

DEBDEN PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER



Friday 16th January 2026

'That they may have life in all its fullness'

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school! We hope you enjoyed a restful and enjoyable Christmas break. As we begin the new term, we are delighted to welcome the children back to school, ready for new learning, fresh challenges, and many exciting opportunities ahead.



Collective Worship focus

In Collective Worship this week Mrs Barden focused on the bible story of 'Blind Bart' and the importance of showing respect to others even if we don't know them or they are different. They also discussed how important it is to have the courage to stand up for others.

Attendance

At Debden, we believe that *good attendance and punctuality are fundamental to every child's success and wellbeing*. We understand that consistent attendance not only raises standards of attainment but also nurtures a caring, happy, and secure environment where every child can flourish.

Current Attendance across the school

	Average this year
Reception	95.9%
Y1	96.9%
Y2	96.0%
Y3	94.8%
Y4	96.0%
Y5	92.7%
Y6	94.8%

The government sets schools an attendance target of 95%, and schools are legally required to monitor attendance closely. If we have any concerns about a child's attendance, we will work in partnership with families to discuss this and identify any support that may help.

Absence Procedures:

If your child is absent, please follow these steps:

- Contact the school before 10:00am on the first day of absence.** You can leave a message on the answer phone if no one is available.
- Update us every subsequent day of absence.**
- Ensure your child returns to school as soon as possible.** If requested, provide medical evidence to support the absence.



Reasonable reasons for being off school:

Often a child will wake up in the morning saying that they feel unwell. Always try and send your child to school if they are a little 'under the weather', for example, with a runny nose, headache, tummy-ache. Teachers are very vigilant and the school will contact parents if your child's symptoms worsen or we feel they become too unwell to remain in school. **HOWEVER**, please do not send your child to school if they have any infectious illnesses like Chicken Pox, Measles etc. If your child has been vomiting or is suffering from diarrhoea, then they must stay away from school for 48 hours from the last bout of illness. This is to ensure that any infection does not spread through the school.

The school can administer prescribed medication if parents have completed the correct permissions form. The form can be found at the main school office.

For further information please check the NHS Guide 'Should I keep my child off school?'

What to do Advice on childhood illnesses		Go to school; if needed, get treatment as required	Some restrictions for school attendance	Don't go to school and see the GP
What it's called?	What it's like	Going to school	Getting treatment	More advice
Asthma flare up	Worsening of usual symptoms	➤	Follow your care plan	Stay off school if feeling too unwell
Chicken pox	Rash begins as small, red, flat spots that develop into itchy fluid-filled blisters		Pharmacy	Back to school five days after on-set of the rash, or when all lesions are crusted over
Common cold	Runny nose, sneezing, sore throat	➤➤	Pharmacy	Ensure good hand hygiene
Conjunctivitis	Teary, red, itchy, painful eye(s)	➤➤	Pharmacy	Try not to touch eye to avoid spreading*
Flu	Fever, cough, sneezing, runny nose, headache, body aches and pain, exhaustion, sore throat		Pharmacy	Ensure good hand hygiene*
German measles/ Rubella	Fever, tiredness. Raised, red, rash that starts on the face and spreads downwards	●	GP	Back to school four days after the rash has started, if feeling well enough. Please let the school know, as pregnant members of staff may be affected.
Glandular fever	High temperature, swollen glands, sore throat; usually more painful than any before	➤➤	GP	*
Hand, foot & mouth disease	Fever, sore throat, headache, small painful blisters inside the mouth on tongue and gums (may appear on hands and feet)	➤➤	GP	Attend school while monitoring symptoms
Head lice	Itchy scalp (may be worse at night)	➤➤	Pharmacy	
Impetigo	Clusters of red bumps or blisters surrounded by area of redness	●	GP	Back to school when lesions crust or 48 hours after start of antibiotics
Measles	Fever, cough, runny nose, watery inflamed eyes, rash	●	GP	Back to school four days from on-set of rash, and if feeling well enough
Ringworm	Red ring shaped rash, may be itchy, rash may be dry and scaly or wet and crusty	➤➤	Pharmacy	
Scabies	Itching rash, commonly between fingers, wrists, elbows, arm	➤➤	GP	Back to school after first treatment
Scarlet fever	Fever, unwell, red tongue, sandpaper rash	●	GP	Exclusion period during first 24 hours of antibiotics*
Shingles	Pain, itching, or tingling along the affected nerve pathway. Blister-type rash		GP	Only stay off school if rash is weeping and cannot be covered
Sickness bug/ diarrhoea	Stomach cramps, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea		Pharmacy	Contact GP if symptoms persist after 48 hours
Threadworms	Intense itchiness around anus	➤➤	Pharmacy	Ensure good hand hygiene
Tonsilitis/ Strep throat	Intense sore throat for more than 1 day	➤➤	Pharmacy	See GP if temperature lasts more than 48 hours or cannot swallow. Only need to stay off school if feeling too unwell
Whooping cough	Violent coughing, with a 'whoop'	●	GP	Exclusion period during first five days of antibiotics
Covid				Visit www.nhs.uk for latest guidance

Punctuality: Starting the Day Right

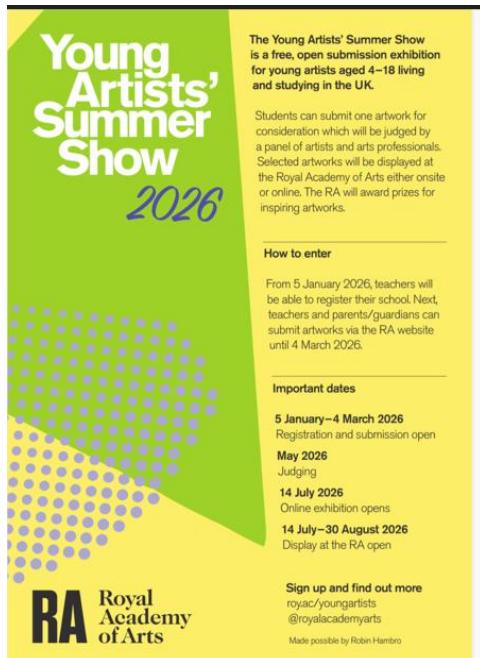
Good punctuality is a vital life skill and an important part of our school ethos. Arriving late disrupts learning and can make children feel unsettled- lots of children report that they feel embarrassed walking into their classroom late. If a child is just 5 minutes late every day, they miss the equivalent of two whole weeks of school in a year.

School day timings:

The gates open at 8:40am and the whistle goes at 8.45 with all children expected to be in their classrooms by 8:50am for registration when the gates will be closed. Any child who arrives after the gates are locked needs to be signed in at the main school reception. When children are late it takes the office staff away from their desk at the busiest time of the day, resulting in parents not being able to get through on the phone.

Young Artists' Summer Show

We have registered for this competition so if you would like to submit a piece of artwork, please see the details below. Good luck!



Key Dates for this Term

Monday 19th January- Fab Science

Tuesday 20th January- Fab Science

Wednesday 21st January- Egyptian Day (Frogs)

Wednesday 21st January- Multi skills Minnows

Wednesday 4th February- Tag Rugby- Y3/4 team

Thursday 5th February- Year 4 Residential

Friday 6th February- Year 4 Residential

Tuesday 10th February – Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 10th and Thursday 12th February – Parent Consultations

Friday 13th February- Last Day of Spring 1

Kind Regards,

Sarah Bailey

Headteacher