



Danbury Park Community Primary School

Be wise, be happy, belong!

Newsletter

Website: www.danburypark.essex.sch.uk

1st December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Reading Awards

Congratulations to: **Monty A – Emerald** **Claudia M - Gold**

Weekly News

Today we are putting up our Christmas tree and hanging the mobiles in the hall and everywhere is starting to look very festive. The DPSA Christmas Fayre takes place tomorrow from 12.00pm to 2.00pm and we hope that families will be able to join us. There are lots of stalls as well as many games to play and, of course, Father Christmas! We should all have lots of fun whilst raising funds for the school.

The tickets for the school Christmas plays went out this week and all families received the two tickets for the performances of their choice. If you would like to request a maximum of 2 additional tickets for grandparents or other family members and friends, please either send a note or an e-mail to the office, clearly stating your child's name and class and the performance for which you would like tickets and we will put these into the lottery to be drawn on **Wednesday 6th at 3.45pm**. Please remember that no pre-school children are permitted to attend and no drinks or food should be brought into school. In order to ensure safe access for the emergency services to the school, Woodland Montessori and Danbury Outdoors, the car park at the front of the school will be closed to parents, except those with disabled badges, on Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th December.

From **Monday 4th Dec until Thursday 7th Dec** we are accepting donations for the toy collection in aid of Chelmsford Children's Social Care Services. 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.**

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!

Mathletics Challenge



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

Class Dove with a total of 14 hours 47 minutes

The pupil who made the most use of the program was a tie this week between:

Lily in Dove and **Emma** in Eider.

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.

Car Park

We are aware that the car park at the front of the school is again causing problems for parents and visitors. 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 be a range of stalls 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*.
Tickets were sent out this week.

Please note that 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.

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

Safeguarding

The week of 13th -19th November was 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=kyDtl5jg6g&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.

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.

A red poster for the Danbury Park School Lottery Super Draw. It features the text 'Enter our Super Draw' in large, bold letters, followed by 'WIN A £3,000 CHRISTMAS CASH BONUS'. There are illustrations of wrapped gifts. Below the main text, there is a list of bullet points: 'Tickets cost just £1 a week', 'Chance to win up to £25,000', 'Play weekly, or just play the Super Draw!', and 'Win a huge festive cash bonus!'. At the bottom, there is a QR code and the text 'PLAY NOW: SCAN THE QR CODE OR GO TO www.yourschoollottery.co.uk AND SEARCH FOR Danbury Park Communi'. There is also a small owl logo and the text 'YOUR SCHOOL LOTTERY'.

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

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:

-  Christmas play – KS2 - A Hint of Snow White - Tickets
-  Christmas play – EYFS & KS1 - Are we nearly there yet? Tickets
-  Year 6 – NHS – NCMP letter on parentmail.



Owl's Barn School Meals

Week beginning 4th December 2023

Week 3

Fresh bread and milk available daily

Monday	Homemade Tomato Pasta Bake or (V)Cheese Stack Wrap	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	Cranberry Flapjack Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
Wednesday	Roast Chicken With Yorkshire Pudding, Gravy or (V)Quorn Pieces in Gravy	Roast Potatoes Carrots Green Beans	Key Stage 2 only Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Jelly and Fruit Fresh Fruit Fruit 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 Peas 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

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 4th December 2023

Mon 4th

12.45pm

Classes Eider and Dove visit to Danbury Mission

Tues 5th

10.45am

Year 6 workshop on Respect with Essex County Fire Brigade

Weds 6th

2.55pm

Let's Present in classes

Thurs 7th

Fri 8th

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		
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 & 2.30pm	EYFS & KS1 Christmas Play
13 th	9.30am & 1.45pm	KS2 Christmas Play
14 th	12.00pm	Christmas Dinner
20 th	Pm	Christmas Parties
		End of Term

Dates for the Spring Term will be published shortly.