



# Danbury Park Community Primary School

*Be wise, be happy, belong!*

## Newsletter

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

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Reading Awards

#### Congratulations to:

**Amelie B – Diamond    Lily W - Diamond    Phoebe N - Gold**

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

### Happy New Year Welcome Back

We hope that you all enjoyed a happy Christmas and that the new year has started well. The children were keen to catch up with their class mates and friends after the break and they are settling back into school routines.

We have started the term with a special day today focusing on history. Although each class generally has a specific history topic to follow during the course of a term, often this can seem separated and disjointed, so a special History Day gives us the opportunity to put the children's learning into the bigger time line and to help the children make sense of the chronology of events. Each teacher has chosen a specific focus and we will share reports and more information over the coming weeks. At Danbury Park, whatever period of history we are studying, we have an over-arching question related to how what happened during that time has impacted on our lives today – for better or worse! This helps the children understand how our society and world has been shaped and influenced. Often history is a focus of our *Let's Present* sessions and it is always fascinating and interesting to learn why the children choose the person or event that they do and they often choose someone or something very different from our curriculum.

Last term we started the process to elect a new parent governor and I am pleased to inform you that Mrs Melinda Monk was nominated and elected unopposed. We look forward to working with her in this new capacity and we hope that she will find the work both interesting and rewarding.

Next Friday all the children in KS2 will be participating in a special music event organised through Essex County Council and we will be joining classes from St John's School for what should be a lively and interactive music session. A Parentmail with full details has been sent out today. We will be walking to and from Danbury Mission, where the event is being held, and we will be organising an early lunch so that the children can still have a school dinner and time to eat beforehand.

Dates for the term ahead are included at the bottom of the newsletter and we hope to see you at the class assemblies and events over the coming months.

## Message from Essex Highways Department The Safer Essex Road Partnership E-Scooters

We know e-scooters are becoming more of an issue and a danger for our young people; with instances of children in primary school even owning e-scooters.

Below is some information about e-scooters to alert parents and carers on the facts and legalities around them. These are the key dangers:

1. Privately owned e-scooters are illegal to ride on the highway. Ones you can buy from shops like Halfords can only be used on privately owned land, with the landowner's permission.
2. Trial hire scooters can only be ridden by people 18 years plus, with a driver's licence. These scooters can only be used by the person who create the Tier account.
3. Students storing e-scooters on school grounds can cause a fire risk with lithium battery fires.
4. Riding an e-scooter puts the rider at much higher risk on the roads, any collision may be more serious.

Read more about e-scooters [Warning over illegal use of E-scooters ahead of Christmas | Essex Police](#)

Safer Essex Road priority is making Essex a safer place to live. We can only achieve Vision Zero, zero road deaths and serious injuries by 2040, together.

## 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](mailto:info@skipssed.com) Tel: +44 121 227 1941

**Skips** [www.skipssafetynet.org](http://www.skipssafetynet.org)

Developed in partnership with



Home Office  
BUILDING A SAFE, JUST AND PROSPEROUS SOCIETY



West Midlands  
Violence  
Reduction Unit



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](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.**

## **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.

## 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 C – Parentmail regarding Royal Observatory class trip



## Owl's Barn School Meals

### Week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**Week 3**

**Fresh bread and milk available daily**

<b>Monday</b>	Homemade Tomato Pasta Bake or (V) Cheese Stack Wrap	Homemade Bread Sweetcorn Cucumber	<b>Key Stage 2 only</b> Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Chocolate Sponge and Chocolate Custard Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
<b>Tuesday</b>	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
<b>Wednesday</b>	Roast Chicken With Yorkshire Pudding, Gravy or (V) Quorn Pieces in Gravy	Roast Potatoes Carrots Green Beans	<b>Key Stage 2 only</b> Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Jelly and Fruit Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
<b>Thursday</b>	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
<b>Friday</b>	Omega 3 Fish Fingers or (V) Cheese and Tomato Quiche	Chips Peas Cucumber	<b>Key Stage 2 only</b> Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Iced Finger Bun 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 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

**Mon 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Tues 9<sup>th</sup>**

**NHS EYFS & Yr 6 Height and Weight Checks**

**Weds 10<sup>th</sup>**

**2.55pm**

**Let's Present**

**Thurs 11<sup>th</sup>**

**7.00pm**

**Full Governing Body Meeting**

**Fri 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Pm**

**KS2 Music Event at Danbury Mission**

**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 Spring Term 2024

Date	Time	Event
<b>January</b>		
9 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	NHS EYFS and Year 6 Height and Weight
11 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Full Governing Body Meeting
12 <sup>th</sup>	Pm	KS2 to Danbury Mission for The Music Man Event
15 <sup>th</sup>	12.30pm	Young Voices at O <sup>2</sup>
18 <sup>th</sup>		Schools Spring Census
	7.00pm	Curriculum and Pupil Related Committee Meeting
23 <sup>rd</sup>	All day	Class C to visit the Royal Observatory
26 <sup>th</sup>	5.30 – 6.30pm	EYFS & KS1 DPSA Disco
	7.00 – 8.15pm	KS2 DPSA Disco
<b>February</b>		
2 <sup>nd</sup>	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>		
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><u>KS2 Spring Assembly to parents</u></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 Stay and Play sessions

EYFS Welly Walks

Pre-school activity morning