

DEBDEN PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Friday 7th June 2024

Dear Parents,

The final half term of the year is already upon us. I cannot believe how quickly the time has flown by this year! So much has been achieved already this year, but this half term is shaping up to be the busiest and most fun-filled yet – we are heading into summer with a bang!

Please see below for a digest of the events of the past couple of weeks, some important notices and a list of upcoming dates for your diaries.

Science Week

Science Week has been dialled up a notch this year! Every day this week, the school has been a hub of scientific endeavour and excitement, as the children have embarked upon their numerous investigations and projects. The theme this year has been 'time', and the class teachers have commented on how delightful it was to be joined by so many of you during the time STEM projects. We are about to hold our science fair this afternoon – I have been in to see some of the entries and am truly staggered by the ingenuity and collective effort that is on show. Thank you to all of you who have helped to support the children with these projects. Thank you also to the teachers for putting together such a memorable week for their classes. Finally, a huge thank you to Chief Scientific Officer Bailey, who has worked tirelessly to coordinate the whole week.

Important Staffing Announcements

-Warmest congratulations to Mrs Elliott, who is expecting a baby! We couldn't be happier for her – brilliant news for a brilliant person. I am sure that you will join me in congratulating Mrs Elliott and her family.

-Somewhat sadder news. We are sorry to announce that Miss McPherson will not be returning to her position as Dragonflies Class teacher for the new academic year. We are unsure yet whether Miss McPherson will return at any point before the summer holidays, but we will keep you posted, as I am sure that there are lots of you who would welcome the opportunity to say goodbye.

-An advertisement will be going out very soon for a new year 2 teacher. We will inform you of the outcome when the recruitment process concludes.

DEBFEST – Friday 21 June 4 pm – 7.30 pm

FODS are looking forward to welcoming one and all to our next mini music festival. The event is free to attend but we are selling wrist bands for the bouncy castles. Ask a FODS member or check out our social media posts for a link. The children will be performing songs on the stage as part of the entertainment. There will also be a hog roast and a paid bar together with other activities.

Sports Days – Change to Schedule

A reminder that our sports week takes place this year on week beginning 17th June. There will be lots of exciting sporting challenges, visitors and other events taking place through the week. Children are welcome to come in wearing their sports kit throughout the week.

The KS2 Sports Day has now been moved to Monday 24th June (morning). This has been done because an opportunity arose for the children to have their sports day at the Carver Barracks athletics track, and we thought that this would be a wonderful experience for them all. Further details of this event will follow very shortly.

The KS1 Sports Day will still take place at the originally scheduled date and time (Thursday 20th June, AM) and again, precise details about this will follow shortly.

New DfE Guidance on Attendance

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices issued by the Department for Education, please find below a flyer which has been created for parents, which outlines the changes that will come into force from 19th August 2024.

Attendance at our school is generally above national averages and there is very little persistent absence. However, we ask all parents to please read this document carefully as the new guidance has significant implications regarding unauthorised absences. All attendance data is now shared daily with the DfE who are monitoring unauthorised absences and as such schools will be monitored carefully to ensure that we comply with this guidance fully.

As a result of this document, our trust will be reviewing its Attendance Policy to mirror the changes outlined in the attached document.

Arbor

Over half term you will have received your invite to register on our new Arbor Parent Portal. Arbor replaces all of our existing systems and here you can make payments for clubs, trips and meals. We will also be using Arbor for trip consents and parent consultations bookings. Your balance from our last payment system (SCOPAY) has been transferred and will now show in the Arbor Parent Portal. If you haven't yet registered, please do so as soon as possible. Once logged in, please carefully check all of the details we hold for you and your child and submit any changes via the Parent Portal. If you have any queries, please contact the school office.

Some Key Dates for Your Diary

- Thursday 13th June – Kingfishers Crucial Crew
- w/b Monday 17th June – Sports Week
- Thursday 20th June – KS1 Sports Day (AM – in school)
- Friday 21st June – DebFest
- Monday 24th June KS2 Sports Day (AM – at Carver Barracks Athletics track)
- Friday 28th June – Move Up Day
- Monday 1st July – Ely Cathedral Trip – Newts and Kingfishers
- Thursday 4th July – Saffron Music Concert – Dragonflies, Frogs and Newts
- Friday 5th July – Neasden Temple Trip – Dragonflies and Frogs
- **Tuesday 9th July – 1.15pm – KS2 Afternoon Performance – please note this is a different date**
- Friday 12th July – 6pm – KS2 Evening Performance
- Sunday 14th to Wednesday 17th July – Kingfishers Residential
- Friday 19th July – Leavers Assembly and last day of Summer Half Term 2

Kind Regards

Mr Hawley