

DEBDEN PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Friday 28th February 2025

Dear Parents,

We have reached the end of February already, and the weather is finally showing some signs of brightening up! Here in school, as always, the children have been delighting us with their excellent progress and unwavering enthusiasm for learning. Please see below for details of some of the latest and upcoming events in and around our school community.

Major Henry Crosby

Many of you will have heard the very sad news that Major Henry Crosby passed away over half term break. Henry was a parent and a governor at our school, and his loss will be felt greatly across our community. We will remember fondly his energy and dedication in governors meetings, and also his willingness to help out wherever he could: the staff and the children (his daughter in particular) were both delighted and thankful for his help in serving our Christmas dinner this year – for which anyone deserves a medal! Our thoughts and best wishes, of course, are with his friends and family at this time.

Mrs Hopkinson

Mrs Hopkinson has had an accident whilst skiing last week, and unfortunately she has broken her femur. This is a relatively serious break and so she will be unable to return to work until at least the end of this term. We have already sorted the cover arrangements, and from next week Mrs Helen Sears will be working with the Minnows Class on Mrs Hopkinson's usual days (the latter portion of Wednesdays and all of Thursdays and Fridays). We wish Mrs Hopkinson a speedy recovery.

Parking

We've had a number of complaints from neighbours recently about some of the parking outside of the front of school. A few have commented that the parking on/ extremely close to junctions is actually illegal and are considering reporting it. In particular, there is concern that there are some parents parking near the junction of Church Street (see the picture, which shows the spot that is particularly being referred to).

Please do ensure that you are parking safely, for the safety of the children, yourselves, and other road users.



World Book Day – Thursday 6th March

A reminder that World Book Day is next Thursday, 6th March. We have an action-packed day planned, with the aim of fostering and nurturing our children's love of reading. In addition to the activities and events in school, we are also launching a KS1 competition – Create a Magic Medicine - and a KS2 competition – Create a Wonka Chocolate Bar. These are addition to a 'Best Dressed Book Character' in each year group

on the day. Further details attached to the email. Prizes are available and winners will be announced in the assembly the following day (Friday 7th March).

Why do we have World Book Day? The world may be rapidly changing, but reading has never been so important. The correlation between children who read at home for at least 20 minutes per evening and increased life chances is incredibly strong, perhaps more than any other single factor. It doesn't just impact on their academic progress and attainment (across the entire curriculum, not just in English), but is also proven to improve children's wellbeing, social and emotional skills, future work opportunities, health and even life expectancy. Whether or not a child reads for pleasure when they are young is a larger indicator of future success than even their postcode or their parents' occupation. It really is so important. This is why we have World Book Day, and also why at Debden we place such a huge emphasis on reading in general. For further information on some of the research behind reading for pleasure, please see below:

- <https://literacytrust.org.uk/blog/reading-children-so-powerful-so-simple-and-yet-so-misunderstood/>

- <https://readingagency.org.uk/about/impact/002-reading-facts-1/>

- https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7c18d540f0b61a825d66e9/reading_for_pleasure.pdf

Upcoming Events

Monday 3rd March – Minnows and Frogs trip - Walton on the Naze Learning and Discovery Centre

Tuesday 4th March – Swimming starts for Dragonflies

Thursday 6th March – World Book Day

Friday 14th March – International Maths Day

Wednesday 19th March – Minnows Dance Festival

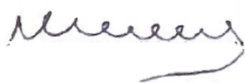
Friday 21st March- FODS Bingo

Wednesday 2nd April – World Autism Day

Tuesday 1st April – Hampton Court Trip Kingfishers and Dragonflies

Friday 4th April – Easter Service (provisional date) 9.20am

Friday 4th April – Last Day of Spring Term



Matt Hawley

Headteacher