

# DEBDEN PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the second half term of the academic year. Below is a round-up of the latest happenings in our school community.

## Facilities Upgrades

A number of exciting facilities works took place at our school over the half term break. Our new reading garden was built in the central garden. It looks amazing! It just needs the shade sail canopy for completion, and then we will be ready to formally open it.

The EYFS fencing was also replaced with some new rainbow fencing. The old gates were vulnerable to swelling and shrinking in the weather, and so this colourful new fencing serves both practical and an aesthetic purpose. For both of these projects, a big thank you once again to the Essex Community Foundation for their very kind grant.

Finally, our History timeline has been erected in the KS2 corridor. It has been professionally made, and helps children to gain a greater grasp of chronology and sequences of historical events. A few local events have also been added to our individualised version, including the year that Debden School was opened, the development of the town of Saffron Walden, and the first flight at Stansted Airport! Pictures are below.



## Remembrance Event: Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November

Remembrance Day is on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November, and the village will be hosting its annual Remembrance Service from 10.50am. The Kingfishers will be involved in the service, and parents are welcome to attend alongside the villagers.

This will have a **significant impact on the amount of available parking on Monday drop-off** at the village hall (they normally cordon off a section early to avoid anyone leaving their car there through the day, which would affect the service). To appease the likely congestion that this would cause, **parents are welcome to drop their child into school at any time from 8.40am to 9.00am on Monday**. Providing this 20-minute window should mean that there is not one mad rush for the available parking spots at 8.45am!

## Bus Concerns

There have been continued concerns regarding the school bus this week. I have now written a formal letter to Essex Transport to address the matter.

We do help wherever we can, but once again a polite reminder that the bus company is contracted by Essex local authority and is separate from the school – we do not have any staff on the bus to supervise the children.

The situation involving the bus this week was I am sure extremely stressful for the parents involved, but some parents took this out on the staff team, which was not fair – they had not done anything wrong. These same staff members had stayed after-hours to support the children, rectify the situation and ensure they were returned safely to their parents.

Should you have any questions or concerns about matters relating to the school bus, in the first instance please contact Acme, the bus company, on 01279 871707 or via email: [jane@acme-bus.com](mailto:jane@acme-bus.com).

For Essex School Transport, please contact on 0345 603 2200 or via email: [passenger.transport@essex.gov.uk](mailto:passenger.transport@essex.gov.uk)

### **Out-of-Hours Contact**

The school office closes at 3.30pm each day. However, from Monday, between 3.30pm and 4.00pm you will now be able to contact the school (via the normal school number: 01799 540302). Please note that this is for urgent/ emergency queries only – it will be school leadership/ teachers manning the phones between 3.30pm and 4pm, and so they will not be able to help you with office administration tasks.

### **Key Dates for this Term**

Monday 11th November – Remembrance Day (Kingfishers attend village service)

Friday 15th November – Individual Photos

Monday 18th November – FAB Science – with KS2

Tuesday 19th November – Dragonflies Trip to Ely Cathedral

Wednesday 20th November – FODS KS1 Movie Night

Thursday 21st November – FODS KS2 Movie Night

Saturday 30th November – FODs Christmas Fayre

Wednesday 11th December – Santa Dash


Thursday 12th December – School Dinner/ Christmas Jumper/ Elfiridges

Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th December – Nativity to Parents (both at 1.30pm).

Friday 20th December – Christmas Service – 9.20am

Friday 20th December – Final Day of Autumn Half Term 2

Kind Regards



Matt Hawley

Headteacher