

Newsletter

ASPIRE – ACHIEVE – VALUE

20 July 2018

What a year! This time of year, always fills me with mixed emotions. Tears, as well as joy, as we say goodbye to our year 6s, who I am extremely proud we have given them a great start to their secondary school life.

I would like to give you a summary of what has gone well this year as well as a taster of things to look forward to next year!

SIAMS inspection - GOOD - November 2017.

We were delighted to have an external validation of how far we have come in the form of our SIAMS inspection this academic year.

Here are a few of "The best bits": *"The effective leadership by the head teacher and deputy head teacher, ably supported by the staff team, has resulted in all round and considerable improvement"*

"The school is especially good at providing appropriate activities to support and challenge the most able pupils"

"The school works very effectively to settle pupils quickly and provide any additional support"

Essex county final - maths competition

I was proud to take the children who achieved first place when we undertook the local maths competition; Isaac, Logan, Michael and Duncan. Mrs Fradd said that the children continued to do well at county level, where we finished fifth! This is such an accomplishment for us! Congratulations and well done.

Year 6 SAT results.

I am extremely proud that 93% of our children passed their reading test, which is testament to all the hard work the children put in as well as the staff. Reading is a vital life skill and I am delighted that the children left their primary education with such a great basis. We also did well mathematically as 77% of our children passed their SAT test. 85% got to the "expected standard" in writing, meaning that 77% of our children left primary school with a combined score of being at age related expectation in reading, writing and mathematics. Progress scores will follow.

Sports Award - Silver

I am delighted to let you know that we achieved a silver award for our "commitment, engagement and delivery of competitive sport in 2017/2018."

School council events

A huge thank you to our school council for organising such wonderful events, such as Sports Relief - which raised over £500, ending in the obstacle course organised by the army - thank you, the Children in Need ramble and the Hawaiian party last week! Thank you to Neil and Harry who attended and organised water dodgeball, which culminated in a staff vs children tournament!

A huge well done and thank you to all of our children who show our values throughout the day.

A huge thank you to all the staff who give their commitment to your child so they get the very best start.

Another huge thank you to FODS who work tirelessly to give your child the very best opportunities and raise money for our school!



Enriching the curriculum - weeks/days

In June we completed our science week, which all the children loved! This culminated in a day that FODS kindly paid for!

All classes have been on an educational visit to help to enrich the curriculum for your child. We have been looking at revamping our curriculum and teachers are planning either a visit/topic day to fit with your child's topic next year.

Our STEM events are proving very popular and have been very well attended. The imperative skills your child will learn from these activities are invaluable; problem solving, collaboration, creativity, intellectual curiosity, decision-making, flexibility as well as many others. We will continue to work on this next year.



FODS News

Thank you for your fantastic support at the barbeque and raffle at sports day. FODS raised £632.

We are very grateful to Mrs Magness who volunteered her time recently to come into school and work with each class on a tie dying project. FODS was pleased to contribute towards her expenses and for the classes that tie-dyed T-shirts, these were purchased using the money from your class cake sale.

The Joseph DVDs have all been sent home. Thank you very much to Ade Hare for filming and producing the DVDs for us. They are a great memento of the KS2 children's hard work. The raffles at the performances and the DVDs raised over £200

Together we have raised just over £4000 this year for FODS and this has been spent on the school library, new sports kit, school trips, forest school kit, Fab Science workshop, gazebo, Athletics, the traversing wall (coming soon) and many other smaller items.

In the Autumn term, we will be organising a bag2School clothing collection, so if you are having a clear out over the summer holiday, bag it up for school.

There will be a FODS meeting in the first half of the Autumn term and we would love to have more people attend. See you there!

Sports Day – Wednesday 4 July

Well done to all the children who took part in our sports day. Thank you to all the families who attended for a BBQ/picnic lunch.

A special thank you must go to FODS who organised a fantastic BBQ and raffle to raise money to support your children.

Residential

I hear the year 6s had a fantastic time with Great Chesterford children, building relationships. Thank you, Mrs Fradd and Mrs Dale who accompanied them.

Joseph

I was so proud to watch the KS2 end of term performance. We had brilliant acting, performing and singing - a special well done to the soloists. Thank you to all the staff, in their various roles, for making sure the event was such a success!



Art Sessions

We have been extremely lucky to have Julia Magness in school the last few weeks doing tie dye session with various classes. The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning this new technique and we thank Mrs Magness for giving up her time to the children.

Spotlight on Mrs Murrell

A bit about Mrs Murrell

I began my teaching career at Debden almost fifteen years ago and I have seen a lot of change. I began teaching in Foundation and I have taught through to Year Two. I currently lead Writing, GPS and PE but I have coordinated many other subjects during my time here.

Writing news

We attended training as part of the Primary Writing Project on Pie Corbett's Talk For Writing approach and have seen great change since implementation in classes. Children are learning key texts quickly, dissecting them to see how they are organised and innovate them with flair. This systematic approach helps children to learn many story plots embedding these in their memory. This then leads to children applying this story knowledge and structure into their own writing both with flair and enthusiasm.

I have seen some amazing writing this year in a variety of different genres ranging from retelling familiar stories, to letters and newspaper articles. What amazing writers we are, keep up the good work Debden!

PE news

This year has seen the implementation of The Daily Mile. Classes run, jog or walk for 10 minutes daily in the attempt to run one mile. I have seen that the use of this 'movement break' enables children to refocus and rejuvenate ready for learning as well as provide them with some extra fresh air and fun.

Both KS1 and KS2 have attended many sporting fixtures and have had many opportunities to develop their skills. We have had some fantastic results and were so proud to celebrate our hockey achievement.

For the first time we took some Y6s to JFAN to act as play leaders and assist with the KS1 Athletics festival. This gave them a wonderful opportunity to show off their good sportsmanship, leadership skills and their impeccable behaviour and they made me immensely proud.

This year we have been awarded the Silver Sports Mark again - see above, well done and thank you to everyone for their help and commitment for this.

Spotlight on Mrs Hood

I have been working at Debden School for 7 years and currently teach a mixed year 1 and 2 class. My curriculum responsibilities include Computing, Phonics and Reading across the school.

We have had a very busy few years promoting reading across Debden with exciting activities such as extreme reading, book swaps, author visits, book fair, shared reading between classes, moving the library and allowing the children to access it at lunchtime, volunteer reader scheme, the annual library bus visit and much, much more. One of the great success stories was the book donation. We were amazed by the amount and quality of books donated by our families; a huge thank you to everyone who sent books in. It is wonderful to see so many children using our library at lunchtime, thank you to the volunteers who give up their time to open our library. We still have a few days that need covering, if you think you can help please let the office know!

TUCASI

Please note that the 29p admin charge for making a payment on TUCASI, no longer applies.

Catering

As you know, Debden is cooking home cooked food from September! I am delighted to let you know the outcome of our survey for parents and children... it was menus 2, 4 and 8!

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| <p>Ducklings <i>Finley & Jenson</i></p>  | <p>Stars of the Week</p>  | <p>Minnnows <i>Demi & Unathi</i></p>  |
| <p>Dragonflies <i>Piers & George</i></p>  | <p>Frogs <i>Edward D & Charlie</i></p>  | <p>Kingfishers <i>Aiden & Ollie</i></p>  |

Next academic year

Already we have many exciting things planned for your child. Of course there will be many more things! Here is a little taster!

Artificial grass

We are having the artificial grass put in over the holiday, so when we return your child will be able to play on another area when it is rainy - I know it is hard to think that at the moment!

Catering and gardening

We are using our own produce to cook ourselves. A staffing update: Mrs Jennifer Andrews will be our catering manager in September,

CIF bid

The school was successful in applying for a CIF bid so over the summer holiday the flat rooves are going to be replaced.

Increased security

We take the safety of your child very seriously, so over the summer “fobs” will be positioned on the entrances opposite my office as well as between the waiting room and library. This will mean there will be no unauthorised access to the school.

Curriculum planning

The teaching staff and I spent a long time reviewing the planning for next academic year, to make the topics interesting and engaging for your child. We have already planned in some trips and/or visits so keep your eyes peeled!

Mrs Bailey

Mrs Bailey will be joining us as the new Year 3/4 class teacher as well as being our SENCo. Thank you to the parents who came to the drop-in session to meet her - if your child will be in her class. She was really pleased to meet you all and is looking forward to September (with a break in between!).

Celebration assembly

On Fridays, you will be invited to celebration assembly, which will be on a Friday at 2.40pm.

And a final note...

A huge thank you must go to Miss Harding, who is leaving us to go travelling. Her enthusiasm in class as well as the extra-curricular activities she has organised as music and science subject leader have been wonderful - and a highlight of some of the children's memories. She will be missed hugely by us all. Good luck!

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 (i.e., 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 for a lovely summer!

Louise Gurney
Head Teacher

Important Dates for your diary

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

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| 4/5 September Non Pupil Days | | |
| 6 September | | Children return to school |

Debden Church Calendar of Services and Events

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|-----------|--------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| July 22 | 9.30am | Choral Matins | Home Team |
| July 27 | 9.00am | Morning Prayer (said) | John Saxon |
| July 29 | 9.30am | Holy Communion with Wimbish | Jeremy Collingwood |
| August 3 | 9.00am | Morning Prayer (said) | John Saxon |
| August 5 | 9.30am | Holy Communion | Jeremy Collingwood |
| August 10 | 9.00am | Morning Prayer (said) | John Saxon |
| August 12 | 9.30am | Family Service | John Saxon |
| August 17 | 9.00am | Morning Prayer (said) | John Saxon |
| August 19 | 9.30am | Holy Communion | J. Sibson |
| August 24 | 9.00am | Morning Prayer (said) | John Saxon |
| August 26 | 9.30am | Choral Matins | Home Team |
| August 31 | 9.00am | Morning Prayer (said) | John Saxon |

Events