



# Danbury Park Community Primary School

*Be wise, be happy, belong!*

## Newsletter

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

**19<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Reading Awards

**Congratulations to:** George G - **Diamond** Isla W- **Diamond** Phoebe M - **Topaz**

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

### Weekly News

Last Friday afternoon all the children in Key Stage 2 went to Danbury Mission to watch and participate in a performance by The Music Man Project. Mrs Long organised the event and invited the children from St John's School to join us. The Music Man Project allows young people with diverse needs to perform music together and to share this with a wider audience showing that music is for everyone. The group has performed at the Albert Hall, for royalty and internationally. The singers and musicians taught us songs and we sang along using sign language and actions and we ended by dancing in the aisles.



Afterwards David Stanley, their director, sent a lovely e-mail on behalf of the group:

*We thought the children were wonderful. They responded with such enthusiasm and energy, and made the whole experience a complete joy for our musicians. We always love to celebrate and promote the work of our ambassadors. They work so hard, entirely voluntarily, to raise the profile of our cause and much needed funds for our charity.*

Please take some time to have a look at their website which explains more:

<https://themusicmanproject.com/about/> or on YouTube because it is truly inspirational.

Congratulations to Mrs Hill, Class Flamingo's teacher, and her husband on the birth of their baby boy. Mother and baby are doing well.

## Mathletics Challenge

The Mathletics Challenge is back and the children are keen to start clocking up the minutes each week to earn a reward for the winning class over the term.

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

**Class Eider** with an impressive 19 hours 7 minutes

**Averie H** in Class Eider

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

## Talented and Thoughtful Children



Ivy P, Avie B and Maria T from Class Budgerigar were all part of a street dance show called *Hip Hop Panto* staged at Chelmsford Theatre on Saturday 13th January.

The girls enjoyed the opportunity to perform.

Well Done!

## Safeguarding

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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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 the text 'Enter our Super Draw' in large white letters, followed by 'Win a £1,000 Luxury Getaway' and 'OR £1,000 CASH PRIZE' in yellow. There are images of a red double-decker bus, a room with a bed, and the Eiffel Tower. A list of bullet points is on the right: 'Tickets cost just £1 a week', 'Chance to win up to £25,000', 'Play weekly, or just play the Super Draw!', and 'Get away from it all in 2024!'. At the bottom, there is a QR code, a logo for 'YOUR SCHOOL LOTTERY', and a 'PLAY NOW' section with the website 'www.yourschoollottery.co.uk' and 'Search for: Danbury Park Communi'. A small '18+' logo and 'GambleAware' logo are also present.



## Notification and Reminders

**Tarpaulin** – Classes Jay and Hummingbird have asked if parents have any spare tarpaulins they no longer needs. We can use these to cover some of the EYFS outdoor equipment to protect it from the elements.

**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.

**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:**



Public Health – Measles information via Parentmail



## Owl's Barn School Meals

### Week beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024

#### Week 2

Fresh bread and milk available daily

<b>Monday</b>	Homemade Cheesy Pasta Bake or (V) Quorn Dippers	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 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
<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)Cheddar Whirl	Chips Peas Cucumber	<b>Key Stage 2 only</b> Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Marble Cake Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt

#### SCHOOL DINNERS

#### COSTS FOR SPRING TERM 2024

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

2<sup>nd</sup> Half Term: 26<sup>th</sup> February - 28<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024

**Mon 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Tues 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**All day** Class Cuckoo's visit to Royal Observatory

**Weds 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Am** Bag2School Collection  
**2.55pm** Let's Present

**Thurs 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Fri 26<sup>th</sup>**

**5.30-6.30pm** EYFS & KS1 DPSCA Disco  
**7.00-8.15pm** KS2 DPSCA Disco

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
<b>AM</b>	• Pottery activity • Build and sail a mini raft	• Local woods and footpath hike with picnic lunch and nature activities along the way.	• Loose parts landmark recreation • Hedgehog roll-baking	• Create your own lava lamp • Map your patch-map drawing	• Colour changing flowers experiment • Cross head growing using egg shells
<b>PM</b>	• Stuck in the mud game • Make your own pasta meal • Bare foot sensory safari		• Popping bags science experiment • Make a teepee • Make and play mini hopper • Nature detectives	• Build your own board game • Campfire popcorn • Movie marathon with the popcorn • Nature postcard design	• Wind catcher crafts • Rain cloud in a jar STEAM activity • Fruit and vegetable bag snack creation

**Book online today!**

**www.jesterskids.org**

E: [bicknackidsclub@jesterskids.org](mailto:bicknackidsclub@jesterskids.org) • T: 01245 222384

@JestersKidsClubBicknacre @JestersKidsClubsBicknacre



**DPSA**

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Get those old clothes, shoes and towels at the ready .... BAG2SCHOOL IS BACK!!!

#bag2school #recycle



**DANBURY PARK SCHOOL**

Wednesday 24th January 2024

Bag2School collect second hand clothing which then gets shipped all over the world to start a new life! In return the DPSA raise funds for the school.

Please place all items in bin bags or similar and ensure they are **securely tied**. Any school uniform with a logo can be left separately in the school office. The school office cannot accept uniform without a logo.

The following can be bagged up for **RE-USE**:

- Adult and kids clothes
- Paired shoes
- Handbags
- Soft toys
- Scarves
- Hats
- Bags
- Ties
- Belts
- Towels
- Bedding
- Curtains
- Jewellery
- Household linen







Unfortunately they **DO NOT** accept:

- Rugs
- Mats
- Duvets
- Pillows
- Carpets
- Blankets
- Cushions
- Workwear
- Wet clothes
- Textile off cuts
- Soiled clothes
- Ripped clothes
- Corporate clothes
- School uniforms (with or without logo)



# Danbury Park Community Primary School

## Dates for Spring Term 2024

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

### To be arranged

EYFS Welly Walks