

DEBDEN PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Friday 7th October, 2022

Dear Parents,

It is difficult to believe that we are a week into October, with only two weeks to go until half term already! It feels like only yesterday that the teachers were preparing for their new classes and the Reception children were getting ready for their first day. A big well done to all of the children for how they have settled in this term. It was particularly lovely to see so many of them speaking so confidently in front of everybody at the Harvest Church service last week.

Parent Thanks: I have often said that we are so fortunate at Debden to have so many parents and community members who help our school to thrive. However, in recent weeks, they have surpassed themselves. I would like to say a huge thank you to our FODS for purchasing ten new iPads for the school! We are so grateful – as these will prove to be vital learning and research resources for years to come. We now have enough iPads to enable children in even the biggest classes to use one iPad, which will significantly enhance their independent learning time. I would also like to express our thanks to a number our parents (particularly Mrs Samson/the FODs, Mr Bolding and Mrs Wilson) for the work that they have done in furnishing and organising our school library. It is looking better than it has in years! Thanks also to the families who have donated books to our library.

Thank you to Mr Rose, who has been into the school a few times to fix different parts of our outdoor trim trail equipment (saving the school a sizeable repair bill). Finally, a big thank you to Mr and Mrs Platt –parents of two former Debden children now in secondary school – who have purchased some new football goals that will be erected in the next few weeks. What a lucky school we are to have received all of this support!

Harvest: Thank you to everyone for bringing in food items in advance of the Harvest Service. Rev'd John arranged for the food to be collected from the school this week. It has made its way to the food bank, where it will be allocated towards those who are less fortunate around the local area.

Teacher-Parent Consultations: A reminder that these will be taking place on Tuesday 1st (5-7pm) and Thursday 3rd November (3.30-5.30pm). These sessions provide a valuable opportunity to discuss your child's progress, attainment, Following the parent survey last academic year, this year's parent consultations will be returning to being held in-person. The online sign-up for appointments will be made available to you next Thursday – you will receive email correspondence with details explaining the booking system.

Opening of the New Sports Track at Carver Barracks:

On Wednesday, we were lucky to be invited to take a team of children to the opening of the new athletics track at Carver Barracks. They tried out the new running track and jumping pit as well as a throwing event. Mrs Caparelli and Mrs Dale were very proud of the children's enthusiasm and their behaviour. They represented the school brilliantly. A big thank you to all at Carver Barracks for organising and inviting us to this momentous event!

Hockey

Thanks to all those year 4, 5 and 6 children who turned up to JFAN in the rain for hockey last Friday – we hope you all enjoyed the impromptu indoor training experience! Apologies for the mix up about timings, which meant we missed our slot with our student coach, Josh. We have now confirmed that hockey training this term will take place at the earlier time of 3.45pm to 4.45pm - and we can always make room for a few more players if the change of time now means your child can attend.

By way of a reminder, no previous experience is necessary and it's a fun opportunity for the children to get outdoors and be part of a friendly and enthusiastic team. All the children need to play is a gum shield, shin pads (available from Amazon or Saffron Sports) - and a willingness to give it a go! A hockey stick can be provided.

This term's training and next term's matches all take place on the pitches at the back of Joyce Frankland Academy from 3.45pm. No other travel is involved and lifts can potentially be provided by other parents/carers.

The cost to take part is £8 per child for the whole season. If your child is interested in being part of the school hockey team, feel free to just turn up this Friday or get in touch with Jilly Rewse-Davies (mum of Lily in year 6) on 07711 398836 for more details.

Author Visits: We have arranged for a couple of author visits to take place over the next few weeks at Debden. This coming Monday (10th October), Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children will be visited by Deborah Chancellor who will be reading books from her 'Follow My Food' series. Deborah has kindly not charged the school a fee for this reading, but it would be great if families were able to show their support for her by purchasing books from her series. The school is also going to buy her books for our library. Please see the following link:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/s?k=deborah+chancellor+follow+my+food&i=stripbooks&crd=1KX8NY5BT2QDD&s_prefix=deborah+chancellor+follow+my+food%2Cstripbooks%2C61&ref=nb_sb_noss

KS2 children will be having a Zoom reading with author Stephen Pass on Thursday 10th November. More details will follow closer to the time.

Reception Baseline: The Reception baseline assessments have now been completed. We do not receive any summative assessment information from the government about children's attainment in these tests, however we do receive a summary of the things that the child showed they could do/ areas for development. This information will be used by the Reception team to plan provision going forward, and will inform teacher-parent discussions in the consultations after half term. More information about these assessments can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reception-baseline-assessment-information-for-parents>

Updated Clubs Rota: Here is a rota of the available clubs for children in this half term:

Time/Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School	Breakfast Club Kidzactive – 7.30am-8.45am	Breakfast Club Kidzactive – 7.30am-8.45am	Breakfast Club Kidzactive – 7.30am-8.45am	Breakfast Club Kidzactive – 7.30am-8.45am KS2 Fitness Club Mr Hawley – 8.10am-8.45am	Breakfast Club Kidzactive – 7.30am-8.45am
Lunchtime	Library Parent Volunteer Mrs Samson – 12.30pm-1.00pm	KS2 Art/ Drawing Club – Mr Hawley (KF classroom) 12.30pm-1.00pm	Library Parent Volunteer – Mrs Wilson – 12.30pm-1.00pm	Mr M's Active Club – Mr McKeown 12.30pm-1.00pm KS1 Drawing Club MDA (M classroom) 12.30pm-1.00pm	
After School	After-School Club Kidzactive – 3.15pm-5.00pm	After-School Club Kidzactive – 3.15pm-5.00pm	Kingfishers Maths Booster (invite) Miss Rowe – 3.15pm-3.45pm After-School Club Kidzactive – 3.15pm-5.00pm	After-School Club Kidzactive – 3.15pm-5.00pm Girls Football Training @ SWCHS Mrs Coleman 4pm-5pm	After-School Club Kidzactive – 3.15pm-5.00pm Essex Hockey League USSP 3.45pm-4.45pm

Teachers will be offering additional clubs after the half term break.

A reminder of these upcoming dates for your diary

- Friday 21st October – Last day of half term 1
- Monday 31st October – First day of half term 2
- Tuesday 1st November – 5.00pm – 7.00pm – Parent Consultations (in person this year).
- Thursday 3rd November – 9.30am – Open Morning – if you know of parents who are looking for a school for their child for next academic year, please spread the word!
- Thursday 3rd November – 3.30pm – 5.30pm – Parent Consultations (cont.)

Once again, thank you for your support of our school. Have a lovely weekend.

Kind Regards

Mr Hawley

Head of School