



Danbury Park Community Primary School

Be wise, be happy, belong!

Newsletter

Website: www.danburypark.essex.sch.uk

1st March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Reading Awards

Congratulations to:

Fred P- **Gold** Emilia T- **Silver**

Beatrice C – **Diamond** Freddie G – **Diamond** Harriet T – **Diamond**

Hollie T - **Diamond** Stanley D – **Diamond**

Arthur M - **Topaz** Daniel E - **Topaz** Rihanna S - **Emerald**

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

Weekly News

This week has seen the start of our traditional Book Fortnight and it has been good to see so many parents and grandparents come into school to join classes for special reading sessions. We have held these in the hall with various seating arrangements including mats on the floor, benches and chairs. The children have really enjoyed the opportunity to all read in small groups and share stories with adults; one class even read play scripts together, entertaining their adult by showing their understanding and range of their expression.



Reading is fundamental to everything we do and at Danbury Park this is given high priority. So much of the secondary school curriculum relies on pupils being able to read fluently, to decode and make sense of unfamiliar words and to extract information; that journey starts in the Early Years classes with a thorough grounding in phonetics! Our aim is that every child leaves Danbury Park as a competent reader so that they can fully take on the challenges of the KS3 curriculum, but more than that: we want them to enjoy reading a wide range of texts for different purposes including escapism and creativity.

Please remember that next **Friday 8th March** is our special dressing-up day. We are encouraging the children to come into school dressed as a book character but please remember that they will need a jumper or cardigan and their coat as well as sensible footwear. We will still be going outside at playtimes, even if it is drizzling! We are asking for a donation of at least £1 per child to help us buy new books as recommended by the Reading Council.

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

and the pupil was:

Averie H in Class Eider

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.



Essex County Council
Special Educational Needs
and Disabilities

Essex Local Offer Roadshows

Are you a parent/carer of a young person with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and want to know what support is available in your area? Come along to one of our Essex Local Offer Roadshows.

Meet representatives from across education, health and social care as well as local support groups.

No need to book, just drop in!

Parent/carer workshops will also be running. More information to follow soon.

Join us...

Monday 4 March 2024
The Holiday Inn, Basildon

Thursday 7 March 2024
Hamptons Sports and Leisure,
Chelmsford

Wednesday 13 March 2024
JobServe Community Stadium,
Colchester

Tuesday 19 March 2024
The Harlow Hotel, Harlow

Scan the QR code to
find out more
information



or go to
[The Essex Local
Offer Website](#)



In Partnership with



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

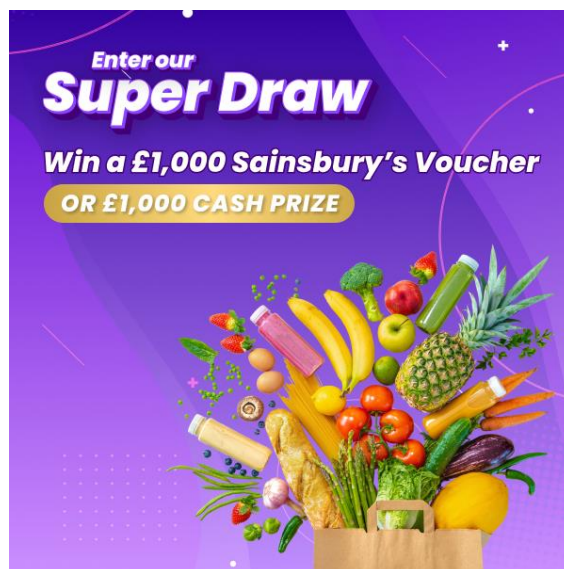
We would like to remind parents about the school lottery and thank those who regularly donate their winnings back to the school.

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.



Colchester Royal Grammar School

Sci-Fest 2024

Saturday 16th March
10am - 4pm
6 Lexden Road, CO3 3ND
Free entry

Families welcome - fun interactive activities

Premium activities will incur a small charge. Refreshments available.

ACL FAMILY LEARNING

FREE! ONLINE COURSES

- Go To Sleep!
- Setting Boundaries
- Raising Girls
- First Aid Workshop
- Managing Big Emotions
- Getting Teens To Talk
- Mindfulness & relaxation
- Anxiety Coping Techniques for Teens

SCAN ME

call our friendly team on **03330 321 017** Search 'Family Learning' at **aclessex.com**

Queries **acfamilylearning@essex.gov.uk**

FIND OUT MORE

ACL Essex County Council

Notification and Reminders

New Phone System – the new VOIP phones are now up and running using our number of 01245 224994 but please listen carefully to the options for reporting an absence or wanting to speak with the office. Please be aware that when we dial out, this may come up as a different number but will start 01245 981xxx.

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 – Mrs Gooding's intention to retire
-  Parentmail - Year 5 Sandon Taster Day consent form



Owl's Barn School Meals

Week beginning 4th March 2024

Week 2

Fresh bread and milk available daily

Monday	Homemade Cheese 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, 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 Green Salad	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling Cheese Baked Beans Tuna Mayo	Apple Crumble and Custard Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
Friday	Fish Fingers or (V) Cheddar Whirl	Chips Peas Cucumber	Key Stage 2 only Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Marble 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 4th March 2024
Book Fortnight

Mon 4th

9.05am

Class Eider Family reading session in hall

2.50pm

Class Cuckoo Family reading session in hall

Tues 5th

2.50pm

Class Hummingbird Family reading session in hall

Weds 6th

am

Preschool activity morning

2.55pm

Let's Present

Thurs 7th

World Book Day

Fri 8th

2.45pm

School Dressing-up Day

Class Hummingbird Assembly to families and the rest of the school

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
March		
6 th		Pre-school activity morning
7 th		World Book Day
8 th		School Dressing-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