



DEBDEN PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Friday 26th June, 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope that you are all well, and that you have all been enjoying the sunshine!

This week at Debden, our Reception classroom was taken over by a band of merry pirates! The children enjoyed playing lots of pirate-themed games, exploring pirate-related learning activities, and of course dressing up as pirates! For more information about this, as well as a round-up of all of this week's best bits, please be sure to take a look the achievement assembly – attached to this email.

As previously communicated, we have been spending the past few weeks considering how we can facilitate other year groups in school, even if just for a short time, before the end of the school year. We think that it is really important that all of the children are given the opportunity to see their teachers and classmates before the summer break, and experience the way that school-life works in this 'new normal.' Additionally, we want to ensure that children who are moving up classes are given the opportunity to bid farewell to their teachers, and to meet their new teachers, before the holidays.

However, whilst wider social distancing measures may have been eased over the past week or so, schools are still restricted to implementing 'social bubbles' of no more than 15 children. With all of the children back in school, most of our classes have 25-30 children, who are each taught by one teacher. You can see our problem!

With this in mind, we have opted to end the current timetables for our Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children at the end of the last full week of term – their last day in school will therefore be Thursday 16th July. We hope that these children and families can appreciate that we have done all that we can to provide as close to full-time education over the 7 weeks of this half term, and that this will allow us to accommodate the other children in the school over the final 3 days of the academic year. This approach is in line with the recommendations of the Essex local authority.

The schedule for the children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 for the week beginning Monday 20th July is attached. You will note that this schedule also contains a transition day for the Reception children moving into Year 1. On these days, the teachers will have planned lots of fun activities and games to ensure that the children feel comfortable in their surroundings, in preparation for September.

As the schedule shows, the staggered starts, finishes, breaks and lunches will continue to apply. In addition to this, the school building will be deep cleaned every day throughout the final week of term in order to safely accommodate the new groups. Furthermore refined details will be emailed to all parents in the preceding week.

Parents of children in the eligible year groups should only inform us if their child will not be attending school on these days. If we do not hear from you, we will safely assume that your child will be attending!

The key worker group will continue to operate, should any parents be struggling with childcare from the week beginning July 20th. However, families of children in the eligible year groups will need to choose between the key worker group and the transition events with their class, as unfortunately the children cannot mix between social bubbles. Please inform us with plenty of notice if you plan to use the key worker group service.

For Year 6 children and families, we are making end of term leavers arrangements. Whilst these will differ slightly compared to in other years, we hope that they will leave the children with some final positive memories of their time at Debden. Mrs Dale has already communicated with you regarding this earlier in the week, and further correspondence detailing the precise arrangements will follow.

We are delighted to hear the news that all children will be able to return to school from September, and I for one cannot wait for all of the school to be together again! At the moment, it looks as though each class will be allowed to return to full size, but will still operate within the staggered social bubbles. As I seem to constantly be writing at the moment, we are awaiting the exact guidance from the government regarding what this will look like. As soon as we know this, we will be sure to communicate the important information with everyone in our school community.

Thank you for all of your continued support and understanding.

Have a superb weekend.

Kind Regards

Matt Hawley

Head of School