

DEBDEN PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Friday 17th November, 2023

Dear Parents,

It has been another busy start to the half term – not even Storms Ciaran and Debi could dampen spirits here at Debden! Please see below for a run-down of some of the events, activities and successes from the past few weeks.

Remembrance: Last Friday morning, the children in our Kingfishers Class (Year 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. We received some lovely compliments from some of the villagers about the conduct and care shown by the children, which is always lovely to hear. 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.



Sporting Successes: A huge well done to our Year 5 and 6 children, who won the Uttlesford School Partnership tag rugby competition and have now progressed to the area finals. From what I am told, they absolutely crushed the opposition and Mr M remarked that it was 'the best primary tag rugby team performance that he had ever seen.' I know that the officials at the event were equally impressed and have invited some of our children to sign up for local rugby teams. Well done all!

Debden was proud to host the USSP archery event this Thursday. Participants from other schools descended upon Debden to try and usurp the reigning champions (us, of course!) The Newts class represented upper KS2 and came second in their event, and the Frogs class represented lower KS2 and came first in their event. Both teams will progress to the finals. A great effort, everybody!

Anti-Bullying Week: This week, we have been recognising anti-bullying week across the school. The national theme for this year is to 'Make a Noise' about bullying, which encourages children to speak up where they think bullying may be taking place – a hugely important message. Children wore odd socks to show our individuality on Monday, and have been involved in a number of activities across the week helping them to educate them about the issues surrounding bullying, including anti-bullying mottos

and art. We look forward to displaying them around the school. Many thanks to Ms Weetch for organising the anti-bullying events this week.

Black History Month Competition: A big well done to Finnley in Year 6, who won our Black History Month competition! Thank you to all of the children who entered – your wonderful entries will be placed on the Black History board in the hall.

EYFS Garden Renovation

We have had some exciting developments in our Early Years Garden this week. Thanks to FODS, we have obtained a grant from the British and Foreign Schools Society to install a new play tower in the garden. The tower will be installed by Sovereign Play over the next few days and will support development of the children's gross motor skills, co-operative play and imagination. We'd like to extend a huge thank you to Huws Gray of Saffron Walden and Adrian Green and team at AG Carpentry and Building Services for their help in removing the existing gazebo and readying the ground for the new installation. Lastly, a big thank you to Jodie Hodgson (and family) and Lilly Barker from our FODS, who have been a key part in getting this project up and running. A big thank you from all the Ducklings! We look forward to sharing with you the developments of our new play space.



FODS Christmas Fayre We are gearing up for the School Christmas Fayre which is just over a week away on Sunday 26th November 2-4pm. Father Christmas is coming and you can pre-book for the Grotto; see below.

We need your help to make the Christmas Fayre a massive success. Please sign up to volunteer on a stall here. We need lots of you to do a little bit each:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094EA5AF28A0FBC07-45981681-debden#/> If you're looking at this on a mobile, do click "More" at the bottom because there is a second page ;)

This might be your first Christmas at Debden or you are a seasoned pro but here are the things we would like you to contribute:-

In advance, to your class teacher or the office, we need donations of:

* Bottles for the bottle tombola

* Filled jam jars. Please fill your jam jar with something the children would like to win (e.g. sweets, hair bands, craft bits, lego, stationery,...)

* Teddies and gift bags.

* Something for your class hamper in the raffle. The colours for each class hamper are Ducklings Gold, Minnows Red, Dragonflies Silver, Frogs Green, Newts White, Kingfishers Purple.

* Anything else that you think would be useful as little prizes.

If you would like to prebook for Santa's Grotto and guarantee a timeslot then click here. You will also be able to sign up on the day. <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/debden/>

Some upcoming dates for your diary

- Thursday 23rd November – Rearranged Parent-Teacher Consultations.
- Friday 24th November – Children in Need 'Break the Rules' Day
- Sunday 26th November – FODS Christmas Fayre
- Tuesday 12th December – Christmas Jumpers/ Christmas Dinner/ Elfridges
- Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th December – Nativity Performances 1.30 pm
- Wednesday 20th December – 9.20am – Christmas Service (in the church)
- Wednesday 20th December – Last Day of Term
- Thursday 4th January – Back to school

Have a wonderful weekend.

Kind Regards

Mr Hawley