



Danbury Park Community Primary School

Be wise, be happy, belong!

Newsletter

Website: www.danburypark.essex.sch.uk

9th February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Reading Awards

Congratulations to:

Poppy H – Platinum

Daniel S - Bronze

Amber H - Topaz

Nathan E - Diamond

Elsie H- Emerald

Matilda B - Emerald

Rupert S - Emerald

Theo F - Emerald

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

Weekly News



This week we received confirmation that our School Travel Plan has been officially accredited. This is something we have been working on for over a year now. Before Christmas I submitted all the evidence to show how we work hard as a school to encourage our community to think about how they travel and how we can change our habits to minimize our impact on the environment.

Our steps have included:

- 🦾 Bikeability sessions for Year 6 children to teach them how to ride safely on the roads;
- 🦾 Road safety for EYFS and Year 5 children so that they can understand about walking safely and how to cross roads carefully either holding an adult's hand or finding a safe place to cross;
- 🦾 Walking to local events such as those we have attended at Danbury Mission;
- 🦾 Conducting surveys to encourage families to walk to school whenever possible;
- 🦾 Carrying out surveys of the number of vehicles using the roads near our school and investigating its effect on the air quality and our health, so that we can lobby politicians.

With this week being Children's Mental Health Week, we shouldn't underestimate the positive effect walking can have on our mental health and we are so lucky to have such wonderful surroundings and the country park close by. Next week, why not try walking to school or parking further away and walking for some of it!

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

Averie H in Class Eider

Well done and keep up the good work!

Safeguarding

Last week was Children's Mental Health Week and the 6th Feb was Safer Internet Day. 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!

Children's Mental Health Week 5th – 11th February 2024



BCCS

a children's charity for
Essex and East London

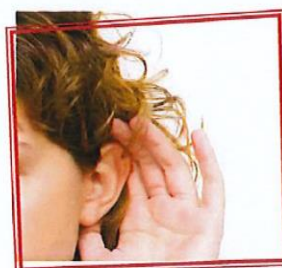
My Voice Matters

For parents and carers

We know we can be naturally distracted when our children are talking to us. It is vital to your child's ego, their sense of self, and their belief in their own self-efficacy that we really invest in and listen to them. So, how do we show and allow our children to feel confident in our ability to hear them: to essentially model to them that their voice matters to you? Below are some basic counselling techniques to help. As an aside, we find talking to children whilst sitting alongside them can be more effective than sitting directly opposite them.



- Active listening: it sounds so simple to say it, but it takes commitment to be fully present in a conversation! But doing so enables you to fully concentrate on what is being said and, perhaps, tune into what isn't being said.
- Summarise: giving a short acknowledgement of what was said, i.e., "you say you've had a tough day, it sounds like it" allows your child to feel fully heard and validated.
- Empathise: empathic responses such as, "I can see how difficult that was for you", or "I hear it made you feel really angry", helps your child to feel heard and, most importantly, understood. We don't have to "get it", but empathy is all about walking in another's shoes and seeing things through their lens. It is a powerful thing to do for your child.



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www.bccs.org.uk



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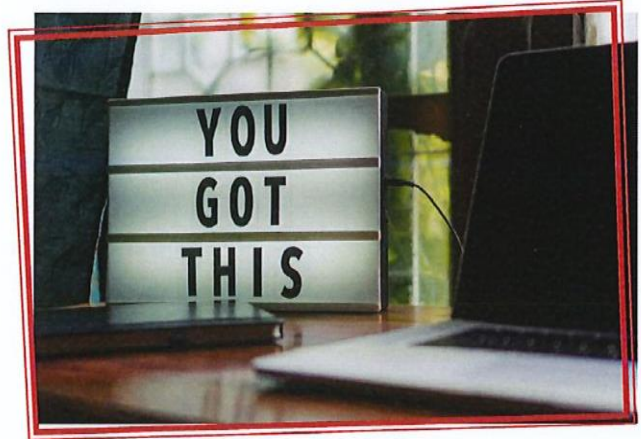
Brentwood Catholic Children's Society - Registered Charity Number: 1000661

Children's Mental Health Week 5th – 11th February 2024 My Voice Matters



For parents and carers (continued)

- Verbal encouragement: repeating or echoing the last few words of your child's sentences when they pause, can encourage them to keep talking. For example, "you had fun ...", or "you were frustrated ..." and they'll likely feel your encouragement and give you more. The more your children talk about their feelings, the better!
- Be curious:
 - "Tell me more..."
 - "I loved hearing about ...",
 - "That sounds really ..., tell me how it went?"
 - "What do you think about ...?"
 - "What did you feel when ...?"
- Don't try to fix or solve: it is a real challenge when your child is distressed, worried or angry about something. Our natural urge may be to fix things and you may hear yourself saying, "you should do this", or "say this ...". but the reality is there are things we can't fix. We are a far more powerful ally when we acknowledge this, and ask instead, how you can help them manage it/the situation/the feeling.



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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

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

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:



Class Jay – Miss Vogel class teacher letter



Owl's Barn School Meals

Week beginning 12th February 2024

Week 2

Fresh bread and milk available daily

Monday	Homemade Cheesy Pasta Bake or (V) Quorn Dippers	Garlic Bread Sweetcorn Cucumber	Key Stage 2 only Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Chocolate Crispy Cake Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
Tuesday	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
Wednesday	All Day Breakfast; Chipolata Sausage, Bacon and Egg or (V) Vegan Sausage, Egg and Hash Brown	Hash Brown Baked Beans Green Salad	Key Stage 2 only Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Ice Cream Roll Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
Thursday	Homemade Cheese and Tomato Pizza or (V) Vegetable Nuggets	White/Wholegrain Pasta Sweetcorn	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling Cheese Baked Beans Tuna Mayo	Apple Crumble and Custard Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
Friday	Non Pupil Day			

SCHOOL DINNERS

COSTS FOR SPRING TERM 2024

1st Half Term: 4th January – 15th 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 12th February 2024

Mon 12th

Tues 13th

3.40pm - Parent Consultations

6.10pm

Weds 14th

2.55pm Let's Present

Thurs 15th

3.40pm - Parent Consultations

6.10pm

Fri 16th

School Closed for Staff Training

Half-term break

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 paintings 	<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-baking 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 Cross 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 bonpas Nature detectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compile 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

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Danbury Park Community Primary School

Dates for Spring Term 2024

Date	Time	Event
February		
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	<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