



DEBDEN PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Friday 17 July 2020

Dear Parents,

It feels like only yesterday that I was writing my first newsletter as the Head here at Debden, and yet here I am sitting down to write my final correspondence of the year. I am afraid that it is going to be quite a long one, as there are a lot of things for me to cover – I will get straight to it!

At the end of the day on Thursday, we waved goodbye to our Year 6 children for the final time. Whilst the current conditions meant that we couldn't hold all of the celebrations that we would have liked to, we did still put on a (socially distanced) leavers' ceremony, lots of fun games and activities, and a special meal from Yuva (a big thank you to the FODs for funding this). I was particularly proud to see the Year 6 children individually stand and read speeches about their favourite moments at the school. They showed tremendous confidence and bravery at a particularly emotional time! They also got to hear some words of encouragement and good luck from some familiar faces, including old teachers and classroom assistants. They have been a fantastic bunch of Year 6 children and they have particularly helped me personally throughout my first year at the school. I know that all of the staff here at Debden think the world of them. We would like to wish them well for their secondary education and life beyond. All of the resources from the ceremony will be sent to the Year 6 parents in a separate email, as a memento of their last day at Debden.

Over the coming week, we will also be saying goodbye to some incredible staff members. Mrs Jessica Stoye has been an absolute wonder for our school. She inherited the role of EYFS lead at what we can all agree was a difficult and unusual time, and has made a number of rapid and sustained improvements to the provision. Her commitment and conscientiousness are truly second-to-none, and the Ducklings Class this year have made excellent progress as a result of her skill and her attention to detail. I know that she will be greatly missed by the children, parents and teachers alike. Fortunately, we will still see her around as a mum, as two of her children will still be in the school. We wish you the best of luck with continuing your university course, Mrs Stoye!

Jess has been ably assisted by Mrs Alisa Cole, who initially agreed to help us out with a day and a half of cover, and has instead been with us for over two terms! She has been forever positive, pleasant and flexible to our needs here in the school, and I know that the Ducklings children will have many happy memories of her. She will still be on speed dial should we need any cover over the coming years!

We will also be waving goodbye to Mrs Joy Wheeler, who is going to be spending some more time with her family and friends. Mrs Wheeler has proven to be an extremely skilled and experienced learning support assistant, and she has supported a number of children in the school towards making excellent progress, both academically and holistically. She is hard-working, creative and has a great sense of humour, and she will be sorely missed here at Debden.

We hope that all of the departing staff come back to visit us in the future!

Bidding farewell to year 6 means that we will also be saying goodbye to a number of Debden families, some of whom have been friends of the school for many years, helping us out in many ways. Thank you to all of you. I would like to reserve a special thank you to Mrs Diggins and the Diggins family, for

all that they have done throughout the years. The Diggins family have had children in the school for the past 12 years, and Mrs Diggins has been a leading member of the FODs and a great advocate for the school in the community. Thank you for all that you have done for us!

We have of course, ended our formal timetable this week, which means that the teachers will cease posting work on SeeSaw/the website from today. We do have our transition and farewell days coming up from next Monday to next Wednesday, which will offer an opportunity for your child to spend a day with their current class teacher before the summer break. If they are moving up to another class next year, they will also be able to spend a day with their new class teacher, in their new classroom. We will once more attach the timetable for this alongside this newsletter. I will be on the gate each morning and at the end of each day to point you in the direction, so please do just ask me if you're unsure where your child should be going! One final note on this - As previously communicated, due to social distancing, the barracks bus will not be available on these 3 days, except for the Reception-age children for their transition day on Monday. We are working on the bus hopefully being back in full operation from September.

As promised, I am also attaching some of the provisional arrangements for September. We will be reopening for all year groups at the start of the Autumn term, and the first day of term for children is Thursday 3rd September. A full parent handbook with all of the finer details will be sent to you all before we break up next week – subject to governor/ director approval. In the meantime, I hope that this helps you to understand the headline arrangements, so that you can begin planning for September.

It has been lovely to speak to many of the new Reception families over the past few weeks – both through our new starters' parents evening and the home telephone calls with Miss Matthews/ myself. I know that Miss Matthews is really excited to get started, and has been really grateful to the new parents for all of the information that they have shared. The Reception transition timetable is included in the arrangements for September document (attached with this email – see the heading 'Reception Transition'). Miss Matthews is also making a parent plea for items for the EYFS garden – please see the attached document.

I would like to end the final newsletter of the year by expressing a huge thank you to everyone in our school community for all of their hard work and dedication to the school cause throughout this academic year. To the teachers, who have provided the utmost care and guidance to the children as they possibly could throughout the rather extraordinary circumstances this year. To you parents, for the ceaseless support that you continue to give to the school (and particularly to those parents in the FODs, who have helped to fund numerous resources and events for the children). Finally, and most importantly, a huge thank you to the children, who have maintained a high level of enthusiasm for school and a commitment to learning throughout the academic year. They really are wonderful children who we are all very proud of.

The word is spreading about the great things that are happening at our school – as you already know we will be significantly more populous next year as a result of this – and I for one cannot wait to get started again in September (after a rest, of course!)

The final achievement assembly of the year is attached for the children, including the announcement of the House Cup winners for the term. I hope that the children enjoy it!

Looking forward to seeing many of you for the transition days next week.

Mr Hawley