

DEBDEN PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Thursday 7th September, 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome back everyone! I hope that you have enjoyed a lovely summer. To those of you who are new to our school, I would like to extend the warmest of welcomes. It has been a lovely start to the term here at Debden and the children have settled brilliantly into their new classes - despite the rather energy-sapping heat we've experienced this week! It has been lovely to see their smiling faces again after six weeks away!

-Class Newsletters and Knowledge Organisers: You will receive a class newsletter some time this week, which shares important information about your child's learning this term – including details such as the topics they will be studying, the days that they will have PE, and any upcoming events and activities. Furthermore, next week, parents from each class will be emailed copies of the knowledge organisers, which go into a bit more depth about the key information that will be imparted in each subject area. If you are still unsure about anything, please don't hesitate to contact us through the admin team via phone or email, or by catching your child's class teacher at the end of the school day.

-New Staff Members: A formal welcome to Mrs Chloe Barden, Miss Lauren Howse and Miss Rebecca Adams. Mrs Barden is our new Newts (y4/5) teacher; Miss Howse and Miss Adams are our new learning support assistants, who will be working with children in both KS1 and KS2 across the school. All three new members of staff come with a wide range of knowledge and skills and are really enthusiastic about beginning their work with our children. Please help us to make them feel welcome!

-Ofsted Report: As communicated earlier in the week, our Ofsted report is finally here! I am delighted with this formal recognition of the amazing progress of our school and would like to thank everyone in our school community for helping to make our wonderful school what it is. Rest assured that we are already implementing steps to further enhance our school into the future. Debden is, and will continue to be, in a great place! The report will be officially published far and wide by Ofsted at some point next week. You should have all received it earlier in the week but it is attached to the email just in case.

-Governor Communication: Alongside this newsletter, you should be receiving a letter from Mr Tom Caster, our new Chair of Governors. As detailed in Mr Caster's letter, Mrs Lin Stephenson (the former Chair of Governors), Rev'd John Saxon and Lt Col Marcus Hayakawa are all moving away from the area in the coming weeks. I would like to express a heartfelt thank you from the entire staff team to these governors for all of their ideas, drive, kindness and support over the past few years. They have been vital cogs in developing all aspects of our school and we will miss them a great deal. We will be saying goodbye more personally in celebration assemblies over the next few weeks

-Harvest Service: As Rev'd John will be leaving before the end of September, there will not be a Harvest service in the church this term - we will instead be celebrating the season through assemblies and activities within the school. We know that parents look forward to watching the children in these services, and so we are looking to resume our regular schedule of services for the school community at Christmas time.

-Pencil Cases: The teachers in the Key Stage 1 classes (Ducklings, Minnows and Dragonflies) would like to politely request that children in their classes do not bring a pencil case into school. We have all of the stationery equipment that the children need already within the classrooms, and this change will free up extra space on the desks/ reduce potential distractions. Thank you.

Some upcoming dates for your diary

- Friday 15th September - 14.45pm - First achievement assembly – parents welcome.
- Tuesday 26th September – European Day of Languages
- Thursday 19th October – Last day of Half Term 1 for the children.
- Friday 20th October – Staff Inset Day
- Monday 30th October – First Day of Half Term 2
- Tuesday 31st October and Thursday 2nd November – Parent Consultations
- Friday 10th November – Remembrance Events
- Monday 13th to Friday 17th November – Anti-Bullying Week
- Friday 17th November – Children in Need – details tbc

We will communicate further information with you about all activities and events as and when they are confirmed.

Thank you all for your ongoing support for our school. Here's to another brilliant year ahead!

Kind Regards

Mr Hawley

Head of School