



Danbury Park Community Primary School

Be wise, be happy, belong!

Newsletter

Website: www.danburypark.essex.sch.uk

15th December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Reading Awards

Congratulations to:

Florence C - Bronze

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

Weekly News

What an incredibly busy, but uplifting week this has been! On Monday, behind the scenes, staff were putting together the final touches to the Christmas plays and the children got to watch each other perform. Then on Tuesday we had the infant play *Are we nearly there yet?* and on Wednesday the junior play, *A Hint of Snow White*. Having seen the plays, I now understand the KS2 title with its reference to paint colours!

The infants always have that special “*aahh*” factor and for some they took to performing on the stage with enthusiasm and presence. For others, standing in front of an audience of over a hundred adults was a little more daunting. As ever, the infants told the nativity story with a twist and they did a great job.

The juniors showed their accomplished understanding of humour and sense of fun. Every year, I think this is the best performance yet and every year, the children and staff take the play to the next level. This year the children participated with obvious enjoyment and with a real sense of responsibility to tell a story to the audience. Some photos are below and there will be more next week.



On **Wednesday 20th Dec** our Christmas parties take place amongst the classes in the afternoon and the children can bring in some party clothes to change into after dinner. The catering staff are baking Christmas biscuits and we will give the children a drink of squash before ending the day with a whole school Christmas sing-a-long.

We are pleased that we will have a special bin delivered to school on 19th December 2023 for the collection of Christmas cards for recycling. The bin will be by the front entrance to the building, where the crisp packet bin was. It will be collected on the 30th January 2024.

Mathletics Challenge



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

Class Dove with a total of 19 hours 31 mins.

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

Isla again in Class Dove.

The winner overall for the term is Class Eider who just beat Class Dove by 1 week.

The children will be choosing their special reward.

Well done and keep up the good work!

Message from Dame Rachel De Souza Children's Commissioner for England

We have been asked to share this message and survey about the national campaign *The Big Ambition* with the children and parents within our school community.:

It is really important that the pupils at Danbury Park Community Primary School have participated in The Big Ambition survey and had their say. Children or parents can complete the survey here:

www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition. Further resources are available on our [website](#).

I want to ensure that the voices of all children in the Chelmsford area are fairly represented in the findings so that I can share their views with the most senior members of the country.

I must reiterate that it is vital that all children have their voice heard through this survey because, as Children's Commissioner for England, I have a statutory duty to protect and promote the views and interests of children. The Big Ambition provides a much-needed opportunity for the children of England to tell political decision makers what is important to them ahead of the General Election. I will be sharing their responses with Government to ensure that children's voices are heard.

The closing date for the survey has been extended, so please have a look.

Safeguarding

It's Christmas Time – Parents guide to help keep children safe online

It's Christmas Time!

A Parent's Guide to Social Media

A Parent's Guide to Sharing Pictures

A Parent's Guide to Gaming

A Parent's Guide to Online Grooming

scan the QR code with your phone's camera to see the guides on our website

A Parent's Guide to Live Streaming

A Parent's Guide to Online Influencers

A Parent's Guide to Fake News

A Parent's Guide to Privacy Settings

It's always best to be prepared

Many parents may be planning to give electronic gadgets to their children this festive period. Our guide is designed to help parents take a realistic approach to help keep their children safe when using the internet, social media and playing online games.

Scan the QR code to find out more.

Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.

Parents please contact your school to enquire attending their next e-safety workshop or have any concerns.

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

Skips Educational Email: info@skipsed.com Tel: +44 121 227 1941

Developed in partnership with

Skips www.skipssafetynet.org

With the Christmas festivities just around the corner, children are looking forward to receiving gifts. For many, this may be devices that allow them to go online. Even with the best intentions, many parents have a false sense of how to keep their child secure, or think their child is more secure than they actually are.

We would like to share with you some resources from *Skips Education* which you might find useful. These are available from: www.skipssafetynet.org

There is also lots of information on the 2 Johns' website:

<https://esafetytraining.org/resources/parents-carers-area/>

Let's work together to keep the children safe!

Danbury Park School Vacancies

Get Active Co-ordinator

We are looking for an enthusiastic and caring person to join our friendly, supportive midday team working 12.00pm to 1.30pm term-time only as soon as possible. We have an all-weather track around our field and the older children enjoy the challenge of trying to walk a mile every day.

We are looking for the right person to help organise the Daily Mile and encourage the children to take part. This involves being creative and setting inter-class competitions as well as adding extra challenges. We can be flexible as to days. For more information, please contact the school office.

Midday Assistant

We are looking for a midday assistants to join our team working at lunchtimes on Wednesdays. For more information, please contact the school office.

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects the staff to share this commitment. All appointments are subject to an enhanced DBS check, medical clearance and satisfactory references.

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.

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.

The Essex Libraries' Winter Reading Challenge is back!



Our plucky penguin is back once again! But this year, she's setting off on an even bigger journey...

Join Lyra as she travels around the world, finding out all about endangered animals. There will be 12 challenges for your child to choose from. Once they complete six of the challenges they will be rewarded with a certificate and a prize (while stocks last).

The challenges will support literacy skills, confidence with reading and creativity, with many of the fun challenges completable in the library.

Lyra will be leaving on Saturday 25 November and returning on Saturday 3 February, but you can join her on her travels at any time!

You can sign up to the challenge by visiting any of our 74 libraries, or one of our two mobile libraries.

Keep your eyes peeled on our social medias over the next few weeks to be the first to find out more...

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.

Over the past four years we have raised £4 000 which we have spent 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.

**Enter our
Super Draw**

**WIN A £3,000
CHRISTMAS
CASH BONUS**

- Tickets cost just £1 a week
- Chance to win up to £25,000
- Play weekly, or just play the Super Draw!
- Win a huge festive cash bonus!

 

PLAY NOW:
SCAN THE QR CODE OR GO TO
www.yourschoollottery.co.uk
AND SEARCH FOR Danbury Park Communi

Supporters must be 18 years of age or older. Enter by 23/12/2023. GambleAware 18

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



in partnership
with



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

Notification and Reminders

PE - The weather has turned colder this week but we will still be doing outdoor PE as much as possible as long as it is safe. Our school uniform does specify that the children need a track suit and that this should be navy blue. It does not have to have the school logo so parents can obtain affordable versions from the local supermarkets. The DPSA also have their pre-loved option. We have noticed many children wearing their school maroon sweatshirts for PE and this is not good when the children start to build up a sweat or get damp in light drizzle and then their clothes smell. It would also be useful if children had a pair of socks for PE in their bags. We are aware that many children have coughs at the moment but we would still encourage them to participate in PE lessons and we will keep a careful watch over them. We all need to be as active as possible to stay fit and healthy!

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:

- 📧 Rugby Club letter to KS2 classes



Owl's Barn School Meals

Week beginning 18th December 2023

Week 2

Fresh bread and milk available daily

Monday	Homemade Cheesy Pasta Bake or (V) Quorn Dippers	Garlic Bread Sweetcorn Cucumber	Key Stage 2 only Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Chocolate Crispy Cake Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
Tuesday	Homemade Beef Bolognese or (V)Vegan Mince Bolognese	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
Wednesday	Fish Fingers or (V)Omelette	Chips Baked Beans	Key Stage 2 only Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Ice Cream Roll Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt

Owl's Barn School Meals

Week beginning 4th January 2024

Week 2

Fresh bread and milk available daily

Thursday	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
Friday	Fish Fingers or (V) Cheddar Whirl	Chips Peas Cucumber	Key Stage 2 only Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Marble Cake Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt

SCHOOL DINNERS COSTS FOR SPRING TERM 2024

1st Half Term: 4th January – 19th February 2024 = 31 days at £2.70 = £83.70

2nd Half Term: 26th February - 28th March 2024 = 24 days at £2.70=£64.80

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

Dates for the Diary
Week beginning 18th December 2023

Mon 18th

Tues 19th

Weds 20th
3.00pm

Christmas Parties
Whole School Christmas Singing

End of Term

Week beginning 4th January 2024

Thurs 4th

School Re-opens

Fri 5th

History Day

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
20 th	Pm	Christmas Parties
		End of Term

Dates for the Spring Term will be published shortly.