



# DEBDEN PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents,

As we reach the end of the first half term, I would like to congratulate all of the children for how well they have dealt with the most unusual circumstances that we find ourselves in. The new rules and restrictions that have accompanied the reopening of schools must seem awfully strange for them (especially those in younger year groups) but the teaching team have all been really impressed with the positive learning behaviours that the children have exhibited throughout the term. On a personal note, I have been really pleased to see how happy the children have seemed to be back in school, and to note that their kindness, manners and positive attitudes have remained – we really do have lovely children here at Debden!

A big thank you to all of you parents for helping them to get back into the routine of school so swiftly – the vast majority of children are now making excellent progress and this is partially down to you! I hope that you found the parent-teacher interviews this week helpful in summarising your child's learning achievements and next steps, so that you can continue to support their learning from home. Thank you to all of our teachers for staying late to allow these important conversations to happen.

We have a few announcements to make before we officially conclude the half term. Firstly, it is with sadness that we inform you that Mrs Murrell will be leaving our teaching team at the end of the term. Mrs Murrell has been at Debden a long time, and has taught most of the children in the school at some point or another, so we wanted to ensure that everyone was given adequate notice to say their goodbyes. Don't be too hasty, however, she will still be here with us at Debden until Christmas! We have sent the Minnows Class a more detailed email on this, including the planned arrangements from January. We will of course be bidding Mrs Murrell a fitting goodbye when the time arrives.

We have started electing children for our new student council! Elections for some classes have already been held and the council will be finalised in the first week after the half term break. The student council will once again be led this year by the extremely wonderful and diplomatic Ms Weetch, who I know will help the children to catalyse real change within the school. Due to the council being made up of children from different bubbles, we are still looking into how exactly the team will meet together, but at present it looks likely that we will be able to facilitate this using Zoom.

One of saddest consequences of the COVID-19 regulations for education is that we are asked to restrict the number of parents and visitors into our school. This is a real shame for us, as we like to show off all of the wonderful things that are happening here through our achievement assemblies, open mornings, and school tours. Thankfully, we have still been able to send you the achievement assembly slides each week, and we are also hoping to begin recording them after half term so that you can fully experience them from home (much like the virtual harvest service). We will also be releasing a promotional video for our school soon, so watch this space!

We have been fortunate thus far to have had no confirmed cases of the virus within our school, however it is no secret that cases are on the rise again, and the local alert level has of course risen. The government has asked schools to publish their remote learning plan by the end of October, which should detail the provision that we shall offer should children/ class bubbles/ the whole school be sent

home to isolate. Our plan, which has been communally agreed by staff and governors, has been added to our website (look in 'Key Info and then 'Policies') and I am also attaching it to the email alongside this newsletter. As always, we have worked with the best needs of our children in mind and we believe that these plans will help to minimise any disruption to their learning. Please note that in order for your child to be able to access any of the provision on SeeSaw, Tapestry and Zoom (key features of the Remote Learning Plan) you will need to ensure that you have sent back the relevant consent form, which was emailed to you earlier in the week. This is a measure that we have to take to help ensure that the platforms are safe for the staff and children.

Before this newsletter turns into a full-on saga, I think I will end it here. Wishing you and your family a lovely half term. We look forward to welcoming the children back into school on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

Kind Regards

Mr Hawley

### **Children who achieved Gold this week!**

*Kingfishers: Sophia, Liam, Kayla*

*Frogs: Matilda, Sid, Cole, Finnley, Imogen, Lily, Amelia, Ted, Oliver, Belle, Romily, Keira, Ava*

*Minnows: Rory, Melody, Alice, Peyton, Spencer, Lily, Pheobe, Elora, Frank, Rocco*

*Ducklings: Reya, Amelia, Mya, Lexie*

### **Star of the Week!**

*Kingfishers: Prisma*

*Frogs: Matilda*

*Minnows: Florence*

*Ducklings: Everyone!*