

Newsletter

ASPIRE – ACHIEVE – VALUE

5 March 2018

The “Beast from the East” really was out in full force this week! Closing the school is a decision never taken lightly, but for the safety of children and staff I made the difficult decision. Thank you very much for your continued support and understanding. I hope you all wrapped up warmly and your children enjoyed the snow! How lovely to feel a little warmth as we begin the new week.

Before-school care.

As a working parent myself, I would like to support our working parents as much as possible. Thank you to those parents who turned out to hear Neil O’Sullivan talk to parents about the possibility of wrap-around care. I am delighted to let you know that Neil and I have most recently spoke about a breakfast club starting soon. I will continue to keep you updated about a start date as well as possible after-school care.

Staffing update

I am delighted to welcome several new members to our team; Mrs Wheeler and Mrs Scott, who are both working in Frogs class and Mrs Woodman who is helping support Kingfisher class. We value the experience they all bring to their respective roles and I know they will have an impact on supporting the high-quality education your child receives.

I am sorry to let you know that Mrs Leigh Game - who took on the administrative role in the mornings - did not feel the role was right for her. Therefore, you will see Mrs Arundell and Mrs Dale, who have both worked as LSAs, in the office sharing this role. Mrs Joanne Rush, who took the afternoon administrative role continues to be unwell - we wish her all the best.

World Book Day

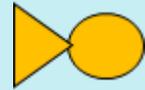
We will celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 8 March instead of last week.

I spoke to the children at length about the importance of reading and reading high quality texts. To help us raise the profile of reading we have rearranged our celebration of World Book Day and I am very much looking forward to seeing everyone’s character.

Reading is a very important part of our homework and it is our policy that children should read at home for a minimum of 10 minutes every night. If you do anything with your child, please read with them/to them. Even in KS2 the value of a child being read to cannot be under-estimated - please do continue to do this! You are supplying your child with books (stories/information), which may be above their own reading ability, but they are gaining the vocabulary and sentence constructions from being read to.

Debden Christian Values:

Honesty, Respect and Kindness



Pen Licence awarded to:
Sophia Downing.

Headteacher Awards:



Edward



Rufus



Charlie



Alice

Children with good vocabularies do better and are more likely to succeed. Their writing also hugely benefits from this too!

Kingfisher class - school trip

Kingfishers immersed themselves in their topic - World War II when they visited The Royal Gunpowder Mills on Friday 23 February.

Going to the Royal Gunpowder Mills was great; we learnt a lot whilst having fun. First we talked to a W.A.A.F member who told us why women were also very important in the war; she also explained that one of the people who were going to talk to us was a German spy.

Before very long we met an A.R.P warden who talked us through air raid precautions and why animals were so important during the war. After that our billeting officer talked to us about how children were billeted, and the home front.

Lastly we met a shopkeeper named Mrs Jones. She owned the local shop as well as something else quite strange - a camera. She explained to us the way rations worked and other things.

We found out that Mrs Jones was the spy! Everyone knew that she had been suspicious from the start! Overall going to the Gunpowder Mills was a great experience.

Reported by Eloise



School Council Sponsored Silence

The sponsored silence has raised an amazing £239 so far. Please send in any outstanding sponsor money.

Hockey Tournament

Hockey success

A huge congratulations and thank you to Mrs Magness and Mrs Cox. Last week Debden Hockey came 2nd out of 9 schools this morning, "The children played their socks off!" (Mrs Magness)



Debden were due to play in the final tournament which was due to be held on Thursday (1 March). However it was postponed due to adverse weather conditions. We will keep our fingers crossed for when the match is re-arranged and keep you up to date!

In other hockey news, Mrs Magness has spoken to Lisa Dunlop (PE lead at JFAN) about some of her eldest pupils supporting the coaching of Debden on a Friday. Mrs Dunlop is happy for this to happen, as long as there is adult supervision. I know Mrs Magness has been in contact with a couple of parents about the possibility of keeping the club running. Thank you for your support.

Kingfishers Cake Sale

As the school was closed for this date it has been re-scheduled for this Friday (9th).

Swimming

Swimming started for Years 1 and 3 on Tuesday, 20 February 2018.

Please ensure that your child has their swimming kit in school every Tuesday – this should include a swimming costume, towel and a red swimming hat. Please write your child's first name on their hat in black marker pen. This is so swimming teachers can identify children in the water for their own safety. Thank you for your cooperation.

Please note that the school does not stock swimming hats. These can be purchased from any sports/online shop.

The cost for swimming is £52.50 for one and a half terms. Please make cheques payable to "Debden C of E Primary Academy".

Music lessons

If your child is interested in learning an instrument, please let the office know. Lessons are full for drums, saxophone, flute and clarinet but we do run a waiting list.

Guitar lessons are full during school time, however, there are two slots available for a lesson after school.

<p>Ducklings</p>  <p>Finnley</p>	 <p><u>Stars of the Week</u></p>	<p>Minnows</p>  <p>Michael</p>
<p>Dragonflies</p>  <p>Logan</p>	<p>Frogs</p>  <p>Kaitlyn</p>	<p>Kingfishers</p>  <p>Eloise</p>

REMINDERS!

Water Bottles

Children are encouraged to drink water at all times. To help prevent the spread of germs, we do not supply drinking cups and, therefore, every child should have a named water bottle in school. Please note we do not allow juice or flavored waters to be brought in to school.

Healthy snacks

We like to encourage all children to bring in a snack for break time. It is a long time between breakfast and lunch, so a snack and a drink of water will make a big difference to children's concentration levels and ability to learn. As a healthy school, our guidelines for the type of snack to bring in must be fruit or vegetable in the form in which it grew (ie, nothing added, stretchy or made in to a bar!). Key stage 1 children have a snack provided within school and do not need to bring anything else in with them.

Nut free school

We have children within the school who have an allergic reaction to nuts. It is critical, therefore, that children should not bring nuts, or anything which contains nuts, in their snacks or lunch boxes. Thank you for your support.

School Lunch

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are eligible for a FREE school meal each day. If you would like your child to have a school dinner they can just request it when the dinner register is called each morning. If you do not wish your child to have a school meal, then please provide them with a packed lunch in the usual way.

If you have children in Years 3,4,5 or 6 school meals now cost £2.30 per day; £11.50 for one week.

Lunch can be paid for weekly or termly; and must be ordered and paid for each Monday. Please make cheques payable to "Debden C of E Primary Academy".

Universal Free School Meals

Whilst your child is entitled to free school meals in Key Stage 1, we still need to collect data from these parents in order to assess whether or not your child is eligible to the educational funding in school that accompanies this entitlement. If you feel your child may be eligible, having read the criteria, please could you fill in the data collection form which is available from the school office.

You can register your child for Free School Meals if you get any of these benefits:

- Income Support
 - Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
 - Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
 - Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
 - The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
 - Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that does not exceed £16,190
 - You will not normally be eligible if you receive any amount of Working Tax Credit
- Please provide this information when requested as schools use this money to help support your children within the school environment to achieve their full potential in education.

How to apply

- Go online to www.essex.gov.uk/educationawards

Or

- Apply over the telephone or request an application form by calling **0845 603 2200**

Collecting Children

Please make sure that we are informed if there is any change to the collection arrangements for your child. If anyone other than a parent is picking up your child at the end of the day, please notify the office (and the class teacher if possible)

We will also assume all children registered for the bus will be taking the bus each afternoon unless we hear to the contrary.

For safeguarding reasons, it is very important that we know exactly how children will be travelling home each day.

Absence

If your child is absent from school, you must call the school office by **9am** on the first day and **each day** after that your child is absent.

Application for leave of absence for term time holidays

We discourage parents from taking pupils out of school during term time. Should you need to, requests should be made via a leave of absence form, which is available from the school office. All holiday leave will be unauthorised unless there are exceptional circumstances. All requests for leave will be acknowledged.

Health and Safety Notice regarding the wearing of earrings during PE and swimming

As a reminder, Essex guidelines are that the Primary Code states that all jewellery is to be removed for PE lessons and taping over earrings is not allowed. This means that if pupils cannot take their earrings out they will have to sit out of PE until a time that the jewellery can be removed. Schools must comply with this guidance. This also applies to after school clubs and sporting events. Please also remember that all hair should be tied up on PE days.

Best wishes.

Louise Gurney
Head Teacher

Important Dates for your diary

Please note - these may be subject to change if unavoidable circumstances come up.

9 March		Dragonflies Class Worship - parents invited.
16 March		Full Spring reports out
16 March	3pm	Frogs Cake sale
21 March	3.15-5.15pm	Parent Consultations
22 March	5-7pm	Parent Consultations
23 March		RND – tbc
23 March		STEM afternoon - Minnows. Parents welcome.
29 March		INSET DAY
30 March–13 April		Easter Holiday
23 April		Clubs start
27 April	3pm	Dragonflies Cake sale
4 May	9am	Minnows Class Worship - parents welcome.
7 May		BANK HOLIDAY
11 May	1.30pm	STEM afternoon - Ducklings. Parents welcome.
11 May	3pm	Minnows Cake sale
May		KS1 Test period
14-18 May		SATs week - Year 6
28 May–1 June		HALF TERM
8 June	3pm	Ducklings Cake sale
11 June		Phonics screening week - Year 1
22 June	9am	Ducklings Class Worship - parents welcome.
29 June		Summer Fayre
4 July		Sports Day Picnic lunch at 12.00; afternoon races start at 1pm.
6 July	2-3pm	Open afternoon
10 July		Dress rehearsal - KS2 performance
11 July	1pm	KS2 performance
12 July	6pm	KS2 performance
20 July	9.30am	End of term service - parents welcome.
20 July	2pm	Balloon release and awards - parents welcome.
20 July		BREAK UP

Debden Church Calendar of Services and Events

March	9 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer (said)	John Saxon
	11 th	9.30am	Mothering Sunday Family Service	John Saxon
	16 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer (said)	John Saxon
	18 th	9.30am	Passion Sunday	Jeremy Collingwood
	23 rd	9.00am	Holy Communion	John Saxon
	25 th	9.45am	Morning Prayer (said) Palm Sunday Procession from shop	
		10.00am	Holy Communion	Jeremy Collingwood
	30 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer (said)	John Saxon
		10.00am	Good Friday	Walk of Witness
April	1 st	9.30am	Easter Day Holy Communion	Jeremy Collingwood
Events	March	19 th	10.00	Church Mice