

DEBDEN PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Friday 10th March 2023

Dear Parents,

As Britain braces itself under the big freeze this week, the staff here at Debden have been warmed by the children's continued zest for learning and enthusiasm for all areas of school life. The spring term is always a busy time and there have been a plethora of events taking place across the school, from World Book Day, to sports events to our author visit. There is still lots more to come before we break up for Easter!

World Book Day: A big thank you to everybody who supported World Book Day, including parents who arranged (and in some cases, made) the children's fabulous costumes and the teachers – led by Mrs Caparelli – who arranged a number of engaging reading-led activities throughout the day. It is always one of the biggest events in the primary school calendar, but it is important to remember the underlying message regarding the importance of reading year around. The correlation between children who read at home for at least 20 minutes per evening and increased life chances is incredibly strong, perhaps more than any other single factor. We already see this even whilst the children are at primary school. There is an average standardised score gap of around 8 points (nearly a year's progress) Please do have a read of the research – link here: <https://readingagency.org.uk/about/impact/002-reading-facts-1/>



Sporting Successes: We are continuing to reach new heights with our sporting successes. A big well done to the Year 3 and 4 tag rugby team, who recently made it through to the Uttlesford finals, and then did so well in this event that they made the regional finals! These finals were due to take place next week, but have recently been postponed by the provider – hopefully we will have the new date soon. Thank you to Mr M for your expert coaching and to all of the children for your teamwork and resilience.

Author Visit: The children enjoyed a wonderful visit from the author C.S. Clifford. The children enjoyed taking part in his story writing workshops, using their imaginations to write with freedom of expression. C.S. Clifford also read some of his stories to them. The children were clearly captivated, as many of them purchased his books at the end of the school day. A huge thanks to FODs, who have bought his entire range of books for our school library!

'Easter Cracked' Workshop: This coming Monday, children will be taking part in 'Easter Cracked' workshops organised by Stort Valley Schools Trust. Easter Cracked is a fun-filled, fast-moving workshop which aims to help children understand why we have Easter, what it's all about and why it is important to Christians. The session is a mix of fun and games, videos, quizzes, craft and an interactive talk which can be tailored to suit each key stage. Alongside this, they offer a prayer/reflection space, to help the children to process what they have seen and heard and to give them space to reflect on their own personal feelings and thoughts. We look forward to taking part in this exciting opportunity!

A few more upcoming dates for your diaries

Easter Cracked Workshops: Monday 13th March

Industrial Action Days:

Wednesday 15th March

Thursday 16th March

As previously communicated, at present we do not anticipate that we will need to close any classes. However, this may be subject to change at late notice, and there may be some curriculum disruption on these days.

Comic Relief: Friday 17th March. Children to wear a silly outfit! (voluntary £1 donation) Various activities through the day.



Easter Service: Friday 31st March 9.15am

Last Day of Spring Term B: Friday 31st March

First Day of Summer Term A: Monday 17th April

We are in the process of booking some curriculum enrichment trips and visits and will keep you posted with the details as they are confirmed.

Latest Attendance

After a rough few weeks of illness at the end of last term, attendance rates have continued to improve across the early months of 2023. We are inching ever-closer to the holy grail of 95% school-wide attendance: with a few more good weeks we can get there by Easter!

Class	Attendance
Ducklings	93.57%
Minnows	94.56%
Dragonflies	94.77%
Frogs	94.47%
Kingfishers	94.40%

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Kind Regards

Mr Hawley

Head of School