



Danbury Park Community Primary School

Be wise, be happy, belong!

Newsletter

Website: www.danburypark.essex.sch.uk

19th July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Reading Awards

Congratulations to:

Freya A - **Silver** Ruby C - **Silver** Maria T- **Bronze** Jasmine B - **Y4 Reading Challenge**
Oliver N – **Topaz** Leo C - **Topaz** Harriet T- **Topaz** Harry T - **Topaz**
Monty A - **Diamond** Henry F - **Diamond** Amelie B - **Diamond**
Georgia H – **Diamond** Ela S – **Diamond** Jessica S - **Ruby** Dominic S – **Ruby**
Averie H – **Ruby** Alice B – **Emerald**

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

End of Year Round-Up

As we come to the end of the last full week at school, with only two days left next week, this will be the final newsletter of the year and for me, the final missive as headteacher.



First and foremost, we want to say goodbye to our Year 6 children who will leave us next week. Next Tuesday they will be presented with their leaving gifts and best wishes from everyone here at school and they, in turn, will present their final assembly to their families. At the end of the day, we will all form our now traditional guard of honour as they leave for the last time.

We wish them all the very best for the future and hope they will continue to work hard and achieve well.

We would like to say a big thank you to the DPSA Committee and all their helpers and supporters. They raised a fantastic amount at the Circus and this year. A wish list has been passed on to Mrs Jones!

End of Year Round-Up Continued

We complete the year with a fantastic set of end of Key Stage 2 SATs results:

Tests

Subject	≥100	≥110	Average Standardised Score	National % pupils achieving ≥100
Reading	83%	47%	107	74%
GPS	89%	50%	108	72%
Maths	83%	25%	106	73%

Teacher Assessments

Subject	Working at Expected Standard or above	Working at Greater Depth of the Expected Standard	National % pupils achieving expected standard	Reaching the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics	
Writing	81%	17%	71%	School	75%
Science	94%		80%	National	61%

The children and staff have worked incredibly hard this year using a new approach to the teaching of writing and we have supported the children to be the best that they can be. The proof of this is in their results. In all areas we stand way above the national averages. We know that as a school, we have done the very best that we could and that the children are set up well for the next phase of their education. Well done!

This year we are saying goodbye to so many members of staff, some of whom have been here for many years:

- 🐼 Mrs Ireland, Class Dove's teacher and our KS2 and Maths Lead. Mrs Ireland has been teaching at Danbury Park School for over 27 years and over those years has seen many changes. She first came to the school as a parent of two young girls when the family moved to Danbury and she will still be connected to the school as a grandparent of two. She has been a member of the senior leadership team helping drive forward school improvements to ensure that Danbury Park is the best school it can be.
- 🐼 Mrs Murphy, Class Budgerigar's teacher. Mrs Murphy has only been with us for two years starting as a job-share teacher in Class Eider but quickly stepping up to take on Class Budgerigar full-time. She will be moving to another school to continue her career.
- 🐼 Mrs Koch, Learning Support Assistant and Well-being mentor. Mrs Koch has also been at Danbury Park for many years, 24 to be precise, including being a parent. Her role supporting children often with complex special needs has been invaluable in helping them access and enjoy their learning. She has also been a founder member of our well-being team supporting children in time of needs.
- 🐼 Mrs Thakkar, Learning Support Assistant in Class Hummingbird. Mrs Thakkar joined the school in 2012 when the family moved to Danbury and we had a conversation about how she could be involved with the school and use her skills. This quickly turned into the offer of a job. Over the years Mrs Thakkar has supported the various teachers we have had in Class Hummingbird and has always been willing to step up and provide capable and conscientious cover for the class in times of need.
- 🐼 Mme Dekhar, our French teacher, joined us 12 years ago when we found ourselves without a French teacher. I know how grateful the staff have been for her expertise in the delivery of this area of the curriculum.
- 🐼 Miss Kamara, LSA, and Mr Wanags, MDA and volunteer will also be leaving us for pastures new.

We also say goodbye to three governors: Mrs Wray, Mrs Le Monde and Mrs Halls. Mrs Wray was Chair of Governors for many years and supported the school through tricky times including the COVID pandemic; Mrs Le Monde has been invaluable in giving of her time and expertise so generously to oversee the school's finances and Mrs Hall quickly stepped up to take on areas of responsibility overseeing GDPR and EYFS. Mrs Higgins, our Clerk to the Governing Body, is also retiring and she has worked behind the scenes keeping the governing body on track and providing agendas and minutes for meetings.

We wish them all the very best for the future.

A Personal Reflection from Mrs Gooding

As you can imagine since I made my decision, back in February, to retire at the end of this year, I have been reflecting on my career in education and my time at Danbury Park.

I always knew that I wanted to be a teacher; it's what I played as a young child with a blackboard, chalk and coerced family and friends! I loved learning and I wanted to share that knowledge and to keep finding out more. My mother provided me with books which I read voraciously from an early age. I escaped into another world of children's adventures by Enid Blyton and historical settings with abridged versions of the classics including Charles Dickens, Jane Austen and Daniel Defoe.

On leaving university, I worked in finance having been advised by teachers, not to become one! However, the pull was too strong and when my girls started school, I couldn't stop myself volunteering, being employed and then persuaded to get my teaching qualifications. So, I became a teacher with an Early Years class and couldn't believe that I was being paid to teach children to read and write sharing my love of the spoken and written word and helping children learn all about themselves and the world around us.

I moved to a Year 2 class where I learned so much about art, how to teach it and never to underestimate what a child can achieve given the right tools, instruction and motivation. We recreated Monet's Garden in a corner of the room and used this as inspiration for all our activities. A highlight has to be Ofsted grading a lesson in still life outstanding! Teaching Year 2 in a large infant school is a real privilege as they are the oldest and most responsible members of the community and they were always eager to please and to learn.

I wouldn't describe myself as artistic but I moved to a large primary to take responsibility for creativity and art across the school as well as moving onto to teach in Key Stage 2. To prepare myself I attended a week's course in Suffolk during the summer holiday to learn more about how children develop their skills in observing and representing the world using a variety of media. I thoroughly enjoyed creating art myself but also learning more about how children develop and grow, how their minds work and how to help them overcome barriers, so once again my passion for learning was re-ignited and that started me off on pursuing more research and acquiring credits towards a Master's degree in the process.

I progressed from teaching in Year 3 and 4 into Years 5 and 6. Along the way I was involved in developing the induction package for all newly qualified teachers in Essex and in being filmed for part of a training video demonstrating in a PE lesson how a teacher needs to work with an LSA to support children with complex special needs. I created large art installations for the hall working with all 315 children, blowing up the kiln in the process through over use! The work is still there today. Working with my Year 6 class, I completed my dissertation researching how to teach more able mathematicians and providing secure foundations so that those pupils at primary school go on to achieve highly at secondary school.

My move to become a Deputy Headteacher at a school on the garrison in Colchester was a steep learning curve. Initially I was not class-based and supported the Headteacher in writing policies and setting up procedures. I also started work on my NPQH which was then mandatory for new Headteachers. This period taught me how it is so important to have a strong set of core beliefs and principles, how to share these with children, staff and parents and how to work with teams to get tasks done in a short amount of time. When I went back into the classroom, it was to combine educating Year 5 and 6 children and providing a strong pastoral understanding: these children had parents deployed to Iran and were facing a daily barrage of news reports about the fighting. Once again, I was featured in a television report on Anglia about the work, that we were doing to support the children around the time of Mothers' Day when we helped the children show how much they appreciated the love and care of their mums. The time working with a community entrenched in the armed forces taught me how effective networks are: when we were faced with a cold sandwich-based Christmas dinner (the school kitchen having been shut down), I called in the Garrison Commander who organised a field kitchen on the school playground and having the commander himself drop by as a stand-in Father Christmas to give a present to every child. It was the best Christmas dinner ever!

A Personal Reflection from Mrs Gooding continued

Never one to stand still, I then became Headteacher at a small primary school with just over 100 pupils. This was probably the best training I could have asked for. When you only have 15 staff at most, you have no option other than to learn all the jobs that are entailed in managing and leading a school. As you will guess, this didn't deter me and I quickly learnt how to get our small school noticed. We had two demountable classrooms and the day the front steps to one collapsed and the second door refused to open, I took on the Local Authority and the Diocese about the unacceptable state of the buildings. Working with the Chair of Governors we researched alternatives to building with brick as no-one would give us enough money to do this and we were one of the first schools in Essex to install wooden built classrooms. On the day we signed the order, we were £15,000 short; by the end of the following week, we had rallied the parents and raised the necessary shortfall through family and business sponsorship.

After 6 ½ years, it was time to move on. I had increased the number of pupils on roll so that we were full and we had a waiting list, I had renovated the buildings and installed play equipment. I needed a new challenge. So, I came to Danbury Park and here I have stayed for 13 years, the longest time I have ever spent in one school and what a journey it has been!

Being a headteacher is a lonely job. You lead so many teams and are involved with so many people but often, ultimately, the responsibility is yours. There are so many aspects to the role. You are not just in charge of teaching and learning (and all that those two words encompass) but you are in charge of safeguarding the children, the maintenance and improvement of the premises, Health and Safety, finances, staffing, catering, cleaning. The list goes on... You have to follow directives from the government and the Local Authority, you have to keep abreast of what is going on in the community. However, the crux is that all you want to do is your utmost for the children; to give them an excellent all-round education, to teach them respect, resilience and a love of learning.

I can honestly say that I have never stopped learning throughout my entire career of 30 years and I know I will never stop. I have always wanted to share my love of learning and I hope that I have inspired and motivated the children I have taught. I was always proud of my classrooms and my schools, spending hours making welcoming, bright environments with places to explore, investigate, celebrate and also quieter areas in which to reflect. Through patience, consistency and understanding I tried to create a nurturing ethos, valuing each child for the individual they are. My philosophy has always been that we are human and make mistakes, but it is how we learn from those mistakes that makes the difference.

There are many highlights from my time at Danbury Park including: assemblies led by the children, Christmas plays; themed weeks, special national celebrations, gardening club, chess club, writing club and getting to work with all the children on shared projects; *Our World, Our Future*, sporting events and seeing the sporting teams go from strength to strength; supporting the children with their personal and emotional development; high academic achievements etc. I have tried to capture this all in the weekly newsletters so that everyone can share in these.

One of the most challenging times was during the COVID pandemic, when we all experienced unprecedented lockdowns and schools closing to all but those children of critical key workers. We were dealing with new territory trying to understand and implement government directives whilst being scared for our own, and our families', safety. We worked through partial openings, full openings, remote learning and working in bubbles, trying not to mix classes of children.

I will leave Danbury Park School after 13 happy years, knowing that I have given the school my very best, which is all I ever ask of the children. The courage of my convictions has carried me through the challenges because I know that whatever decisions I have had to take, it has been with the children's best interests first and foremost. I will have many fond memories to look back on and I will remember many of the children who it has been my privilege to nurture and teach. I have the satisfaction of knowing it has been a job well-done!

Pupil Forum

On Tuesday 2nd July, Danbury Park School Ambassadors, Alex and Ahalya, went to Pontlands Park Hotel to present their work on the topic Being Active. The journey took around fifteen minutes in the car. When we arrived, we were amazed to see how posh it was.

We went into the marquee and it was white all over. It was like a big tent! The children sat at the front and the adults sat at the back. There were 13 pairs of children. When everyone had arrived, we played a welcome game with a ball of string. If you received the ball of string you had to say your name, your school and what you like about school. Once you had spoken you rolled the ball to someone different. That was fun but the string got very tangled. We then sat back down and were given an iPad. The iPad was used to raise a question about the presentation once the children had finished. If anyone had a question, they needed to type it using the iPad and press submit. The question then appeared on the large screen. Then the first presentation began.

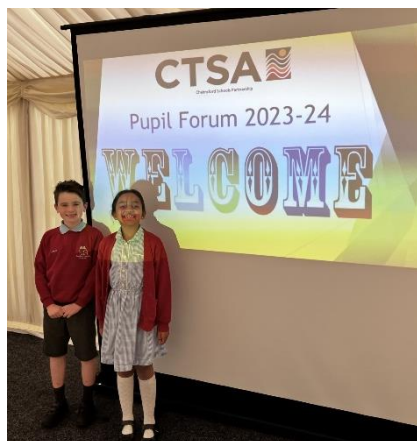
The first presentation was about litter picking. This was delivered by Bishop School. Many other schools followed. After each presentation, questions were typed into the iPad and the children answered them. One thing the schools wanted to achieve was the ECO schools green flag award.

Next was the subject Reduce, Renew, Reuse. Lots of schools chose this but not us. They talked about things they would do in the future and what they had already done. It was very interesting. We learnt all about the subject and how this would help the planet stay nice and healthy. All of the schools wanted to help the planet. They all came up with different ways to help like using less paper, turning out the lights when they are not needed and turning off the tap when no one is using it.

We then had a break. The biscuit and drink were very welcoming. We had a talk about our presentation and had a yummy piece of fruit.

After the break, the topic was eating healthy. The people that did that topic talked about their school dinners and how healthy they were.

Second to last was positive mental health. One school had a therapy dog and they played music in the gazebo. Another school had a statue of a dragon called Susan. The dragon is very old! Also, a school engaged in a programme of different activities for positive mental health.



Being Active was next and that was our topic! First up were some schools that did Beat the Street. Then it was us! We talked about letters we wrote and read them. We talked about what we have done as a CTSA ambassador which was to hold big assemblies and ask what things the children do to be active. We really enjoyed the visit. On the way back we talked about what we have learnt. It was very fun!!!!

Written by Ahalya and Alex



Dear Parents/carers,

While weather-front systems stubbornly suggest otherwise, it is becoming clear that the summer holidays are now upon us. There has been much to reflect on this term before we finally hit the beach!

Firstly, it was an absolute pleasure to have attended the school sports day. The list of events that have caused previous cancellations is long – pandemics, heatwaves and torrential storms to name but a few. Getting a ‘break in the clouds’ becomes even more important therefore, and what a fantastic day it was. Parents, pupils and staff coming together to run around a lot with smiles on their faces – it is testament to the concept of a ‘school community’ and well done to all involved.

‘Oh what a circus’! A big tent packed to the rafters with children and families, taking time out to just belly laugh for a while and enjoy some great entertainment. The entire event raised much needed funds for the school, and I would like to extend the thanks of the governing body to the DPSA for their considerable effort in organising and managing these events.

OFSTED made their much anticipated appearance, and published their findings during this term. Reading the report, it is hard to draw any conclusion other than the fact this is a great place to be from an education point of view. This type of conclusion does not happen by accident, and is a result of the hard work of all the staff, parents, and most importantly the pupils who represented the school with pride during the inspection.

Committee business continued as usual - an update from each of the Committee Chairs is captured below.

Curriculum and Pupil Related – Chair, Mrs. Katherine Moulding

- The school was pleased to receive detailed reports from the Headteacher, English Lead and Maths Lead on pupil achievement and progress towards this academic year's targets. We took particular note of and praised the hard work of staff and Year 6 pupils to prepare for the KS2 SATs.
- We noted the staffing plan secured to allow the Year 6 school journey to go ahead and expressed our gratitude on behalf of the Governing Body to the staff concerned.
- We approved a large number of Curriculum-related Policies and absorbed the new Government policy on attendance which takes effect this summer.

Resources Committee – Chair, Mr. George Fraser

- Main focus remains on the finances of the school over the upcoming 3 year plan to ensure a stable footing. In line with national trends, the lower birth rates over the last 4 years will have an impact in filling of the school's places.
- Unfortunately, some capital budgets have had to be delayed as a result of financial constraints.
- The car park remains a priority, and the school is working with Danbury Outdoors and a contractor to do the remedial work.
- Initiatives are also in progress to update the laptops within the schools ICT suite.

Personnel – Chair, Mrs. Brenda Wray

- Danbury Park remains fully staffed for teachers and LSAs for the next academic year, but challenges remain recruiting Midday Assistants and a Get Active Co-ordinator.
- Relating to wellbeing, Ofsted reported that staff are happy working at our school and efforts to reduce workload are appreciated.
- Staff Continuous Professional Development remains a focus, ensuring the most up to date education advice is applied to teaching.

Finally, it is with much sadness we need to say goodbye to some members of our school community. You will all be aware that Mrs Gooding and Mrs Ireland have decided to retire at the end of this term. Their contribution to the school, with 40 years between them, cannot be over-stated and I would like to extend my personal thanks for everything they have done for the pupils.

I would also like to recognise the contribution of Mrs Murphy, Mrs Koch, Mrs Thakkar and Miss Kamara who have made such a positive contribution to the school but are moving on to 'pastures new'.

For those of you leaving the school this term, I wish you every success in your future endeavours. For all of those returning, I look forward to seeing you again next term.

For everyone, I wish you all a restful and peaceful summer with friends and families.

Paul Sutton, Chair of Governors

End of Year Reminders

Attendance

With this newsletter you should also receive a copy of the school's Attendance Policy which comes into effect in August. This is also available on the school website. There are significant changes and these are summarised below. Please note that any unauthorised holidays at the end of this academic year will be dealt with under the existing policy including the application for Fixed Penalty Notices.

Ear Piercing

Essex County Council insist that earrings must be removed for PE lessons, so if you are considering having your child's ears pierced, please arrange for this to be done at the beginning of the school holidays to allow time to heal and for time for the children to practise taking them in and out. Staff are not allowed to remove or put in earrings so children need to be able to do this themselves or not wear earrings to school on the days we have PE or after-school sports clubs. We suggest that you put a small box in their PE bag to keep the earrings safe. Please note that pupils are not allowed to wear tape over their earrings.

After School Clubs

Parents should now be able to book places with Premier Sports for after school clubs starting in September.

Clothing

Over the next few days as you wash and put away the school uniform and during the holidays buy new, please check that name labels are clearly visible and intact. We try very hard to re-unite lost property with their owners and this is much easier for everyone if we can read the names.

The DPSA are happy to receive donations of nearly new uniform for their pre-loved sales.

Talented and Thoughtful Children

At the age of 6 years Ben completed he's ARKS test allowing him to compete in karting on a professional level in Motor Sport UK National Championships. He currently holds the record as the youngest UK Driver to win an MSUK race at just 6 years and 1 week old. Earlier this year Ben broke another Motor Sport UK record by winning he's first Championship in Sunderland at The Warden Law Spring Championship 2024.

Ben has had an incredible first year in professional karting leading him to take victory at the opening round of the renowned SuperOne Karting Championship in Wales.



This last weekend saw Ben battling out at The British Bambino Kart Championship which comprised of practice sessions, qualifying, heats, superheats and a final over three days. Ben came away with a 4th place trophy. He remains the youngest driver on the grid and we look forward to competing at more races over the summer holidays. If you would like to follow Ben's progress, please give us a like on Facebook 'Sana Racing'

Ivy from class B, performed as Matilda at the weekend in a local hall theatre.



This weekend Blake completed his first karate grading receiving his red stripe belt.



Theo (Class D) came second in the Danbury Tennis U9 Club Championship, and Hugo (Class Eider) came third in the U8 competition.

Well done to all our talented children!

Mathletics Challenge

We have now looked at our overall winners for this term and again Class Eider has won! We hope that they will keep up the good start they have made this year and continuing using Mathletics to support their Maths.

As their treat, Class Eider has chosen to have an extra playtime and to bring in some games and toys from home.

The children of Class Eider have worked hard to achieve this challenge and they have won every term. Thank you to the DPSA for their support in paying for the annual subscription.

Library Summer Reading Challenge

The theme of this year's challenge is *Marvellous Makers*. Essex Library Service and The Reading Agency are teaming up with *Create* for a very special 2024 challenge which will be a celebration of the creative arts. They aim to inspire children to express themselves in creative ways, tapping into a world of imagination and storytelling, and – of course – to read!

Children will join a group of wonderful characters, brought to life by the brilliant children's illustrator Natelle Quek, as they prepare for a big festival to show off the work they have created, inspired by their favourite reads. However, the day before the festival, some objects mysteriously go missing from their creative toolbox. The children of Essex will help the characters find these missing objects and save the festival!

The challenge runs from **Saturday 20 July to Saturday 7 September** in all Essex libraries and mobile libraries. There will also be a special early joiners' day on **Saturday 13 July**! Children are being asked to read 6 books, they will collect stickers for their folder for each book they read. After reading 6 books they earn their certificate and medal.

Children can read any library book of their choice; fiction, non-fiction, picture books, books they share with parents and carers, e-books or e-audio – they all count. The under fours are not forgotten with a special version of *Marvellous Makers* just for them.

The Summer Reading Challenge is delivered by libraries and produced by The Reading Agency. It is open to all children, free of charge. Full details can be found at:

[Marvellous Makers - The Summer Reading Challenge 2024 | News | Essex Library Service](#)

Helping parents to understand the changes to fines for term time holidays

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines issued for unauthorised holidays recorded by schools **after 19th August 2024**.

Who may be fined?

Penalty Notice Fines are issued to each parent who allows their child to be absent from school.

For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent who allowed the holiday receiving 3 separate fines.

National Threshold

There will be a single consistent national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England of 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period. These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence.

For example: a 5 day holiday would meet the national threshold.

The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years.

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for an unauthorised term time holiday the fine amount will be: £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

Increasing to £160 if paid between days 22-28.

Second Offence (within 3 years)

The Second time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be: £160 per parent (who allowed the holiday), per child, payable within 28 days.

Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed a Penalty Notice will not be issued and local authorities will need to consider other available measures to address the absence concerns. This may mean that cases are presented before a Magistrate's Court. Prosecution can result in criminal records and fines of up to £2,500.

Cases found guilty in the Magistrates' Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education'.

What to do

Advice on childhood illnesses



Go to school; if needed, get treatment as required



Some restrictions for school attendance



Don't go to school and see the GP

What it's called?	What it's like	Going to school	Getting treatment	More advice
Asthma flare up	Worsening of usual symptoms	➡	Follow your care plan	Stay off school if feeling too unwell
Chicken pox	Rash begins as small, red, flat spots that develop into itchy fluid-filled blisters	➡	Pharmacy	Back to school five days after on-set of the rash, or when all lesions are crusted over
Common cold	Runny nose, sneezing, sore throat	➡	Pharmacy	Ensure good hand hygiene
Conjunctivitis	Teary, red, itchy, painful eye(s)	➡	Pharmacy	Try not to touch eye to avoid spreading*
Flu	Fever, cough, sneezing, runny nose, headache, body aches and pain, exhaustion, sore throat	➡	Pharmacy	Ensure good hand hygiene*
German measles/ Rubella	Fever, tiredness. Raised, red, rash that starts on the face and spreads downwards	●	GP	Back to school four days after the rash has started, if feeling well enough. Please let the school know, as pregnant members of staff may be affected.
Glandular fever	High temperature, swollen glands, sore throat; usually more painful than any before	➡	GP	*
Hand, foot & mouth disease	Fever, sore throat, headache, small painful blisters inside the mouth on tongue and gums (may appear on hands and feet)	➡	GP	Attend school while monitoring symptoms
Head lice	Itchy scalp (may be worse at night)	➡	Pharmacy	
Impetigo	Clusters of red bumps or blisters surrounded by area of redness	●	GP	Back to school when lesions crust or 48 hours after start of antibiotics
Measles	Fever, cough, runny nose, watery inflamed eyes, rash	●	GP	Back to school four days from on-set of rash, and if feeling well enough
Ringworm	Red ring shaped rash, may be itchy, rash may be dry and scaly or wet and crusty	➡	Pharmacy	
Scabies	Itching rash, commonly between fingers, wrists, elbows, arm	➡	GP	Back to school after first treatment
Scarlet fever	Fever, unwell, red tongue, sandpaper rash	●	GP	Exclusion period during first 24 hours of antibiotics*
Shingles	Pain, itching, or tingling along the affected nerve pathway. Blister-type rash	➡	GP	Only stay off school if rash is weeping and cannot be covered
Sickness bug/ diarrhoea	Stomach cramps, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea	➡	Pharmacy	Contact GP if symptoms persist after 48 hours
Threadworms	Intense itchiness around anus	➡	Pharmacy	Ensure good hand hygiene
Tonsillitis/ Strep throat	Intense sore throat for more than 1 day	➡	Pharmacy	See GP if temperature lasts more than 48 hours or cannot swallow. Only need to stay off school if feeling too unwell
Whooping cough	Violent coughing, with a 'whoop'	●	GP	Exclusion period during first five days of antibiotics
Covid				Visit www.nhs.uk for latest guidance

*Attend school while monitoring symptoms.

This information is a guide and has been checked by health professionals. If you are unsure about your child's wellbeing, we recommend you contact your pharmacy or GP to check.

Working in partnership with

Should my child go to school/nursery today?

Hertfordshire and West Essex Healthier Together for further information

<https://www.hwehealthiertogether.nhs.uk/parentscarers>



Lunchtimes – Help Needed

You will have seen from previous newsletters that we have had vacancies for Midday Assistants since September. We have not been able to fill these posts and this is now sadly impacting on the areas of the school that the children can use at lunchtime. Now the weather is improving, they are keen to get onto the school field, play football and to use the Daily Mile track but when we are so short of Midday Assistants to supervise these areas, we have to limit the children to using the playground and the Daily Mile track only when we have enough adults.

The senior leadership team including myself have been carrying out lunchtime duties all year but other staff need their breaks as they are teaching in class and cannot take their lunchtimes flexibly.

If you can, or you know of anyone who might be able to support as a Midday Assistant, please ask them to contact the office for more details and an application form. We want the children to be able to fully utilize our lovely surroundings safely and enjoy lunchtimes with a variety of activities.

Thank you!

Safeguarding

As we approach the summer holidays and the children may be spending more time online, please stop and think about their safety first and how you can keep them safe. This might be installing parental controls and locks for younger children but for older children it might be talking about what to do, if they encounter anything that makes them feel uncomfortable or scared.

The ESCB has lost of information for parents:

<https://www.escb.co.uk/safeguarding-topics/online-safety/parentscarers/>

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 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.

Notification and Reminders

Sun Hats – as the weather starts to improve, please provide your child with a sun hat to provide protection at break and lunchtimes from the sun. Please also apply a long lasting sun protection cream/lotion in the morning before school.

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.

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

Letters sent out this week:

- Young Voices Letter Y4 and Y5 only (via Parentmail)
- Year 6 Leavers' Assembly Letter (Year 6 only)



Owl's Barn School Meals

Week beginning 22nd July 2024

Week 1

Fresh bread and milk available daily

Monday	Homemade Cheese and Tomato Pizza or Vegetable Nuggets	White/Wholegrain Pasta Sweetcorn	Key Stage 2 only Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Shortbread Biscuit Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
Tuesday	Omega 3 Fish Fingers or Cheese and Tomato Quiche	Chips Baked Beans Peas	NO JACKET POTATO	Ice Cream Roll Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt

Week beginning 2nd September 2024

Week 1

Tuesday	Pulled Pork in a Bun or (V) Veggie Burger in a Bun	Couscous Homemade Coleslaw Peas	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Chocolate Muffin Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
Wednesday	Mild Beef Chilli with Nacho's or (V) Vegan Chilli with Nacho's	White/Wholegrain Rice Mixed Vegetables 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	Apple Crumble and Custard Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
Friday	Omega 3 Fish Fingers or (V) Omelette	Chips Baked Beans Green Salad	Key Stage 2 only Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Iced Sponge Cake Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt

SCHOOL DINNERS

COSTS FOR AUTUMN TERM 2024

1st Half Term: 3rd September – 24th October 2024 = 38 days at £2.70 = £102.60

2nd Half Term: 4th November – 19th December 2024 = 34 days at £2.70 = £91.80

Total for AUTUMN Term = £194.40

Please note that all school meals should be paid for in advance via School Gateway.

Dates for the Diary Week beginning 22nd July 2024

Mon 22nd

Tues 23rd

9.10am

10.45am

3.25pm

Presentation and farewell assembly to Year 6.
Year 6 Assembly presented to parents and families
School Breaks up for the Summer Holidays

Full term dates for the academic year
2024-25 are available on the school website.

School re-opens on Tuesday 3rd September 2024

Yours sincerely,

Carol Gooding,
Headteacher



DANBURY SUMMER FUN

Join us for lots of **fun, games & activities**

Dawson Memorial Fields, Danbury
10am-12pm & 1pm-3pm

Ages 3-11 free session, please pre-book.

Friday 2nd August
Extra - Inflatable Slide Castle
Combo (AM)

Monday 12th August
&
Thursday 22nd August

National Badminton Summer Camps

Monday Afternoons Camps offer professional coaching, fun activities and badminton for all ages and More Info:
<https://nationalbadminton.org.uk/programme/camps/>

Little Kickers
Fun football-based skills for three age groups from 18 months to 5 year olds.
Saturday Mornings.
Call 07521126614 to book



STUDENT SAVINGS
Badminton Courts & Snooker Tables
Student Discount Just £5 including Equipment.

Gymnastics Summer Camp
Active afternoons learning control, balance, flexibility & movements. Book at reception.
Times: 3:30pm to 5:30pm
Dates: July 30th, August 2nd, 6th, 13th & 20th.

Karate Classes
Children of all ages learn control & discipline in group classes on Friday afternoons. Book at reception.

Children 17+ must be supervised at all times.
www.DanburyLeisureCentre.org.uk/ / 01245 224515



Play in the Park

Join us for lots of **fun, games & activities**

Dawson Memorial Fields, Danbury
10am-12pm & 1pm-3pm

Friday 2nd August
Extra - Inflatable Slide Castle
Combo (AM)

Monday 12th August
&
Thursday 22nd August

E csaw@chelmsford.gov.uk
T 01245 666569
F [/playchelmsford.chelmsford.gov.uk/play](https://playchelmsford.chelmsford.gov.uk/play)

Special School Discount at Pirates Bay Crazy Golf, Maldon

Pirates Bay Crazy Golf at Maldon has asked us to remind families that you can get an online discount using the unique school code: danbury24

We know this is a popular venue during the school summer holidays.