



DEBDEN PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Friday 11th November, 2022

Dear Parents,

Another busy couple of weeks have been and gone here at Debden, and there is lots to report on!

Here is a run through of the main activities and events from the past two weeks:

Remembrance Day: This Friday morning, the children in our Kingfishers Class (Year 5 and 6) joined the local villagers, parents, and representatives from the British Legion and Armed Forces in remembering those from this parish who gave their lives in service of our country. As always, the children of Debden were integral to the event, planting crosses which bore the names of each of the parish members who had died, and we were delighted with their conduct and the level of respect that they showed throughout the service. In school, the children from the other year groups each had a short class assembly informing them about remembrance and the wearing of the poppy, before observing the two minutes' silence at 11am.

Behaviour Survey: We recently surveyed both the children (Years 1-6) and the staff team for their thoughts regarding behaviour at the school. The surveys were anonymous, and both staff and children were encouraged to be honest and fair, to provide us with the most accurate possible picture of the school's behaviour strengths and development areas. We thought that you may be interested to read some of the results and feedback.

-100% of staff at the either 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that 'behaviour at the school is good' and 'behaviour at the school has improved over the past 3 years' and 'there are clear behaviour systems in place across the school.'

-The vast majority of children responded that they 'feel safe in school' and they 'enjoy school' (only 4% and 7% disagreed respectively). It is worth noting that amongst those who did not feel safe, two explained that their answer was influenced by the situation in Ukraine and the recent weather (!)

-Likewise, the vast majority agreed that behaviour in their class is good (only 4% disagreed) and around the school (8% disagreed).

-In terms of development areas, in both the staff and student surveys the most neutral/ least positive questions related to children showing manners and respect towards *all* staff/ other children. In response we have:

1. Conducted a special extended assembly about the importance of being polite, holding doors open for one another, using our manners, and trying to make actively positive behaviour choices (not just 'not doing anything wrong!')

2. Launched a new 'Behaviour Hero of the Week' award, led by the behaviour committee of the student council. One child from across the school is selected by the learning support and midday assistants, based on their manners, attitude and willingness to care for/ help others. They get their name entered into a special prize draw, which takes place at the end of each term.

Anonymous child surveys can sometimes throw up some unusual results, and so we were delighted to read that the children's views of behaviour and attitudes at their school were largely very positive. We want to continue to work to make the school a happy and safe place for all of our families.

Parent-teacher Consultations: Many thanks for the high turnout at the recent parent-teacher meetings. We hope that you found them useful in terms of understanding your child's key strengths, development areas, learning behaviours and learning skills. Please do feel comfortable to continuously communicate with your child's class teacher – they are all really approachable people who are passionate about the children's learning, and are more than happy to speak with you regarding your child's progress and attainment.

We also have a number of upcoming events and dates for your diary:

Anti-Bullying Week: Next week is anti-bullying week and we will be marking this with a number of initiatives across the school – these have been outlined in an email sent to you earlier in the week, but just to reiterate:

-Please can the children come to school wearing odd socks on Monday – we will be thinking about 'Celebrating Differences.'

-There are two competitions running. The children can work on these entries from home:

1. Design a poster linked to the theme of anti-bullying. Winning entries will be printed and displayed in school.
2. Write a rap, poem or song linked to the theme of anti-bullying. These will be turned into a book. Winning entries will be performed.

Entries must be brought into school by next Thursday.

Children in Need Ramble: On Friday 18th November, we will be supporting Children in Need by wearing spotty clothes and taking part in a whole school ramble starting at 9am (straight after registration). Children will be asked to make a donation of £1. We would love it if as many parents and younger siblings could come along for the ramble too (also for a donation of £1) and join the children for hot drinks and biscuits in the hall afterwards. Please remember to send your child/ren to school in warm (spotty!) clothes, coats and wellies. Please send in a pair of shoes to change in to afterwards.

Finally, a few sports events are also upcoming:

- Wednesday 16th November (PM): Year 5 and 6 Dodgeball (selected children only) – at JFAN;
- Thursday 17th November (AM): Reception, Year 1, Year 2 'Scooterbility' – at Debden;
- Thursday 17th November (AM): Years 3-6 – Archery – at Debden.

I hope that you all have a lovely weekend.

Kind Regards

Mr Hawley

Head of School