



Danbury Park Community Primary School

Be wise, be happy, belong!

Newsletter

Website: www.danburypark.essex.sch.uk

12th January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Reading Awards

Congratulations to:

Hopefully lots of awards next week!

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

Weekly News

Today the children should be bringing home a paper copy of their class topic letter telling you all about what they will be learning this term. We hope you will find it useful so that you can support your child in continuing their learning outside school. We decided to provide a paper copy so that you can hang it up at home as a reminder of what is happening as well as of class routines. An electronic version will also be available on the class page of the school website. On the curriculum page of the website you will also find more detail about what we teach in each subject and each year group.

Many of our older children are off to *Young Voices* at the O² Arena on Monday. This is always an exciting and rewarding event, for which the children have been busy preparing for over the past few months. Mrs Long and Mrs Evans will be accompanying the children and they are looking forward to joining with all the other schools to form an incredibly large choir. As the event goes on late into the evening and then there is the journey home, only those children participating are allowed to come into school slightly later on Tuesday. We ask that they come in from 10.25am and by 10.40am at the latest so that they can join the class at the beginning of a lesson.

As we return back to routines after the excitement of Christmas, we would like to remind parents and carers of our protocols for responding to e-mails. Every parent/carer has access to the class e-mail and this should be the first point of call for non-urgent matters. During a normal day when teachers are teaching it is not possible for teachers to check e-mails during the day. Teachers will try to check e-mails at 8.30am but they may only have time to do this at 3.30pm. After school hours is when they will usually respond, as they would do with any written communication or making of phone calls. Teachers may check their e-mails and deal with communications in the evenings if this is how they prefer to manage their own workload but parents will not receive a response until the following morning. If your matter is urgent, you should contact the school office preferably by phone but alternatively by e-mail, which is checked throughout the working day, so that the office staff can alert the class teacher.

Please note that the closing date for applications for entry into the Reception class for the next academic year (2024 – 25) is **15th January 2024** so make sure that you make your application by the deadline to avoid disappointment and complications.

History Day Reports

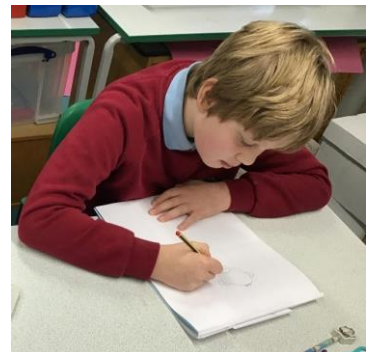
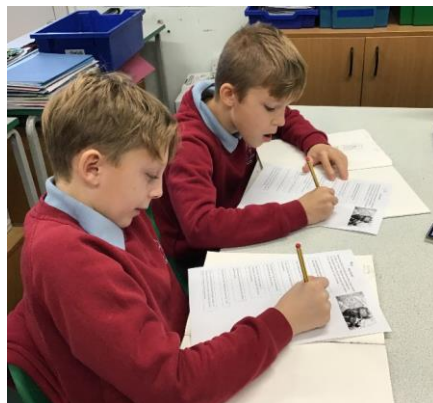
Class Avocet



Mrs Marsland started the History Day sessions with a 20 questions quiz where she would only give a yes/no answer to our questions as we tried to work out who she had selected for an influential historical figure. Unsurprisingly, Mrs Marsland selected a scientist, Dr Jane Goodall.



We found out that Jane Goodall is an English scientist, primate ethologist (studies animal behavior) and conservationist. Did you know that chimpanzees are apes not monkeys as apes do not have tails? Additionally, ape skeletons look very much like human skeletons but monkey skeletons look much more like the skeletons of dogs and cats. Her ground-breaking observations at Gombe Stream National Park (Tanzania) changed how scientists thought about chimpanzees. She was able to show that chimpanzees are omnivores, not herbivores and even hunt for meat, they use tools (a trait previously used to define humans) and can show compassion. She now works hard on conservation issues to save the dwindling habitats for chimpanzees. We finished the session by sketching chimpanzees in our art books.



Class Jay



We enjoyed learning all about Mary Anning for the school's history day. The children learnt all about who she was, when she was born and where she lived. They were very excited to find out about the dinosaurs she discovered. The children enjoyed a day of dinosaur related activities including excavating dinosaurs from ice eggs, making dinosaur footprints in salt dough and using charcoal to draw ammonites.

Class Budgerigar

On the 5th January 2024, Danbury Park KS2 experienced an amazing history day! All classes embarked on a blast from the past from different inspirational, historical figures. Each class went to a different teacher, who created a presentation on their desired individual.

Most of the teachers Historical figures were around the same period of time, but some were (like the Magna Carta) so long ago as 1215! They were all amazing in their own way, like how some of them talked even about the Windrush Generation! Others also talked about votes for women, and even scientific discoveries.

Phoebe and Isla

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

Skips www.skipssafetynet.org

Developed in partnership with



Home Office
BUILDING A SAFE, JUST AND PROSPEROUS SOCIETY



West Midlands
Police



West Midlands
Police and Crime Commissioner

We know that many children received electronic devices as Christmas presents. 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 assistant 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.

In the Autumn Term we received answerphone messages and e-mails informing us that children are ill. A pattern is emerging and this often seems to happen on the day(s) before an unauthorised holiday. If we have reason to suspect that you have taken your child(ren) out of school on a holiday or excursion, the absence will be unauthorised and we will write to you. If you can prove that you travelled on the days in your original application for leave of absence or explain why school could not contact you on your home phone line or why we got the international dialing tone, then we will reconsider the classification of the absence. Please be advised that this may still lead to a fixed penalty notice or prosecution as explained above.

Message from Essex County Council – Wrap Around Childcare

Essex County Council is committed to supporting the national wraparound program as part of the childcare reforms announced in the 2023 spring budget. It is the Government's ambition that by 2026, all parents and carers of primary school-aged children who need it, will be able to access termtime childcare, in their local area, from 8am-6pm to enable parents to access employment. As a parent or carer of a child who attends primary school we want to know your requirements for wraparound care and we are asking you to complete this short survey –

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=TzK0qFwVFUKg8X7YzJqZLwjRBQ0e02BCvDZWV2-UaK9UQVhXVetPOE9RT0hYWTJaSVdJRUIJOWDdHNC4u>

Your answers will help us understand where Essex County Council should target support and/or funding. Participation is completely voluntary, and we really do appreciate your time in doing this. This survey will remain open until 28th of January, 2024.

If you need support with completing this form, or if you have any questions please email- wraparound.childcare@essex.gov.uk

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 purple poster for the Danbury Park School Lottery Super Draw. It features a QR code, a list of bullet points, and images of a school building, a red double-decker bus, and the Eiffel Tower. The text includes 'Enter our Super Draw', 'Win a £1,000 Luxury Getaway OR £1,000 CASH PRIZE', and 'PLAY NOW: Go to www.yourschoollottery.co.uk Search for: Danbury Park Communi'. There is also a logo for 'YOUR SCHOOL LOTTERY' and a 'GambleAware' logo with an 18+ symbol.

- Tickets cost just £1 a week
- Chance to win up to £25,000
- Play weekly, or just play the Super Draw!
- Get away from it all in 2024!

PLAY NOW:
Go to
www.yourschoollottery.co.uk
Search for: Danbury Park Communi

18+ GambleAware

See website for Terms & conditions. Enter by 27/03/24

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:

-  Class topic letters – paper copies were sent home on Friday and electronic copies will be available on the school website under the class pages
-  Year 5 – Bikeability letter and consent form



Owl's Barn School Meals

Week beginning 15th January 2024

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 Vegetables Green Salad	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling Cheese Baked Beans Tuna Mayo	Chocolate Brownie 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	Chocolate Chip Cookie 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 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 15th January 2024

Mon 15th

Pm

Young Voices at O2

Tues 16th

Weds 17th

2.55pm

Let's Present

Thurs 18th

7.00pm

Schools Spring Census

Curriculum and Pupil Related Committee Meeting (virtual)

Fri 19th

Full term dates for the academic years
2023-24 and 2024-25 are available on the school website.

Yours sincerely,

Carol Gooding,
Headteacher

FOREST-LED
THEMED
FEBRUARY
FUN



★ FEBRUARY HALF TERM ★
 ACTIVITY DAYS in Bicknacre

- Open to all school children up to the age of 12
- Fully equipped indoor play space & large gardens
- Flexible drop off & collection from 8am to 6pm
- Discount 3-5 consecutive days & sibling reduction

	MONDAY 19th	TUESDAY 20th	WEDNESDAY 21st	THURSDAY 22nd	FRIDAY 23rd
AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pottery activity Build and sail a mini raft Creative mud printings 	Local woods and footpath hike with picnic lunch and nature activities along the way.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loose parts landmark recreation Hedgehog roll bottling Popping bags science experiment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create your own lava lamp Map your patch-map drawing Build your own board game 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colour changing flowers experiment Cress head growing using egg shells Twig wreath making
PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stuck in the mud game Make your own pasta meal Bare foot sensory safari 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make a teepee Make and play mini bonnet Nature detectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compline popcorn Movie marathon with the popcorn Nature postcard designs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wind catcher crafts Rain cloud in a jar STEAM activity Fruit and vegetable bug snack creations

Book online today!





www.jesterskids.org

E: bicknackidsclub@jesterskids.org • T: 01245 222384

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Danbury Park Community Primary School

Dates for Spring Term 2024

Date	Time	Event
January		
15 th	12.30pm	Young Voices at O ²
18 th		Schools Spring Census
	7.00pm	Curriculum and Pupil Related Committee Meeting
23 rd	All day	Class C to visit the Royal Observatory
24 th	am	Bags 2 School
26 th	5.30 – 6.30pm 7.00 – 8.15pm	EYFS & KS1 DPSA Disco KS2 DPSA Disco
February		
2 nd	2.45pm	Class Flamingo Assembly to parents
6 th	9.30am – 11.45am	Year 4 Superstars
7 th	10.00am	Classes J and H to The Gruffalo
9 th	2.45pm	Class Goldfinch Assembly to parents
13 th	3.40pm – 6.10pm	Parent Consultations – all classes
15 th	3.40pm – 6.10pm	Parent Consultations – all classes
16 th		School closed for staff training
19 th – 23 rd		Half-term break
Fortnight beg 26 th		Book Fortnight
29 th	7.00pm	Governors Resources Committee meeting
March		
6 th		Pre-school activity morning
7 th		World Book Day
8 th		School Dress-up Day
	2.45pm	Class Hummingbird Assembly to parents
14 th	6.30pm 7.00pm	Governors Pay Committee meeting Governors Personnel Committee meeting
15 th		Comic Relief
	2.45pm	Class Jay Assembly to parents
Week beg 18 th		Assessment Week
19 th		Display Change – Book Week
21 st	7.00pm	Full Governing Body Budget Setting Meeting
22 nd	Am & Pm	Maldon Tag Rugby Tournament
27 th	9.15am 2.30pm tbc	KS2 Spring Assembly to parents Watched by Year 3 & 4 parents with classes J & H Watched by Year 5 & 6 parents with classes F & G
28 th	Pm	Inter-house Hockey Matches
		Last day of Spring Term

To be arranged

EYFS Stay and Play sessions

EYFS Welly Walks