

DEBDEN PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Friday 22nd November 2019

Dear Parents,

It has been another excellent couple of weeks across the school, with lots of positive stories emanating from each of our classes.

I have recently spent a good deal of time looking at the students' learning in their foundation subjects – including in History, Geography and PE - this has included observing in classrooms, browsing through the children's exercise books and talking to children about what they have been learning. One thing is for sure: they have been learning a lot! The children in the Ducklings Class have been able to tell me all about themselves, their lives and things that they have done in the past, meanwhile the Minnows have been learning all about the life and times of Florence Nightingale. The Frogs have shown tremendous recall skills in articulating their understanding of life for children in the Victorian times, whilst the Kingfishers children were able to discuss the various weaponry used by the Anglo-Saxons. Perhaps the most enjoyable aspect of this process for me has been witnessing the children's amazing enthusiasm for their learning! Remember that you can also help to support this learning from home, by using our knowledge organisers to test their understanding.

The children have also been taking part in various sporting activities and events. We hosted several local schools to Debden recently for an archery competition, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Furthermore, a number of our children excelled - some of them even took home the gold, silver and bronze awards for their age group! We also welcomed a local specialist teacher into the school on Wednesday, to teach our Kingfishers children some dance and gymnastics. She was really impressed with both their skills and their excellent behaviour – both Mr Brown and I were extremely proud of them.

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our 'Children in Need Ramble' last Friday. It was really nice for the community to come together and enjoy a brisk autumnal walk, all in aid of a good cause. In total, we raised £158, which is a notable achievement for a school of our size – thank you to everyone who contributed! Special thanks must also go to Mrs Dixon, our esteemed forest school leader, who plotted and led the walk, our student council, for advertising the event and collecting the donations, and to the wonderful Mrs Dale, for organising the hot drinks and snacks for the hungry ramblers upon their return.



Onto upcoming events – Ms Weech is already planning for our wellbeing week, beginning 13th January, which will culminate in a special visit and exciting events on Thursday 16th January. As a part of the

week, Ms Weech would like to include some parental involvement. If you have any sort of training in Yoga or Mindfulness, if you have a job in a profession in which a consideration of wellbeing is imperative (e.g. doctors, nurses, police, dentists, etc.), or if you'd just really like to help support the week, please do get in touch with Ms Weech. You can do this either catching her in person or emailing the admin team.

Some of the other key dates and events for the remaining part of this half term are listed below. I'd particularly like to draw your attention to some of the excellent activities being organised by our wonderful team of FODs.

Have a great weekend,

Matt Hawley

Head of School

STARS of the WEEK	
<p>Ducklings</p>  <p>Anabelle & Lucas</p>	<p>Minnows</p>  <p>Rafe & Miguel</p>
<p>Frogs</p>  <p>Charles R & Amelia</p>	<p>Kingfishers</p>  <p>Charlie & Prisma</p>

Reminders:

FODS Events Dates

Elfridges Gift Sale - Friday 29 November

Christmas Fair - Friday 6 December 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.

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 2019

Services:

Sun 24 Nov	Christ the King (Next before Advent)	09.15	Choral Matins	J.Saxon
Sun 1 Dec	Advent Sunday	16.00	Advent Carols with Christingle	-----
Sun 8 Dec	Advent 2	09.15	Holy Communion	J.Saxon
Sun 15 Dec	Advent 3	09.15	Holy Communion	J.Saxon
Sun 22 Dec	Advent 4	18.30	Carol Service	J.Saxon
Tue 24 Dec	Christmas Eve	17.00	Nativity Service	J.Saxon
Tue 24 Dec		23.00	Holy Communion	J.Saxon
Wed 25 Dec	Christmas Day	09.15	Holy Communion	J.Saxon
Sun 29 Dec	Christmas 1	11.00	Service at Wimbish only	

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