



DEBDEN PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Friday 6th September 2024

Dear Parents,

Welcome back everyone! We hope that you have had a wonderful summer, and that your child has enjoyed their first week back at school.

A special welcome to Debden to all of our new families. It is lovely to once again see so many new faces this September. We hope that both you and your children are feeling settled and positive after your first week as a part of our community.

We have already held our welcome back assembly with the children, in which we focused on our school vision to 'Nurture, Progress and Excel.' We went through each of these ideas and discussed how the children can show them through their actions in the school. I have visited each of the classes a number of times this week and have been blown away by how well they have put this into action. Their levels of engagement, positive attitudes to learning, and care for themselves and one another has been exemplary. All good signs for an excellent year ahead!

Staffing Welcomes

A formal welcome to the following staff members:

-Mrs Pen Hopkinson as our new part-time Minnows (year 1) teacher. Mrs Hopkinson is teaching in the latter part of the week (Wednesday to Friday), partnering Mrs Hatch, who is in from Monday to Wednesday.

-Mrs Becky Auty, who has returned to the school as a part-time Dragonflies (year 2) teacher, initially on a fixed term contract until the end of term 1, alongside Miss Douglas).

-Mrs Megan Cornwell will be starting with our team from Monday 9th September as a learning support assistant. She will initially be working with the children in the Frogs class.

Class Structure 2024-25 – For reference, here is our current class/ teaching team structure:

Class Name	Year Group/s	Teaching Staff	PPA Teacher	Main LSA/s
Ducklings	Reception	Mrs Caparelli (Senior Teacher)	HLTA Team	Mrs Cameron Ms Alina
Minnows	Year 1	Mrs Hatch: Mon-Wed Mrs Hopkinson: Wed-Fri	Job-share	Mrs Cox Ms Alina
Dragonflies	Year 2	Mrs Auty: Mon-Wed Miss Douglas: Wed-Fri	Job-share	Mrs Adams Mrs Day/ Mrs Hoskins
Frogs	Years 3-4	Mrs Bailey (Deputy Head)	Mr Hawley (Head)	Mrs Raven/ Mrs Cornwell Mrs Barca
Newts	Years 4-5	Mrs Barden	HLTA Team	Mrs Raven Mrs Dixon
Kingfishers	Year 5-6	Miss Rowe	Miss Douglas	Mrs Raven Mrs Dixon

Staff Announcements

-Congratulations to Mrs Lauren Raven (formerly Miss Howse) who was married over the summer. We wish you and your partner a life of happiness together. Lauren will now go by the title of Mrs Raven in school.

-Congratulations also to Mrs Holly Caparelli, who is expecting her first baby in January of next year. We are delighted for you and wish you a healthy and happy pregnancy. We have already begun planning for maternity arrangements and will announce these later in the term. We are committed to ensuring that the provision and learning for our Ducklings children remains consistent.

School Meals

-Our apologies that we have not been able to offer our usual range of school lunches across this last week. At short notice, our Catering Manager Mrs Andrew has been sidelined with an injury that make take some time to recover from. If it keeps Mrs Andrew off work, then we know it must be bad!

-Unfortunately, we do not yet have a date for Mrs Andrew’s return. There is every possibility that she may be away for a couple of months. Unlike managing teaching or learning support absences, there is not a plethora of agency expertise that we can draw on for this type of position to save the day! However, we have pre-planned contingency plans for this eventuality, and these plans are outlined below.

-From next week, we will be able to provide some hot meals for those who require this option. The limited menu on offer will be:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
-Sausage/Quorn sausage baguette -Salad bar -Fruit	-Cheese and tomato pasta bake -Mixed vegetables -Ice lollies	-Jacket potatoes with cheese or tuna -Salad bar -Sponge cake	-Fish fingers fries and baked beans -Biscuit	-Mixed bean chilli & rice -Salad bar -Jelly

-We will also be extending the offer of in-school cold lunch (cheese, ham or tuna roll, with snack and fruit) to all children for the next few weeks.

-These contingency arrangements require food preparation from staff over at Great Chesterford, in addition to the movement of staff from key learning positions here at Debden, which I’m sure you can understand makes things quite difficult!

-Therefore, we would really appreciate if all families who feel able, could please continue to send their child in with a packed lunch.

-Where this is not possible, taking the school cold lunch option would also be of great help.

-We really appreciate your support and understanding at this time. We are all wishing Mrs Andrew a speedy recovery!

Tesco Blue Token Scheme

A reminder that our school is currently in the Tesco ‘Stronger Starts’ blue token scheme until the end of September (in both of the Saffron Walden Tesco stores). We are raising money for a community wellbeing garden that the student council would like to create as a part of their ‘courageous advocacy’ work. We can win up to £1,500 if we come first in the token race! If you are able to, please support our school by shopping in Tesco and using your blue token (you can ask for these at the checkout) to vote for us!



Hockey

Once again Debden have been invited to join the NW Essex Hockey Development Programme, hosted by Joyce Frankland Academy. This programme provides hockey training to local primary schools in the Autumn Term of the academic year and then an inter school hockey league in the following Spring Term. Each session takes place on a Friday, it starts at 15:45 and finishes at 17:45.

We are really lucky that two parents have offered to help out with this, but we need to know if your child would like to attend the sessions. It is open to years 4, 5 and 6. Please let us know as soon as possible if your child would like to join this group.

Key Dates for this Term

Monday 9th September – Ducklings begin full days

Monday 16th September – Greek Day/ WWII Day (1/2 day each for Frogs and Kingfishers)

w/b Monday 23rd September – Reception Baseline Week

Monday 23rd September – Jungle Book Theatre Performance in school

Thursday 26th September – European Day of Languages

Friday 27th September – West Stow Trip – Newts

Friday 4th October – Harvest Service – 9.20am

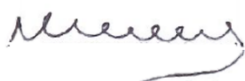
From Monday 7th October – Start of Black History Month

Tuesday 22nd October and Thursday 24th October – Parent-Teacher Meetings

Friday 25th October – Final Day of Autumn Half Term 1

Monday 4th November – First Day of Autumn Half Term 2

Kind Regards



Matt Hawley

Headteacher