



Danbury Park Community Primary School

Be wise, be happy, belong!

Newsletter

Website: www.danburypark.essex.sch.uk

15th February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Reading Awards

Congratulations to:

Caleb H- **Bronze** Leo C - **Diamond** Florence L-L - **Ruby**

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

Weekly News

Sadly, this week we said goodbye to Miss Vogel, who has been teaching in Class Jay whilst Mrs Stone has been on maternity leave. Mrs Stone returns to us on 25th March but will be coming into school for a few days after the half-term break to prepare for the term ahead and to meet the children. In the meantime, the class will be looked after by Miss Damtoft. We wish Miss Vogel the very best at her new school and for the future.

When we come back after the half-term break, we will be holding our traditional Book Fortnight including a special dressing up day as our favourite book characters on Friday 8th March. A letter was sent out at the beginning of this week with details about opportunities for families to come into school to share a special story time with each class. We do hope that you will be able to join us. Reading is something we all enjoy at Danbury Park School and we need to encourage the children through setting a good example, so the staff will also be sharing their favourite books with the children.

This week we have been contacted by the proprietors of the businesses at The Spinney to ask parents and families not to use their car park when bringing and collecting children from school. Whilst we have asked parents to park further away from the school, we would remind parents not to park in private carparks without permission or cause obstructions by blocking residents' access to their homes.

At The Spinney, the proprietors have to pay a lot in insurance and upkeep for the carpark and this is for the benefit of their customers using their services. Parents using the carpark also prevent paying customers from using it during school drop off and pick-up times, which is unfair to the small businesses in the unit trying to make a trade. It also prevents and restricts a lot of their clients who have very limited walking capacity to attend their appointments.

Please be a responsible member of our community and park with consideration.

Year Four Superstars
Tuesday 6th February

On Tuesday 6th February, all Athletics centre by coach. We had to skills. The Athletics centre is big of us were very excited.

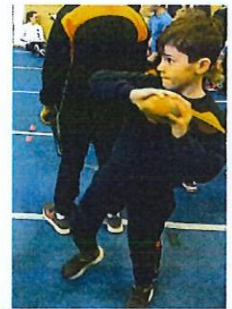


year 4 pupils were to Chelmsford go because we wanted to improve our P.E and gull of games and activities. All

As the sun rose higher, we arrived. When we got inside a man told us to sit down in two neat lines. Then he asked each school to read out their sports pledge. I did our one and Florence and Fin held our flag.



Soon, we split into groups of six ^{and} at did the first activity. That was where you had three hoops and had to run as fast as you could and put the hoop at the end. At the second activity was where you had to bounce a tennis ball against a wall ~~and~~ and



catch it as many times as possible in 20 seconds. Then we did all the other activity which were: seating, speed cups, speed jump, basketball, tennis and running.

In each activity, the leaders measured our time and distance. We got a score sheet and the times were written on there. The maximum points were 10 points.



The score sheets were handed in and we re-grouped. Then medals were handed out. Florence got 3rd for girls. And Danbury Park got 3rd over all. Aoise received our certificate.

An accurate and detailed account of the event. Well done.



Well done Year 4, we came 3rd overall in our group and are now awaiting the final positions after all groups have participated. Well done to Florence who was also placed 3rd out of all the girls in our group of schools.

Mathletics Challenge

The Mathletics Challenge is back and the children have been 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

Lily W in Class Dove

Well done and keep up the good work!

Safeguarding

We know how damaging the use of social media can be for some people including children so if you haven't already done so, now is a good opportunity to talk to your child about how they communicate electronically and the power they have to make some feel happy or miserable. Agree some protocols but we would urge parents to check their child's phone regularly so that you can support them with tricky or potentially damaging situation.

There is lots of information on the 2 Johns' website:

<https://esafetytraining.org/resources/parents-carers-area/>

Let's work together to keep the children safe!

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.

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, Thursday and Fridays. 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.

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

Search for Danbury Park School

You must be 18 years of age to play and tickets cost just £1 a week.

**Enter our
Super Draw**

**Win a £1,000 Luxury Getaway
OR £1,000 CASH PRIZE**



- 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!





**YOUR
SCHOOL
LOTTERY**

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

**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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 making • Popping bags science experiment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create your own lawn lamp • Map your patch-maple dotting • Build your own board game 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colour changing flowers experiment • Cross head growing using egg shells • Twig wreath making
PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start in the mud game • Make your own pirate meal • Bare foot sensory safari 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make a teepee • Make and play mini-bugles • 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 track creations

Book online today!





www.jesterskids.org
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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:



Parentmail – Book Fortnight letter



Parentmail – DPSA Newsletter



Owl's Barn School Meals

Week beginning 26th February 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 Sausage or (V)Vegan Sausage	Creamy Mashed Potato Baked Beans Green Salad Mixed Vegetables	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 Carrot, 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	Apple Crumble and Custard Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
Friday	Omega3 Fish Fingers or 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

2nd Half Term: 26th February - 28th March 2024 = 24 days at £2.70 = £64.80

Due to financial year end please be reminded to pay for all dinners up to the end of March.
Please pay for the summer term dinners after the Easter holidays. Thank you.

Dates for the Diary
Week beginning 26th February 2024
Book Fortnight

Mon 26th

Tues 27th

Am

9.05am

2.50pm

Classes Jay and Hummingbird to visit Kissock's Farm

Class Goldfinch family reading session

Class Budgerigar family reading session

Weds 28th

9.05am

2.50pm

2.55pm

Class Dove family reading session

Class Avocet family reading session

Let's Present

Thurs 29th

7.00pm

Governors' Resources Committee Meeting

Fri 1st March

9.00am

9.05am

2.50pm

3.00pm

Year 9 Students to teach Spanish with Year 6

Class Flamingo family reading session

Class Jay family reading session

Boys' League Football Match v Boreham School (away)

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
February		
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	<u>KS2 Spring Assembly to parents</u> 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 Welly Walks