



Debden C of E Primary Academy

High Street, Debden, Saffron Walden Essex CB11 3LE

Tel: 01799 540302

admin@debden.essex.sch.uk

www.debdenprimary.co.uk



Dear Parents/Carers,

A warm welcome to the Debden Primary Academy community. We are delighted to share with you the Autumn 1 newsletter for Ducklings class. Each half term, a newsletter will be sent home with a topic web. These will include important information and dates for the upcoming term as well the skills and areas of learning the children will be experiencing in our EYFS class.

Staffing

This year the staffing in Duckling Class will be as follows:

Mrs Caparelli –Monday to Wednesday.

Mrs Auty – Wednesday morning, Thursday and Friday.

This year the support staff in Duckling class will be Mrs Cameron and Mrs Dixon.

Curriculum

In the EYFS, we learn through play and children's interest which can take us on some wonderful learning journeys. Each half term we will have an overarching theme or topic to support this. Please find attached our topic web for this half term- 'This is Me!'

Settling In

We are excited to find out all about the children and their items in their 'All About Me' box! We will be sharing these over the next week so please do bring in when ready. Over their first weeks at school, your child will experience lots of new things including eating school lunch, dressing for PE and outdoor provision, playing on the school playground. Please do practise independent skills such as using cutlery, zipping coats, fastening buttons, recognising and organising their belongings, to support their transition into the school routines. **Additionally, please ensure ALL items (including uniform) belonging to your child are labelled.**

Reception Baseline Assessment

As part of the children's settling in period, we will be completing a reception baseline assessment (as well as other informal assessment opportunities). This is a government standard, national assessment completed with all reception children within their first six weeks of school. It includes a range of different literacy, communication and numeracy activities and games. You do not need to prepare your child for this assessment, and it will be completed in the classroom (or quiet space) with a familiar adult. Although there is no summative score when completed, we will use it inform the starting points for all children and will share this with parents at our first parent's evening in the Autumn term. For more information, please find article published by the Department for Education [Reception baseline assessment: information for parents](#)

Tapestry

You will hopefully now have received your child's Tapestry login via email. Please do activate if you have not done so yet as the link will expire. Tapestry is used as tool to celebrate and share the children's learning in the classroom. Journals will include whole class experiences and individual achievements. We welcome parents interacting with these and we often share the children's Tapestry journals during carpet sessions. If you need any help with Tapestry logins, please do not hesitate to ask.

As with all school trips/events, we rely on voluntary contributions to support educational visits. Unfortunately, if we do not receive sufficient contributions such visits may have to be cancelled.

Great Oak Multi Academy Trust fully complies with information legislation. For the full details on how we use your personal information please visit the school website at <http://www.debdenprimary.co.uk/web/gdpr/353213>; or call the school office if you are unable to access the internet.



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WOW moments

At Debden, we believe it is important to celebrate the successes of all children- whether that be writing their name or tying shoelaces independently. All successes show progress in a child's development. These successes will be celebrated through our wow moment display in our cloakroom. Wow moment slips will be placed in each child's book bag which parents can complete and send back. These will be displayed and then added to children's special books. If you need another slip, please do ask at drop off or pick up.

Early Years Provision Contribution

An important part of our Early Years provision here at Debden is experiential, sensory and imaginative play. This includes playdough, bubbles, messy play and cooking opportunities to name a few. These opportunities support children's cognitive development, language skills, creativity and gross/ fine motor skills. We are kindly asking for a voluntary contribution of £2.00 per child to cover these resources. Please send in a clearly labelled envelop with your child's name by **Wednesday 16th September**.

Early Reading

Over the next few weeks your child will bring home their reading folder. This will consist of a reading record and reading book. Please read with your child as often as possible- every day is optimal. Please sign and date the reading record, a comment can be helpful also. It is important the children have their reading folder every day at school. Books are changed once/ twice a week. As the children learn phonemes (sounds) and key words these will be added to the folder.

We would like to invite parents to our phonics workshop on Tuesday 6th October- 2.30pm. It will consist of a short teaching input and information about what phonics is and how parents can implement strategies at home. We hope this are helpful in supporting your child with reading and phonics at home.

To help promote our love of reading and stories, we are introducing an exciting, new initiative called 'Secret Reader'. We would love to invite parents, carers or family members to read a story during our story time at the end of the day (2.45pm) but it will be top secret, the only ones to know will be the teacher and the secret reader! Once you've signed up for a date, you can start thinking of a book you would like to bring to read, a short book around 10 mins. If you don't have a book, we will gladly supply one for you. Reading is highly valued in our classroom and inviting parents into our community of readers strengthens the home-school connection that is so important in helping the children grow as readers. Your child will be SO excited that you or someone in your family participated but remember to keep it 'top secret' until your big day arrives! If you would like to take part, please get in touch. Dates will be assigned on a first come, first served basis. The dates for Autumn term are as follows:

- Monday 28th September- 2.40pm
- Tuesday 13th October- 2.40pm
- Wednesday 4th November- 2.40pm
- Thursday 19th November- 2.40pm
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PE

Ducklings will have their formal PE session on Wednesdays. The children will get changed for PE at school before their lesson. Your child will need to keep their PE kit on their peg and will be sent home half termly. PE kit consists of white t shirt, black shorts/ tracksuit bottoms and trainers. **Again, please ensure ALL items are labelled.** Earrings are not permitted, therefore please can these be removed on PE days. Additionally, hair needs to be tied up and out of the children's face. Our first PE session will be **16th September**.

Outdoor Provision and Forest School

At Debden we are extremely lucky to have a rich, exciting outdoor area that the children can access each day. They will need a pair of wellies to keep at school. Please ensure your child has weather suitable hat/ coat etc. during the different seasons of the year i.e warm coat, hat and gloves during wintertime and sun-cream and sunhat during sunnier times. Each Friday morning Ducklings will venture down to our Forest School. Mrs Dixon will lead this session. The children will need to wear appropriate clothing including layers, long sleeves/ trousers, sturdy shoes such as wellies and a warm coat. Please use old clothes and let your child know that at Forest School they CAN GET DIRTY, and you don't mind! Please see an example of how this might look:



As the children will be settling into new routines over the first few weeks, we will inform parents of the date of our first Forest School session.

Church Mice

We are proud of our community links at Debden, especially our links to our local church, St Mary the Virgin and All Saints. Throughout the year, Ducklings will attend 'Church Mice' sessions. These are led by Rev'd Lynda Sebbage and include a short bible story, songs, crafts and free play. We invite parents and younger siblings to join us for these sessions. As the children will be settling into new routines over the first few weeks, we will inform parents of the date of our first Church Mice session.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the school office who will forward any correspondence onto Mrs Caparelli or Mrs Auty.

Best Wishes,

Mrs Caparelli, Mrs Auty and Mrs Cameron

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NURTURE

PROGRESS

EXCEL