



# DEBDEN PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2021

Dear Parents,

It has been another busy couple of weeks across school since my last correspondence, and there are a number of interesting events and developments to report on.

Firstly, we had a wonderful time together last week whilst partaking in our annual 'Wellbeing Week.' The week was designed to help all of our community consider the steps that we can take to keep ourselves physically and mentally healthy and happy. It revolved around the five segments of our 'Wellbeing Wheel', which are to 'Be Mindful', 'Get Creative', 'Learn New Skills', 'Get Active' and 'Connect with Others'.

Lots of the children gave some really positive feedback about their experiences throughout the week. Highlights appeared to be learning new and interesting skills on Wednesday, being put through their paces by the soldiers on an Army obstacle course on Thursday, and enjoying a collective breakfast together on Friday. They also really enjoyed visiting the 'Debden Prayer Space', which was thoughtfully constructed by Rev. John Saxon and his team. We would like to thank everyone who contributed towards making the week a success, including the FODs, who funded some of the activities. A special thank you to Ms Weetch, who was the brains behind the whole operation!

We also have updates for you all regarding staffing and recruitment. Firstly, I would like to offer my warmest congratulations to Mrs Jenny Hatch, who we have recently recruited to take over Mrs Murrell's old post in the Minnows Class. From next year, Mrs Hatch will be teaching our Year 1 and 2 children on a Monday, Tuesday and first thing on Wednesday morning. Ms Weetch will teach the class for the remainder of Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Mrs Hatch has a wealth of experience and skills, and all of the personality traits that we are looking for in Debden teachers, and I have no doubt that she will prove to be an extremely popular and effective teacher on our team.

As some of you may already be aware, we will sadly be waving goodbye to Mr Gary Brown, our Kingfishers teacher, at the end of the academic year. Mr Brown was initially contracted to stay with us for just a solitary year, as it has always been the plan for him to relocate to the southwest of the country. However, a combination of his love for everyone at Debden, and (perhaps more so) the COVID outbreak has meant that we have been fortunate enough to have him here with us for another year. There is of course a great deal to say about the immense value that he has brought to our staff team throughout his stay in Debden, but I will comment more on this when we are closer to the end of the academic year. Mr Brown's imminent departure has meant that we have also been recruiting for an upper KS2 teacher. From another strong field of applicants, I am delighted to announce that we have recruited Miss Heather Rowe. Miss Rowe impressed all of the panel immensely throughout the recruitment process, and we are really looking forward to having her on board. We will give a more formal welcome to both of our new teachers at the start of new academic year.

We had a wonderful Mad Hatter's Tea Party lunch today. The children thoroughly enjoyed this special occasion. Thank you very much to Mrs Andrew and the catering team for organising this lovely event.

Another thank you to the FODs, who have organised a Kingfishers cake sale for today. It is looking more and more likely that we are going to be able to open up further next half term, and allow more fun community activities to take place – watch this space!

Kind Regards

Mr Hawley



Welcoming new members now!  
Free introductory lessons:  
Tuesday 25th May 7.30pm  
Saturday 29th May 10am  
Saffron Walden County High School (Sports Centre)

Ages 6 - 60+ years young welcome

Traditional classes nurturing the etiquette, values,  
discipline and technique of Karate

Structured grading syllabus taken at each student's  
own pace

Safe & friendly club. Instructors are fully insured,  
licensed and enhanced DBS checked

Past Karate practitioners of any grade/style welcome

Enjoy a Martial Arts experience:  
call Gill on 07939 138665 for further details



### FREE place at Essex ActivAte Holiday Activity and Food clubs

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are writing to inform you that your child/ren are eligible for a free place(s) within Essex ActivAte holiday clubs. This is on a first comes basis so please be sure to secure your places by booking.

Active Essex are pleased to be delivering the Essex ActivAte holiday activity and food programme across Essex on behalf of Essex County Council. Through the school holidays Essex ActivAte will deliver a blended offer of support, which will include face to face holiday clubs for primary school aged children, as well as a schedule of fun activities taking place virtually through the Keep Essex Active Youtube channel and activity packs filled with fun activities and nutritious food ideas for all the family!

We are launching multiple ActivAte clubs across Essex, including specialist clubs for SEND pupils and mental wellbeing hubs. These clubs are completely free for young people who are eligible for benefits based free school meals or working families who need additional support during the holidays. Clubs will run for at least 4 hours a day from June 1st - 4th, and will include a tasty, nutritious lunch for every child attending!



*"With the year we've had it's a great opportunity for the children to come here! It's free, it's local and it keeps them active!" - Amy, Colchester.*

For any more information about our ActivAte holiday clubs, locations and bookings, please visit the Active Essex website - [www.activeessex.org/essexactivate-halfterm](http://www.activeessex.org/essexactivate-halfterm).

We hope you can join us for a fun and active holiday!