

DEBDEN PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Friday 22nd September, 2023

Dear Parents,

The weather has turned somewhat, and it is definitely feeling a lot more like Autumn now! However, here at Debden we have been suitably warmed by the children's enthusiasm for learning and positivity towards all aspects of school life. I hope that both children and families are starting to feel more settled into the groove of new classes and routines for this academic year. The term is now well under way, with lots of exciting things happening across the school, and plenty more to come in the near future!

Stone Age Day: Children in the Frogs class morphed into a terrifying bunch of cavemen and cavewomen this Thursday! They were celebrating their Stone Age day, which ties in with their current history learning about life from the stone age to the iron age. What is more, they were visited by a 'Stone Age Teacher' from Portals to the Past, who the children found extremely engaging! He taught them all about the evolution of people throughout the palaeolithic, mesolithic and neolithic periods, showed them some stone age art, and even introduced them to some stone age weapons and instruments. What an exciting and informative day they had!

We are planning an extensive range of curriculum enhancement opportunities for all classes this year. Your child's class teacher will communicate all of the details to you as we approach each event.

Payment for School Lunches: We are one of the few schools in the area that offer a flexible school lunch offer in which your child is able to choose their preferences day-by-day, and you do not need to pay in advance. This approach has always seemed to work best for everyone, but of late we've had quite a few families who've racked up some considerable debts – if the amount goes over £20, we have to withdraw the offer of school lunches until the balance is paid, and this is not a comfortable conversation for anyone involved! Please do ensure that you continue to pay for school lunches in a timely fashion, so that we do not need to revert to a more rigid, pay-in-advance system.

Nuts: A reminder that children should not be coming to school with nuts (including Nutella) or sweets/ chocolate in their packed lunches or for their snacks. We have several children in the school who are severely allergic to nuts. In the case of sweets/ chocolate, as with most primary schools we are a healthy eating school. We allow cakes/ sweets etc. in school for special occasions only, with agreement from the class teacher.

Student Council: The student council has now been formed – congratulations to all of the children who have been elected! They will be meeting together for the first time over the next week, with Miss Rowe (who is leading the student council this year). The committee meetings with the respective teachers will follow soon after.

Parking: As we grow, we appreciate the parking is becoming slightly trickier. Please ensure that you continue to park respectfully, leaving appropriate space to allow other parents to also park. Please do not park on the yellow zigzag lines in front of the school.

Harvest Service: A reminder that there will not be a harvest service in the church this term - we will instead be celebrating the season through assemblies and activities within the school. We know that

parents look forward to watching the children in these services, and so we are looking to resume our regular schedule of services for the school community at Christmas time.

Debden village is holding their Harvest Festival this Sunday at 9 am in the church and all are welcome to attend. The service will be followed by a breakfast of sausage and bacon baps!

Theatre Production: On Monday afternoon, the whole school will be watching a theatre production of Oliver Twist performed by M&M Theatre Productions. Due to a last-minute cancellation, we have been really fortunate to be offered this free of charge.

Some upcoming dates for your diary

- Tuesday 26th September – European Day of Languages
- Thursday 19th October – Last day of Half Term 1 for the children.
- Friday 20th October – Staff Inset Day
- Monday 30th October – First Day of Half Term 2
- Tuesday 31st October and Thursday 2nd November – Parent Consultations
- Friday 10th November – Remembrance Events
- Monday 13th to Friday 17th November – Anti-Bullying Week
- Friday 17th November – Children in Need – details tbc

We will communicate further information with you about all activities and events as and when they are confirmed.

Wishing you all a great weekend!

Kind Regards

Mr Hawley

Head of School