books after school. Thank you!

Sadly last year we had a large number of school reading books spoiled by water bottles leaking in book bags. This cost the school £122 to replace them. Please do not put water bottles inside book bags. If a reading book is spoiled, we will going forward have to ask parents to pay for the cost of a replacement which can be as much as £7.

Coming up we have Children in Need on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November** and we are inviting the children to come to school in non-uniform dressed in bright colours for a donation to the charity. We are requesting that the children do **NOT** wear make-up or have a wacky hair-styles and please remember that they will go out to play at break and lunchtimes so they need suitable clothing to keep them warm and appropriate footwear. We are collecting cash donations so that all funds raised go directly to the charity. The children need to bring this into school in their book bags to give to their teachers on the morning.

There has been a lot in the news about school's curriculum for Personal, Social, Health and Emotional Education including Relationship and Sex Education. At Danbury Park our curriculum has been developed over many years and in consultation with parents and pupils. The policies are readily available on our website or through the school office and we have always invited parents of children in Years 4 and 6 to information sharing meetings before we teach the more in-depth aspects of sex education. These are held in the summer term. However, if you have any questions, please let us know.

Finally, a reminder that we are still looking for a member of our community who can help draw up plans for the refurbishment of the toilets. If you, or think you know someone who can help, please contact Mrs Brooke

## Maths at Danbury Park School Essex Year of Numbers

Just before the half-term break the children in all the classes worked on creating displays showing how we learn Maths at Danbury Park School. The teachers put these up on the Friday staff training day and they make an impressive representation of how children's knowledge and skills develop over the years. When you visit school, please take some time to look at them in detail so that you can see the journey your child has been on and where they are heading.



This year is also the Essex Year of Numbers and Essex County Council is prompting mathematical skills in a variety of ways including involvement in schools, libraries and the community. As a school we will be participating in training events and special activities throughout the year.

 Essex County Council

Everyone counts

Essex Year of  
**NUMBERS**

Challenges with numeracy skills have been shown to lead to significant disadvantages later in life. The Essex Year of Numbers supports children and their families in improving their skills and confidence with numbers.

Explore the exciting learning opportunities for students of all ages and their families with the Project Directory included in your information pack. There are also opportunities for continuous professional development for school staff throughout the year.

For further information, visit  
[essexyearofnumbers.co.uk](http://essexyearofnumbers.co.uk)



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## Mathletics Challenge



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

**Eider** who amassed an amazing total of 15 hours 51 minutes

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

**Stanley F-K** in Class Eider

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

## Thank you from the Chelmsford Food Bank

Thank you so much to all those of you who have collected food for Chelmsford Foodbank this harvest time.

We rely completely on donations from the public to be able to provide emergency food for those in our local community who need it. Sadly, due to the increased cost of living, we have seen a 45% increase on the numbers of food parcels given out this April – September (2023) compared to the same period last year; and last year saw the largest number of people ever fed by Chelmsford Foodbank. This is not OK.

Our vision is to see an end to the need for Foodbanks and, together with the Trussell Trust, we are working hard to achieve this. We have developed 'hubs' over the past year so that when people come to us to collect their food they have the opportunity to engage in person with other helping agencies such as the Citizens Advice, Community Money Advice, Peabody and Essex Welfare Services, who can help them address underlying issues to improve their situation and reduce the need for Foodbank help. This is why we are so keen that people come to us to pick up their food; meeting with our volunteers as well as representatives from these services can bring real breakthrough and lasting change for people.

Despite the crisis we are living through, the public have been so generous and we have seen an incredible response to our harvest appeal. We are so grateful and appreciative of the kindness and compassion of the people of Chelmsford.

With the current situation, your support is even more vital than ever. We would therefore love to encourage you to consider how you could support the Foodbank moving forward. Here are a few ideas:

- Opt in to receiving our e-mailed monthly shopping list and distribute, for example, via a school or church newsletter
- Organise a food collection at another point during the year (preferably between March and July)
- Like and Follow us on Facebook
- Set up a permanent collection point in your work place, school or church to encourage ongoing giving
- DONATE EARLY FOR A FOODBANK CHRISTMAS! Christmas donations need to be at our warehouse by mid-December to give us time to get them out to people through our centres

Please look on our website for any further information – [www.chelmsford.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.chelmsford.foodbank.org.uk).

If you are interested in any of the above, please contact us through [info@chelmsford.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@chelmsford.foodbank.org.uk)

Many thanks again for your support and donations.

## 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.

**This week we have had a number of children arriving after 8.55am when the school gate has been locked. Unless your child is in Year 6 and 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!**

# 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:

- 📧 Class C – Trip letter to Greenwich Royal Observatory
- 📧 Year 6 – Remembrance Assembly letter
- 📧 Year 6 – School Journey – Woodlands Adventure information letter & consent form



## Owl's Barn School Meals

### Week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Week 2

Fresh bread and milk available daily

<b>Monday</b>	Homemade Cheesy Pasta Bake or (V)Cheddar Whirl	Garlic Bread Sweetcorn Cucumber	<b>Key Stage 2 only</b> Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Chocolate Crispy Cake Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
<b>Tuesday</b>	Homemade Beef Bolognaise or (V) Vegan Mince Bolognaise	White/Wholegrain Pasta Peas, Cauliflower Green Salad	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling Cheese Baked Beans Tuna Mayo	Tutti Frutti Flapjack Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>All Day Breakfast:</b> Chipolata Sausage, Bacon and Egg or (V)Vegan Sausage, Egg and Hash Brown	Hash Brown Baked Beans Green Salad	<b>Key Stage 2 only</b> Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Ice Cream Roll Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
<b>Thursday</b>	Homemade Cheese and Tomato Pizza or (V) Vegetable Nuggets	White/ Wholegrain Pasta Sweetcorn Green Salad	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling Cheese Baked Beans Tuna Mayo	Apple Crumble and Custard Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
<b>Friday</b>	Fish Fingers or (V)Crispy Vegan Quorn Dippers	Chips Peas Cucumber	<b>Key Stage 2 only</b> Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Mable Cake Fresh Fruit 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 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

**Mon 6<sup>th</sup>**

**9.15am**

**EYFS Stay and Play**

**Tues 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Weds 8<sup>th</sup>**

**9.30am**

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

**2.55pm**

**Let's Present in classes**

**Thurs 9<sup>th</sup>**

**9.15am**

**EYFS Stay and Play**

**Fri 10<sup>th</sup>**

**2.40pm**

**Year 6 Remembrance Assembly with Year 6 Parents**

**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>		
8 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 & 10.30am	Prospective parent tours
10 <sup>th</sup>	2.40pm	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
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>