

DEBDEN PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Friday 18th October 2019

Dear Parents,

We have already reached the final newsletter of the half term – it is difficult to comprehend that the time has passed so quickly!

As you are already aware, we were visited by Her Majesty's Ofsted inspectors between Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th October. Whilst the timing of the visit was perhaps not ideal (a sizeable proportion of the staff team had only been in post for 24 school days prior to the inspection!), I felt really proud of the way that the school community – children, staff, parents and governors alike – pulled together to demonstrate what makes Debden Primary Academy such a special place.

I am, of course, limited in what I can reveal about the inspection judgements before the report is published. However, I may encapsulate our predominant sentiments by stating that whilst we are not quite yet where we would like to be, we are pleased that there have been significant improvements (across all areas) from the prior inspection. A couple of key areas, mainly relating to the ways that our wonderful children conduct themselves, are particularly pleasing. It seems that our main development focus will be to fully embed recently implemented ideas over the coming months.

Onto other news, and our entire Key Stage 2 cohort participated in the primary schools' cross-country event at Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport, this Wednesday. I was lucky enough to join Mrs Dixon, Mrs Wheeler, and Miss Everett in accompanying the children, and was really pleased to observe the children's physical fitness and resilience, in what were testing conditions! A special mention has to go to Finn, in the Frogs class, whose 4th place out of all of the Year 3 children has secured him a visit to the finals later in the Year!

On Monday, the Frogs Class hosted some Victorian visitors! The children attended in Victorian clothing (some of which was extremely realistic – well done everyone) and were put through their paces in some Victorian-style classes. To my surprise, I was reliably informed by some of children in the class that the Victorian teachers were even stricter and meaner than Mrs Bailey! The day served to enhance the children's understanding of their 'Victorians' History topic this term, and it was so pleasing to hear some of the facts that children had remembered at the end of the day. We believe that days like this are so incredibly important – the children will always remember such stimulating, engaging learning experiences. Thank you very much to FODS for donating part of the cost of the day, thus reducing the cost to parents.



A big thank you to our amazing FODs, who hosted a movie night on Monday. The children certainly enjoyed watching 'The Secret Life of Pets', and also loved the snacks on offer! Some of our FODs have also been helping us with our 'reflection garden' in the school courtyard this week, which is beginning to take shape thanks to their dedication and horticultural skills. Once more, a massive thanks, the school is very fortunate to have you.

Some of the key dates and events for the coming weeks are listed below. If I do not speak to you personally over the last week, I hope that your family enjoy a pleasant half-term break. I also wanted to thank everyone in the community who has made me feel so welcome over what has been a hectic (but enjoyable) first few weeks.

Kind Regards,

Matt Hawley

Head of School

STARS of the WEEK

<p>Ducklings</p>  <p><i>Ivy & Daniel</i></p>	<p>Minnows</p>  <p><i>Melody & Logan</i></p>
<p>Frogs</p>  <p><i>Ava & Charlie</i></p>	<p>Kingfishers</p>  <p><i>Lawrence & Tristan</i></p>

Reminders:

FODS Cake Sales

The next cake sale will be on Friday 25 October, when it will be Minnow Class' turn. Please leave your donations in the corridor. Cakes will cost 50p each. If your child travels home on the bus and you would like them to buy a cake, please send them in with their money in a named envelope.

Bag2School Collection

FODS have organised a clothing & shoe collection with Bag2School. Bag2School collect good quality textile items for reuse and then give a payment to FODS based on the weight. The next collection date is going to be Tuesday 5th November and bags need to be at school by 9am that day.

Items that Bag2School accept are shoes (tied together please), clothing, belts, handbags, jewellery, household linen, curtains, bed linen, towels and soft toys. They don't accept duvets and pillows and school uniform. There is a full list here <https://bag2school.com/what-we-collect> If you fill the donation bag (which was sent home in book bags this week) and still have more, then you can use any other bag to donate your items.

FODS Events Dates

Minnows Cake Sale - Friday 25 October

Ducklings Cake Sale - Friday 15 November

Bag2School clothing collection Tuesday Nov 5th

Wreath making workshop - Thursday November 28th

Elfridges Gift Sale - Friday November 29th

Christmas Fair - Friday December 6th 3-4:30pm

Swimming (Frogs)

Swimming for Frogs started on Tuesday 17th September. Please ensure your child has their full swimming kit with them every Tuesday (costume, swimming hat, goggles and towel).

Parking outside School

Please may we remind parents that parking outside the school is not allowed, particularly during pick up and drop off time. We have had reports of parents parking alongside the side gate, which makes crossing the road significantly more hazardous when the children are coming out of school.

Music Lessons

If your child is interested in music lessons, please contact the school office. Instruments available for tuition are guitar, drums, piano, flute, clarinet and saxophone.

Dates for your Diary - please note, these may be subject to change if unavoidable circumstances happen.

Tuesday 22 October - 3.30 pm –5.30 pm Parent Consultations

Wednesday 23 October - 5.00 pm – 7.00 pm Parent Consultations

Friday 25 October -Break up for half term

Monday 4 November – Back to School

Monday 11 November – Remembrance Service

Friday 6 December – Christmas Jumper Day

Tuesday 10 December – KS1 Nativity Dress Rehearsal – 1.30 pm

Wednesday 11 December – KS1 Nativity – 1.30 pm

Thursday 12 December – KS1 Nativity – 1.30 pm

Friday 13 December – Flu immunisations

Wednesday 18 December – Christmas lunch

Thursday 19 December – Carol Service 9.30 am

Thursday 19 December – Break up

Debden Church Calendar of Services and Events for September & October 2019

Services:

October 20 9.15am Holy Communion John Saxon

October 27 9.15am Choral Matins Andy Colebrooke

Dates for Your Diary

A short service (said) of Morning Prayer is usually held every Friday at 9.00am in the Chiswell Chapel in the Church.