



Danbury Park Community Primary School

Be wise, be happy, belong!

Newsletter

Website: www.danburypark.essex.sch.uk

8th December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Reading Awards

Congratulations to:

Felicity B – Emerald Hattie C - Emerald Henry F - Emerald George H - Emerald
Georgia H - Emerald

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

Weekly News

We start with a big thank you to the DPSA Committee for a wonderful Christmas Fayre on Saturday. This event takes a lot of organising and thanks to all the helpers and supporters, everyone had a relaxed and enjoyable afternoon. Hopefully we raised a good sum for all those extra resources and equipment that enhance our school.

As the last few days of this term approach, we are getting ready for the school plays and we hope that you will be able to join us. I am pleased to inform you that this year we were able to meet all requests for additional tickets. Please remember to bring your tickets with you as this speeds up the entry process. We do have a register of tickets issued so if you forget, it is not a problem. Please help us by leaving all food and drink at home. Remember that we do not admit any children so do not be offended if we have to enforce this. We appreciate your support and want to be fair to all families.

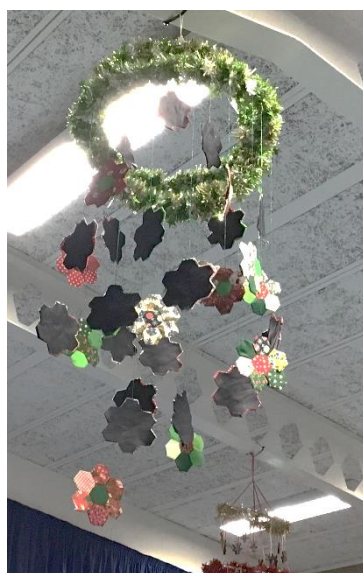
The carpark at the front of the school will be closed to parents on Tuesday and Wednesday. This is to ensure access for emergency vehicles to the school, Woodland Montessori and Danbury Outdoors. We would encourage you to walk or park further away from the school on those days.

On **Thursday 14th Dec** we will enjoy our school Christmas dinner and this is always a special occasion, with the Year 6 children eating with their reading partners and everyone enjoying the relaxed atmosphere. There is no need to book in advance. We are inviting the children and staff to wear a Christmas jumper or t-shirt to school all day with their school skirt/pinafore or trousers so that we all look festive.

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.

Our Christmas Mobiles



We hope you will agree that the Christmas mobiles look absolutely wonderful. Thank you to our friends at Danbury Outdoors who hung them from the ceiling for us.

Mathletics Challenge



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

Class Dove with a total of 19 hours 31mins beating their total from last week.

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

Isla in Dove

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 so that we can get some quotes, please let the school office know.

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

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@skipssed.com Tel: +44 121 227 1941

Developed in partnership with

Home Office
BUILDING A SAFE, JUST AND PROSPEROUS SOCIETY

West Midlands
Violence Reduction Unit

West Midlands
police and crime commissioner

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

The Essex Safeguarding Children's Board has asked us to share information about the following Online Safety session event for parents with the 2 Johns on Sunday 10th December 7pm.

The virtual session and Q&A will be hosted on Zoom and also [The 2 Johns Facebook page](#). This will be followed by a week of online safety messages and advice on the ESCB social media accounts. [Find out more about the campaign](#) here.

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.

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.

A promotional poster for the Danbury Park School Lottery Super Draw. The background is red with white snowflakes. At the top, it says 'Enter our Super Draw' in white and green. Below that, 'WIN A £3,000 CHRISTMAS CASH BONUS' in white and yellow. To the right, there are three wrapped gifts. Below the main text, there are four 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 left, there is a small owl logo. At the bottom right, 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'. At the very bottom, there is a small disclaimer: 'Supporters must be 18 years of age or older. Enter by 23/12/2023' and a logo for 'GAMBLING AWARDS'.

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



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:





Owl's Barn School Meals

Week beginning 11th December 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 Potato Baked Beans Mixed Veg 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 	Roast Turkey, Chipolata Sausage Sage and Onion Stuffing ball Yorkshire Pudding with Gravy	(V) Roasted Vegetable Wrap Roast Potatoes Carrots Peas and Sprouts	NO JACKET POTATO	Festive Shortbread Biscuit Christmas Ice Cream Pot Fresh Fruit or 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 11th December 2023

Mon 11th School play dress rehearsals

Tues 12th
9:30am & 2:30pm EYFS & KS1 Christmas Play

Weds 13th
9:30am & 1:45pm KS2 Christmas Play

Thurs 14th **Christmas Dinner**

Fri 15th

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
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.