

DEBDEN PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Friday 28 February 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

We were delighted to return to school after the half-term break to find it transformed! The holidays have brought many exciting developments within our school building, that have really uplifted the whole environment.

Firstly, a huge thank you to Mr and Mrs Belchambers and their army of parent/governor volunteers, who spent three days of the holidays painting around the school. They did a fantastic job fully repainting three whole classrooms! The Ducklings, Minnows and Frogs children were delighted to return to their classrooms looking beautiful and gleaming. We are so grateful to these kind volunteers for giving up their time towards helping our school look even more beautiful. A special thanks to Mrs Belchambers for organising the whole project.



Our very own Mrs Dale and Mrs Arundell have also been busy over the holidays. Having noticed that the first demountable (used for the peripatetic music sessions) was long due a clean-up, they spent last Monday transforming it into the 'Debden Primary Academy Music Suite!' They hired a skip and cleared out all of the old and unwanted items that had gathered over the years, gave the room a thorough cleaning, and put up some highly stimulating displays (for example famous composers, musical instruments, etc.). It has also been kitted out with all our music equipment that had been stored away in recent times. It looks fantastic, and I know that the children who have had their music lessons this week have found it to be a really engaging place to learn. Our classes will also be going over to the room for their curriculum music lessons in the near future.



Our wellbeing garden is also beginning to take shape! Just before half term, we had managed to secure a grant to have the old, broken concrete floor of the old courtyard resurfaced. Therefore, our freelance caretaker (Mr Cawte) has been in clearing away the old concrete and boxes, preparing a wooden bed, and laying down new woodchips. It already looks so much more aesthetically pleasing, and we are looking forward to sharing more developments regarding this area with you as they happen. The dream of our wellbeing garden is one step closer!



Finally, Mrs Magness (our resident artist) has been in the school beginning work on some murals that will illuminate some of our wall spaces. She has begun work on the wall outside the Kingfishers classroom already – I have seen the designs and know that this will look amazing when it is completed! (Picture to follow when complete).

In other news, the children have enjoyed a splendid first week back after half term. Our collective worship theme for the next couple of weeks is patience, a value that the children have been really endeavouring to embrace around the school. This has been a value that we have been looking forward to addressing with the children – some of whom can occasionally have difficulty waiting in a polite and calm manner! It has been pleasing to watch the children turn-taking and dealing with delays and setbacks appropriately throughout the week, both in their classes and at playtime. We will be exploring this theme further over the next week.

One more thing to mention before I sign off – a reminder that next Wednesday is World Book Day! We are looking forward to seeing all the children sporting their fancy-dress costumes.

Thank you for all of your continued support.

Matt Hawley

Head of School

Time/Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School 7.30am-8.30am	Breakfast Club Mr O'Sullivan & Team	Breakfast Club Mr O'Sullivan & Team	Breakfast Club Mr O'Sullivan & Team	Breakfast Club Mr O'Sullivan & Team	Breakfast Club Mr O'Sullivan & Team
Lunchtime 12.30pm-1pm	Library Parent Volunteer Board Games Mrs Murrell	Library Parent Volunteer Sports Club Mr O'Sullivan & Team	K\$2 Choir Parent Volunteer Science Club Mrs Bailey	Sports Club Mr O'Sullivan & Team	K\$1 Choir Ms Weetch
After School 3pm-5pm	Running Mr O'Sullivan & Team	Football Mr O'Sullivan & Team	Dodgeball Mr O'Sullivan & Team	Zumba Mr O'Sullivan & Team	Tag Rugby Mr O'Sullivan & Team

STARS of the WEEK

Ducklings



Minnows



Frogs



Kingfishers



FODS News

The next FODS cake sale will be today, when it is Year 4's turn to provide the cakes. Please note that the cake sales will be done in year groups now, not in classes. Please leave your donations (home-made or bought) in the corridor. Cakes will cost 50p each. If your child travels home on the bus and they would like to buy a cake, please send them in with their 50p in a named envelope and staff will let them visit the cake sale before the end of the day. The dates for all other year group cake sales can be found below.

FODS are holding their extremely popular Curry and Quiz night on Thursday 5 March at YUVA. Tickets are £15 and are available from the school office.

Swimming (Minnows)

The first swim for Minnows will be on Tuesday 3 March. Please ensure your child has their full swimming kit with them every Tuesday (costume, named 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.

Friday 28 Feb – Year 4 cake sale

Tuesday 3 March – Minnows start swimming

Thursday 5 March – FODS Curry and Quiz night

Wednesday 18 March – FODS Disco

Friday 27 March – Minnow's STEM afternoon

Friday 27 March – Year 3 cake sale

Friday 3 April – Easter Service 9.30 am

Friday 3 April – Break up

Monday 20 April – Back to school

Friday 24 April – Year 2 cake sale

Thursday 7 May – Year 1 cake sale

Friday 8 May – Bank holiday

Week Commencing 11 May – Year 6 SATS week

Friday 22 May – Break up

Friday 22 May – Duckling cake sale

Tuesday 2 June – Non pupil day

Wednesday 3 June – Back to school

Friday 10 July – Reports out

Sunday 12 July – Year 6 to Kingswood

Friday 17 July – Open afternoon

Wednesday 22 July – Leavers Service 9.30 am

Wednesday 22 July – Break up for the Summer