



# Danbury Park Community Primary School

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Deputy Headteacher: Miss D Johnston BA

12.01.24

Dear Parents,



## Learning in Goldfinch Class Spring Term 2024

Happy New Year! I hope you managed to have a good break.

During this term, our topic is 'Fire! Fire!' and we will be learning about The Great Fire of London. This is one of my favourite topics. There is already a buzz of enthusiasm within the class, as the children are very keen to learn more about this event. The questions we will be looking to answer are, 'What happened?' 'What impact did this event have?' And, what improvements were made? The children have recorded their thoughts on this already and we shall be revisiting the questions throughout the topic to see how much they have learnt and whether their opinions have changed. In addition to these questions, the children will find out how we can use portraits and diary entries to learn about the past. They will make timelines of events and use the information they gather to compose information texts and leaflets.

In English, we shall look at stories that are in historical settings and adventure stories. The poetry we study will have a theme of performance. This term, the children will be introduced to diaries, which will link to our history study. Later in the term, the children will have the opportunity to write instructions for a London landmark they construct. I am sure they will be very creative and precise!

### Reading

I would also like to encourage all children to continue to read to someone at home, every night for about 10 minutes, as this is invaluable and vital to your child's learning. If you could initial their home-school link book or write a comment to show your child has read this will help us to praise your child in school. Each time you record that your child has read to an adult at home, your child's diary is stamped. If your child reads 3 or more times a week they receive a 'Star Reader' reading stamp in their diary. The stamps are awarded on Fridays. At the end of the term, those children that have received a 'Star Reader' stamp every week will receive a special reading certificate to acknowledge and celebrate their hard work.

For those children in Year Two, it is important to discuss the text with your child when hearing them read. This will help develop their comprehension skills which we shall continue to work on in class during guided and individual reading sessions.

The children are given dedicated time to change their books on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

This term we continue to focus on the correct letter formation. This will enable children in Year Two to begin following our school handwriting scheme set of joined letter patterns.

## Maths

Maths this term will focus on place value, multiplication and division, statistics, geometry and measurement. These foundations will then be embedded throughout the year. The children will further develop their understanding of number and explore different ways to represent the numbers that they are working with and how numbers are used in other areas of mathematics.

## History

Our history learning will focus on The Great Fire of London which will include: famous people, places and a timeline of events.

## Geography

This is linked to our History topic and the children will initially be looking at maps, atlases and globes. We shall then make maps and plans showing where in London the fire reached, comparing these to maps of London today and locating famous London landmarks.

## Science

We shall be learning about animals including humans. Within this unit, we will explore what it means to be healthy, including healthy eating and exercise. The Year Ones will also learn about seasons, the key features and changes that occur.

## Design Technology

The children will investigate how to join materials. They will also use junk modelling materials to design and build a model of a London landmark, which they will then evaluate. We will have a 'Landmark Building Day' when we hope to invite parents in to help with the construction. More details to follow soon.

## Art

We will be exploring the question: How can we make our own architectural models and design structures which other people respond to? In addition to this, we shall look at portraits and identifying what information they give us about the people in them and life at that time.

## Computing

We be looking at what algorithms are: how they are implemented as programs on digital devices; and that programs execute by following precise and unambiguous instructions. Later in the term, the children will learn how to create and debug simple programs.

## RE

### Special words, stories and writings

This term the children will learn and understand the meanings behind religious stories and writings within the religion of Buddhism. These lessons take place on Thursday afternoons with Ms Middleton.

## PSHEe & C

We will be looking at the following headings over this term.

### **Living in the wider world**

#### **Belonging to a community**

Belonging to a group; Roles and responsibilities and being the same and different in the community.

#### **Media Literacy and Digital Resilience**

The internet and everyday life; online content and information.

#### **Money and Work**

What money is; needs and wants; looking after money

## Music

Mrs Long teaches Music every Thursday morning.

## French

This is taught on a Thursday morning.

Our PE days are **Mondays and Thursdays**, so children will need to bring their shorts, jogging trousers, PE sweatshirt, a t-shirt and trainers on these days. PE kits should be in a drawstring bag. Please remember earrings must be removed for PE lessons and that long hair needs to be tied back every day please. Children will need their outdoor PE kit for their Thursday lessons. **Please ensure your child has a spare pair of socks kept in their PE bag and that all PE kit is clearly named. It is helpful if the children have a spare bag, which they can put their PE shoes into after each lesson, particularly during these wet months.** Whilst the weather is cold, you may want to keep a pair of gloves in your child's PE bag for their outdoor PE session. Can I also remind you that their book bag and PE kit needs to be in school every day.

The children have the opportunity and are encouraged to have a drink of water in class after each playtime. Please check that your child's water bottle is clearly named.

Let's Presents take place on Wednesday afternoons. Your child's allocated dates for this term were given in a separate letter. Any resources, e.g. PowerPoints for these can be e-mailed to the Class G e-mail. [classg@danburypark.essex.sch.uk](mailto:classg@danburypark.essex.sch.uk)

**All children** have their spellings tested on **Fridays**. Spelling books are sent home on Fridays and need to be returned to school on a Monday morning. Common exception words are tested before the end of each half term but these will not be tested on the same day as the weekly spelling test. Year Twos are now tested on their times tables too every Friday.

This term, once every three weeks, the following tasks/challenges will be set:

- A **Mathletics challenge** will be set for both Year Ones and Twos, this will focus on consolidating and extending your child's current learning.
- A spelling task for **Year Twos** on **Spelling Shed** whilst **Year Ones** have a Phonics challenge on **Bug Club**.
- **Maths game** - the **Year 1** children take home a maths game which will reinforce different areas of the maths curriculum. The children in **Year Two** have been given login details so they can access **Times Table Rock Stars**. They have been set to encourage your child to learn the 2, 3, 5 and 10 times-tables.

Please look out for details in your child's reading diary. If you are unable to access the internet at home please let me know as soon as possible. Thank you.

Mathletics Challenge Y1 & Y2
<b>Phonics challenge on Bug Club Y1 only</b> <i>Spelling Shed activity Y2 only</i>
<b>Maths Game (Year Ones)</b> <i>Times Tables Rock Stars challenge set. (Year Twos)</i>

If you have any concerns, queries or information to share, please leave a message at the school office and I will contact you as soon as possible to arrange a mutually convenient appointment. Alternatively, you can use our Class G e-mail, [classg@danburypark.essex.sch.uk](mailto:classg@danburypark.essex.sch.uk) , which I check every day, or include a note in your child's reading diary as these are checked daily by staff.

**Dates for your diary:**

Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Class Goldfinch Assembly 2:45 start
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent Consultations 3:40-6:10
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent Consultations 3:40-6:10
W/b 26 <sup>th</sup> February	Book fortnight begins!

Thank you for your continued support.

D Johnston  
Miss D Johnston  
Class teacher