



DEBDEN PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Friday 5 March, 2021

Dear Parents,

Congratulations for surviving remote learning!

As we put together the final preparations for opening back up to all of the children next week, we would like to thank you for all of your help in guiding the children's home learning over the last couple of months. I know it has been a testing time for lots of families, and we deeply appreciate your efforts in supporting the school throughout this time. We have everything crossed that this really is the final time that the school has to close to any of its children – we have missed them!

In a fitting end to our remote learning provision, today we held a remote 'Debden Book Day.' We have really enjoyed seeing the children dressed up as their favourite book characters, completing many of the activities, challenges and competitions that we have set for them. The winners of our competitions are displayed on the accompanying assembly slides, and each winner will receive a £10 book voucher. We will also keep the staff story readings on the website until Monday, so that the children can listen to any stories they have not yet heard over the weekend. Access these under the 'Classes' tab on the website, selecting the 'World Book Day' option from the drop-down menu.

We hope that the Book Day provides a springboard for continuing to develop a love and enthusiasm for reading in your children. As we have shared before, regular reading for pleasure at home has a huge influence upon children's academic progress and attainment, their wellbeing, and their future life chances. There is a wide body of evidence on this, but this research carried out by the government a few years back is a helpful starting point:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/284286/reading_for_pleasure.pdf

Our teachers are more than happy to suggest engaging age-appropriate texts for children to read, so please do get in touch if you'd like any advice on this going forwards.

A few important notices about drop-off and pick-up from Monday. Our ongoing risk assessments last term identified these times as 'bottlenecks', and so we are taking a number of measures to try and reduce congestion at the front of the school during these times:

1. School starts promptly at 8.40am for Ducklings and Frogs children and 8.50am for Minnows and Kingfishers children. The idea is for families to aim to arrive on time so that you can drop and go, rather than waiting around queueing. Teachers will begin teaching at these times - unlike last time, this is not a '10-minute window' system.
2. In case children do arrive early, the KS2 queueing areas are now within the walls of the school grounds. Frogs queue down the passageway leading to the playground, and Kingfishers wait inside the wall at the front of school. There will be signage directing the children where to wait. Parents are welcome to watch them from outside the school grounds until they go in, but there will be members of staff on duty to aid this transition. A reminder that parents should not come onto the school site with the children.

3. The bus will now wait in between staggers slightly further away from the corner of the road, ensuring a safer crossing space for all of our families.

4. There are a few families who have siblings who start/ finish at different times. If for any reason you are unable to wait between staggers, please aim to arrive in the morning at the earliest staggered start (8.40am), and pick your children up at the latest staggered finish (3.05pm). We will have a small holding area for the few siblings who are waiting.

Please do support us in trying to reduce any congestion, by leaving the front of school area after dropping off/ picking up your child.

Cooked school meals will resume on Monday. The menu can be found on the school website [here](#) and will start from **week 2**. Please remember that packed lunches must be nut free and small items (such as cherry tomatoes and grapes) must be cut in half.

We have had a few further queries about PE from next week. A reminder to all that on PE days, children should continue to come to school wearing their PE kits. To confirm, the PE days for each of our classes are as follows:

Ducklings: Tuesday

Minnows: Monday and Thursday

Frogs: Tuesday and Friday

Kingfishers: Monday and Thursday

After school clubs with Neil O’Sullivan will also resume next week. The activities each day are:

Monday - laser tag

Tuesday - football

Wednesday - dodgeball

Thursday - archery

Friday – scooter club

Clubs can be booked in the usual way by visiting <https://neilosullivansports.magicbooking.co.uk/>

You can read about our reopening arrangements in full by consulting the correspondence that was sent earlier in the week. This included our parent handbook, which contains details of all of the measures and approaches we are adopting throughout this reopening period. Our risk assessment is reviewed every month, and so if government guidance and/or circumstances change, we will let you know of any changes to these arrangements in a timely manner.

We are really looking forward to welcoming the children back from Monday. For now, I hope that you enjoy a pleasant weekend.

Kind Regards

Mr Hawley



Debden And Wimbish Churches

invite you to

A Mothering Sunday Celebration Service

An interactive and joyful service
to celebrate and give thanks

Sunday 14 March 9.15am

Online, via Zoom

Meeting ID 943 194 383

Passcode 888035

For more information and
a resource pack contact

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