



DEBDEN PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Friday 19th May 2023

Dear Parents,

It has been another eventful couple of weeks at the school, as we have moved deep into the summer term schedule of themed weeks, assessments, and extracurricular activities.

Wellbeing Week

This week, we have held our annual 'Wellbeing Week', which is led by the wonderful Ms Weetch. Throughout wellbeing week, we focus on a different segment of our wellbeing wheel each day – these are to Be Active, Get Creative, Be Mindful, Keep Learning and Connect – and are aligned with the research-approved '5 Ways to Wellness.' In the middle of exam season, it always feels like an apt time to equip children with the knowledge, skills, and strategies that they need to look after their own wellbeing and the wellbeing of others. This year's wellbeing week has been the biggest and most wide-ranging ever!

Monday – Be Active – Army assault course, physical/ outdoors/ kinaesthetic lessons;

Tuesday – Get Creative – Music making, SCARF sessions;

Wednesday – Be Mindful – SCARF sessions (continued), artist in residence, MIND activities.

Thursday – Keep Learning – A huge range of 'Learn a New Skill' activities, Debden's Got Talent;

Friday – Connect – Collective breakfast, picnic lunch, teddy bear buddies.

A big thank you to everyone who has helped to make the week so powerful and successful, including all of the teachers and support staff, all of the parent volunteers, and the children themselves. Most of all, a gargantuan thanks to Ms Weetch, who has been working all hours arranging this week for the school for some time now – I hope that you are able to have a well-deserved rest this weekend!

School Structure 2023-24

Due to an increase in applications for our school over the past term (for children joining across summer term and in September) we are pleased to announce that we will be opening a new class from September. This is a really exciting time for our thriving school, which has now almost doubled in size over the past 3 and a half years! Work is already taking place to make the sixth class viable, including advertising for an additional teacher, carrying out essential maintenance/ upgrade work on the second demountable building, and fully equipping the new class. Whilst we are still too far away to make firm commitments about the make-up of each class, it is most likely that this new class will accommodate all of year 5 and some year 4 students. The knock-on effect of this will allow year 1 and year 6 to be taught as single form entry. We will provide more details about our new structure as they are confirmed.

SATS Assessments

Well done to all of our amazing year 6 children for their brilliant effort and resilience throughout their SATs assessments last week. These have been sent off for marking and schools expect to be able to access the children's results on the 11th July. The children all tried their best and seem to have done well – we couldn't be prouder of them.

The KS1 SATs are conducted very differently – they are more informal and can be sat anytime in May. We wanted to give the children every chance that we could to build their knowledge and skills in advance of the assessments, and so children will be sitting them across next week. The schedule is not as rigid as for the KS2 exams, but children will be sitting English assessments on Monday and Wednesday and maths on Thursday.

Assessments can affect all children differently, and we try where we can to alleviate the pressure that some children may feel – all that they can do is their best! Here is some useful advice for parents about the SATs assessments. <https://www.theschoolrun.com/your-ks1-sats-questions-answered>

FODS News

We're really pleased to have had some new things delivered this week purchased by FODS. KS1 and Early Years have some fantastic new maths resources to use and also exciting new PE equipment for Netball, Cricket and Athletics.



Nuts/ Sweets

A reminder that children should not be coming to school with nuts (including Nutella) or sweets/ chocolate in their packed lunches or for their snacks. We have several children in the school who are severely allergic to nuts. In the case of sweets/ chocolate, as with most primary schools we are a healthy eating school. We allow cakes/ sweets etc. for special occasions only and so they shouldn't be part of the children's daily lunch/snack.

Latest Attendance

Here are the latest attendance figures for the year-to-date up to the current point. A reminder that the government target for all schools is 95% (for an individual child 95% attendance equates to missing no more than one school day every four weeks). Attendance has improved over this half term!

Class	Attendance this term	Attendance this year
Ducklings	96.52%	93.79%
Minnows	99.33%	95.27%
Dragonflies	98.52%	94.91%
Frogs	96.54%	95.02%
Kingfishers	98.81%	95.23%

I hope that you have a lovely weekend.

Kind Regards

Mr Hawley

Head of School