

# DEBDEN PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Dear Parents,

The summer term is well underway and the school has been a hive of energy over the past couple of weeks. Thanks to the hard work of the children, the staff, our volunteers and you as parents, it feels as though we are in a fantastic place right now! Below is a digest of the latest activities and events from over the past few weeks, and a look forward to some upcoming dates in what promises to be another busy term for our school.

**Science Week/ Colchester Zoo:** This week has been 'Science Week' across the school, which has involved numerous themed activities dedicated towards 'Connecting Children with Science' (this year's theme). In addition to assemblies, investigations, competitions and a cake sale to raise money for WWF, the children all embarked this week on an adventure to Colchester Zoo. Speaking to children from all year groups, it is clear that they have learnt a great deal about the animals that they encountered, and it was simply lovely to observe the pure joy on their faces throughout their wildlife foray. A huge thanks must go to Mrs Bailey for everything that she has arranged for science week and for organising the trip. It is an increasingly ambitious prospect to plan and implement a whole school trip (we are still rapidly growing and the logistics, risk assessments, transport, and supervision seem to get more challenging every year) but Mrs Bailey was more than up to the challenge!

**Class Assemblies:** Instead of a whole school celebration assembly next week, there will be science-themed class assemblies, which we are inviting parents to attend. The schedule for these assemblies is as follows:

- Ducklings: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2.45pm
- Minnows: Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2.30pm
- Dragonflies: Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2.30pm
- Frogs: Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2.30pm
- Kingfishers: Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2.30pm

**Play Equipment:** Those of you who are around at drop-off and pick-up times will have noticed that our spanking new trim trail has now been installed! It is a notable upgrade on our old equipment (which was coming to the end of its usable life) and has already proven extremely popular with the children. There are a lot of helpers to thank for making this to happen, including the Searle Trust, who kindly awarded the school a sizeable grant to cover most of the costs of the equipment. Thanks also to Mrs Samson for helping to coordinate the project alongside Mrs Caparelli, plus the wonderful group of parents who helped to remove the old trim trail on their Saturday morning... we are forever indebted to you!

**King's Coronation:** The coronation of King Charles and the Queen Consort will take place on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May. A reminder that there is an additional bank holiday for this and therefore the school will be closed on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May. We will be recognising the event the Friday before – the 5<sup>th</sup> May with a few themed activities in school:

-*Coronation Colours* – Children to come to school wearing red, white and blue!

-*Themed Lunch* – Mrs Andrew is putting together a special lunch for the children (the menu is attached). If the weather is nice, we will be eating on long tables outside, and the dining space will be royally decorated!

-*Cake and Juice* – Mrs Arundell and Mrs Dale are kindly making cakes that will be eaten together in the afternoon. Those with food allergies will also be catered for.

-*Royal History* – Classes will be learning about Britain's monarchs from across history. This will be perfect revision for those families who will be attending the Coronation Trail on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May (please see the flyer sent out by the Debden Local History Recorders Group for further information on this).

## SATS Assessments

SATs season is almost upon us. The children have been working hard and have made great progress - we are confident that they are all going to do brilliantly! Below is the schedule for the KS2 SATs assessments (the dates are fixed by the DfE for these tests).

Date and Time	Assessment
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> May 2023 – 9am	English spelling, punctuation and grammar (papers 1 and 2)
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> May 2023 – 9am	English Reading
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> May 2023 – 9am	Maths Papers 1 and 2 (break in between)
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> May 2023 – 9am	Maths Paper 3

The KS1 assessments will follow later in May. The timings for the KS1 assessments are less rigid, and we will inform you of when these assessments are taking place for your child in due course.

Assessments can affect all children differently, and we try where we can to alleviate the pressure that some children may feel – all that they can do is their best! To help support the children in feeling comfortable about their SATs assessments from home, here is a link to some sound advice:

<https://www.teachertoolkit.co.uk/2018/04/24/parents-sats/>

### **Here are a few upcoming dates for your diaries:**

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May: May Day Bank Holiday – School Closed

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May: Strike Day. We do not anticipate that this will affect classes attending at Debden but will inform you as soon as possible if anything changes.

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May: Saffron Sounds Live Trip – Frogs and Kingfishers – 1pm-2.30pm at Saffron Hall

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May: Celebrating the Coronation – Wear Red, White and Blue. No whole-school assembly.

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May: Coronation Bank Holiday – School Closed

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May: KS2 SATs Assessments Begin

### **Latest Attendance**

Here are the latest attendance figures for the year-to-date up to the end of this term. A reminder that the government target for all schools is 95% (for an individual child 95% attendance equates to missing no more than one school day every four weeks).

Class	Attendance this term	Attendance this year
Ducklings	96.07	93.46
Minnows	97.14	94.94
Dragonflies	96.84	94.78
Frogs	96.85	94.86
Kingfishers	96.04	94.91

I hope that you all enjoy the bank holiday weekend. See you on Tuesday!

Kind Regards

Mr Hawley

Head of School