



DEBDEN PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Friday 29th January, 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope that you are all keeping well. May I start this week's newsletter with a thank you for all of your continued efforts in supporting the children with their remote learning. The class teachers have noted the extremely high levels of uptake in learning activities, with lots of excellent work being uploaded to our SeeSaw and Tapestry applications. We know that this is an exceptionally difficult time for lots of people who are trying to juggle work and home learning commitments (indeed, many of our staff team are parents themselves) and so a sincere thank you for all that you are doing.

A reminder that we are holding a weekly celebration of all of the children's efforts every Friday at 2.30pm via Zoom. The assembly can be accessed each week using the same, recurring link, which I am copying again here: <https://zoom.us/j/97569454304?pwd=U3dsZlppU3RGaVhuRlVrcS9WZWRHUT09>. Please do remember to ensure that your/ your child's profile is 'muted' as soon as you enter the meeting. I have been trying to 'mute all' upon entry, but it seems that some are still getting through the net. Please do double check – it can prevent any potential embarrassment!

You will have no doubt seen the Prime Minister's announcement on Wednesday that schools will remain closed for the vast majority of children until at least Monday 8th March. Whilst this is only a prospective date at present, it at least provides us with a chink of light at the end of the tunnel! It also offers a foundation upon which the staff team can begin making the necessary preparations for a safe reopening. When the time does come, please rest assured that you will receive a parent handbook with all of the information that you require regarding our daily operations and safety procedures.

A huge congratulations to both the Hodgson family and the Borril-Clarke family, who have both welcomed new additions to their family over the past few weeks! I know that both you and the elder siblings are absolutely thrilled, and we too are delighted for you. I am not quite sure how both sets of parents have managed this so calmly, with everything else that has been going on, but you certainly have our admiration and respect. We hope that the next few weeks and months go as smoothly as possible for you all!

A continued thank you to all of the staff for their hard work, enthusiasm and skill over the past few weeks. The teachers have been doing a fabulous job in creating, collating and uploading learning resources, whilst also running Zoom sessions and offering continual feedback on the children's learning via the online platforms. Our classroom assistants have also been working hard to ensure that the children in the key worker groups are safely supervised in the school. Your commitment to the children's wellbeing and learning is really first class, so thank you.

I am hoping to start my next round of calls from Wednesday onwards, to see how you and your child are faring. It may take me a week or so to get around everybody. If you have any queries in the meantime, please don't hesitate to email us via admin@debden.essex.sch.uk. We will always aim to get back to you within 24 hours during the week.

Mr Hawley