



# DEBDEN PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope that you are all safe and well.

In spite of the national lockdown elsewhere, it has been an eventful few weeks here at Debden. There has been Christmas Card making, Remembrance Day commemorations, and Children in Need pyjama day. Many thanks to our FODS and parents for your support of these events – we have raised a substantial amount of money for both the school and good causes!

The subject leaders have also been carrying out their monitoring checks, to ensure that the curriculum plans that they have worked tirelessly to create are being successfully implemented across the school. In the past couple of weeks, Mr Brown and Mrs Bailey have been meeting with groups of children to gauge their learning in maths and science respectively. I am pleased to report that they have both been extremely impressed with the children's knowledge, skills and enthusiasm for learning. Many congratulations to all of the children who took part for their fantastic learning!

We are continuing to try and encourage all of the children to become fluent and avid readers. We would be really grateful if you could continue to support this from home by regularly listening to your child read and completing their reading record. Aside from the obvious academic benefits of reading for pleasure (across all subject disciplines, not just English) there are a whole host of positive effects that have been well-researched – more information can be found here:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/globalassets/resources/bookbuzz/benefits-of-reading-for-pleasure.pdf>

If you would like to get your child into reading, but are struggling to find age-appropriate books that they are interested in, I'd really recommend the LoveReading4Kids site. It allows you to browse books by target age, by genre, and even gives the children the opportunity to read the first chapter of stories to see if they are interested in them. You can access the site via this link:

<https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/browse-by-age>

May we please remind all of our families that Debden is a Healthy Eating school. It is important to us for children develop healthy eating habits so they can live healthier, longer lives. To help us reinforce this message, please avoid sending your child into school with any sweets or chocolate in their snack/ lunch boxes. It is also really imperative that there are no foods in school that contain nuts. There are a couple of children in the school who have profound nut allergies, and exposure to these foods could cause them to become severely ill. Thank you for your understanding.

We hope that you enjoy reading the celebration assembly, and support us by celebrating the children's learning from home. Special congratulations to those children who have reached Gold, or have been given the 'Star of the Week' award, as achieving either of these is no mean feat! These children need to have displayed excellent learning behaviours (including resilience, curiosity, questioning and teamwork) throughout the whole week. They deserve all of the praise that they get!

Wishing you and your family a pleasant weekend,

Mr Hawley

