

# DEBDEN PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Parents,

I hope that you are all well, and that your children have enjoyed the action-packed start to this half term. The beginning of spring coincides with a whole host of activities and events across the school, and below is your regular digest:

**World Book Day:** On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March, we recognised World Book Day with a plethora of book-related activities. We opened with our World Book Day assembly, in which the children strutted their stuff on our 'Book Character Catwalk' and Best Dressed Book Characters were selected by our esteemed judging panel. There were some fantastic costumes this year! We also discussed the importance of reading and the difference that it can make to children's lives.

In addition to book-themed English and maths lessons, the children also took part in a 'community read', in which they read with older/ younger children from other classes. The 'teacher read' was also a highlight of the day, when teachers moved to other classes across the school to read them their favourite stories. Lots of the children took part in the grand 'World Book Day Live Lesson' with millions of children from across the country, whilst younger children excelled in completing the official World Book Day Quiz.

In addition to all of this, we had lots of imaginative entries to our 'Extreme Reading' competition – well done to everyone who entered! A big thanks also to all of the parents who bought school books from our Amazon Wishlist – this is extremely kind and we are ever so grateful. Our school library now has lots more of the latest titles, which will benefit children at Debden for years to come.

Finally, a big thank you to Mrs Caparelli, who has been instrumental in arranging World Book Day – it was probably our best one yet!

**Music Concert:** On Wednesday, Ms Weetch put together a wonderful music concert, which showcased the musical talents of lots of the children from across the school. What wonderfully talented children we have! There were performances from flute players, drum superstars, piano performers and group percussion pieces, which all of the other children in the school really enjoyed. A special thanks to Mr James Free, one of our music instructors, who came along to help introduce each of the performers and provide musical accompaniment. If your child is interested in learning a musical instrument at Debden, please contact the admin team, who will be more than happy to let you know how to sign your child up.

**School Disco:** It was pleasing to hear that the children brought their best moves to the FODs school disco this week, which was once again hosted by Top Dog Disco. I saw the children on the way out, and there was certainly a lot of smiles (and sweat!) The feedback that we have had from the event has been excellent. A big thank you to the FODs for arranging this event for our children.

**Sporting Successes:** Teams from our school have attended Uttlesford Finals in two events over the past couple of weeks.

Firstly, children from across KS2 had qualified for the cross-country finals, which were held at Carver Barracks. The competition was fierce, with lots of runners, many of whom run regularly as a part of local

clubs outside of school. Despite this, our children performed exceptionally well. I was really pleased to see the children persevering even when they were tired. Standout performances were Karter, who placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the year 6 boys race, Romily, who placed 9<sup>th</sup> in the year 6 girls race, and Maggie, who placed 10<sup>th</sup> in the year 3 girls race. Karter will now be running in the Essex finals! Well done to all the children who took part.

Children from years 3 and 4 also qualified for the tag rugby finals, which were held this Thursday. Miss Howse was really impressed with the sportsmanship and behaviour of the Debden children at this event. They placed third within their group, which is an excellent effort for a school of our size.

We keep improving in a wide range of sporting disciplines, so here's to lots of sporting success in the future!



**Parent Consultations:** Last week, we held our February parent consultations. I do hope that these proved useful in helping you to understand how your child is learning, and to further strengthen the parent-teacher partnership. These are designed to equip you with as much information as possible about all aspects of your child's learning and wider experience in school, and we view them as vital to boosting your child's progress. Therefore, if you have any comments, questions or feedback following the consultations, please don't hesitate to get in touch with your child's class teacher or me through contacting the admin team.

#### **Dates for your diary**

- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March - Magistrate Visiting Kingfishers
- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March – International Maths Day and Reception Maths Parent Workshop
- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March – Kingfishers Hampton Court Palace Trip
- Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March - Bags2School Collection
- Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March – 9.20am – Easter Service
- Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March - End of Spring Term 2
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April – Beginning of Summer Term 1

I hope that you all have a lovely weekend.

Kind Regards

Mr Hawley