



DEBDEN PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Friday 10th June, 2022

Dear Parents,

I hope that you are all well, and that you and your families enjoyed the half term break. This is going to be a really busy half term in the school, and so without further ado, here are some important news items and notices regarding recent and upcoming events:

Wellbeing Week, the Queen's Jubilee and Science Week: We really hope that the children have enjoyed our recent 'Wellbeing' and 'Science' themed weeks, and the activities related to the Queen's Jubilee. It has been nice to be able to run these sorts of events again, and the feedback from the children has been extremely positive! A big thanks to Ms Weetch, Mrs Bailey, Mrs Hatch and Miss Matthews who have all taken a lead in planning and delivering some of these exciting and purposeful events.

National School Sports Week and Sports Day: We are excited to be celebrating National School Sports Week at Debden. Along with The Youth Sport Trust and schools across the country, we will be celebrating National School Sports Week from Monday 20th June to Thursday 23rd June. This year's theme is 'Belonging' and the children will be immersed in all things sporty including trying some exciting new sports, being part of a team and the skills involved, healthy living and eating and of course Sports Day. **As well as their usual PE days, the children will need to be in PE kit for Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.**

A lot of activities will be outside, so we ask the children have sunhats, a water bottle and sun-cream applied. We will be celebrating Sports Day on Thursday 23rd June. Parents are invited to join us from 1pm, to spectate the sprint races and team relays and announce the winning house team. We look forward to an exciting week of sports, fun and teamwork!

DebFest: You will have no doubt seen the flyers that have appeared this week, providing information about the inaugural DebFest event taking place on Friday 1st July, 4pm until 8.30pm. The event is being organised by our FODs, with the funds raised going towards our new play equipment. It will include class performances, an Ed Sheeran tribute band, inflatables, games, face painting, a BBQ, a bar and much more! For further details, please type debdenprimary.hoot.cloud into your web browser. A big thanks to our FODs for organising and the event – it should be a lot of fun!

Assessments: A big congratulations to our Year 1 children, who recently completed their phonics check with Ms Weetch. She was really impressed with their phonics understanding and their resilience. The final round of internal assessments will be beginning in the next few weeks, and towards the end of June, the Year 4 children will be doing their multiplication check. Further information will follow for these parents. However, if you have a child in Year 4, please do encourage them to continue practicing their times tables and playing TT Rockstars!

Attendance: There is a heavy nationwide focus on attendance at present, which you may have caught in the news. School attendance levels across the country have not yet returned to anything near pre-pandemic levels, which is impacting upon children's education. In line with the revised DfE approach to this, we have redrafted our attendance policy, (awaiting governor approval) which will go live onto our website within the next few weeks. Any significant changes will be shared with you via this newsletter.

Whilst at Debden we have thankfully not been impacted by poor attendance as much as other schools, we have been advised that it is a positive and proactive step for schools to take to share the latest attendance figures breakdown as a feature in each Headteacher's Newsletter. Our figures are below:

Class	Attendance Percentage for this academic year
Ducklings	91.34%
Minnows	93.36%
Dragonflies	95.28%
Frogs	95.26%
Kingfishers	94.97%

Change to the Length of the School Day: Linked to the above, and also awaiting Governor approval, is our proposed change to the length of the school day. This follows the government white paper detailing the expectation that all mainstream state-funded schools are open for a minimum of 32.5 hours per week by September 2023. This equates to six hours and 30 minutes per day, on average. We are expecting to adopt this change early, from September this year. It is a change that we have been looking to make for a couple of years anyway, as it has become more and more of a struggle to fit our broad and balanced curriculum in! This change will provide children with 1.25 hours more learning time per week, which will make a big difference across the school year. It is still yet to be finalised, but if you have any thoughts or queries about this, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Wellbeing Courtyard: A big thanks to parents who have donated potted plants to our wellbeing courtyard – it is really starting to take shape (see pictures below). We now have enough potted plants for the time being, but would really appreciate any parent donations of compost or potted trees. If you are able to help, or you think you know someone who may be able to help, please do let us know!



Thank you for your continuing support of our school. I hope that you have a lovely weekend!

Kind Regards

Mr Hawley

