



# DEBDEN PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2022

Dear Parents,

January is already behind us, and we have enjoyed a really positive first few weeks of largely uninterrupted learning in 2022. It has been pleasing throughout our monitoring meetings to note how much progress many of the children are making, and we are determined for this to continue throughout the remainder of the year.

You may have heard that there have been a considerable number of Covid cases in local schools – many of the town schools presently have a number of student and staff absences – and thus far we have remained relatively unaffected by this (touches wood). In just the past week, however, we have had a handful of cases in our Kingfishers and Frogs classes. Please do continue to regularly test the children (particularly in these two classes at present) to ensure that we do not also endure a full-blown outbreak. I know that everybody has different opinions on all matters Covid, but I think that we can all agree that we want the children in school, learning!

Below are some more news items and notices for your attention:

-Parents Evenings: These will take place on the first Tuesday and Thursday evenings after half term (the 15<sup>th</sup> and the 17<sup>th</sup>). Thank you for your responses to our survey. We will look to restore these meetings to in-person in the near future, however on this occasion they will be held over Zoom (due to there currently being a number of cases within school/ the local area).

-School lunch payment: From what I gather, we are one of the few schools in the area that offer a flexible school lunch offer in which your child is able to choose their preferences day-by-day, and you do not need to pay in advance. This approach has always seemed to work best for everyone, but of late there have been a number of families that have racked up relatively considerable debts - In one or two cases, the amount owed has become so high that we have had to withdraw the offer of school lunches until the balance is paid. This is not a comfortable conversation for anyone involved! Please do ensure that you continue to pay for school lunches in a timely fashion, so that we do not need to revert to a more rigid, choose-and-pay-in-advance system.

-Dandelions Assembly: Next Wednesday, we will be holding one of our termly 'Dandelions Assemblies' for our children who are part of service families. In these assemblies, we discuss matters that are pertinent to service children and provide them with opportunities to share their perspectives and experiences. The aim of these assemblies is to help the children to feel a sense of identity and pride at being a part of the service community, and in the past, we have found the children to be extremely mature and articulate in these assemblies. We ask all of our service families to please continue to communicate with us about any life events that are upcoming or taking place (e.g. mum/dad being deployed/ going away for a while etc.) as this helps us to tailor our approach in school to fit the changing needs of your child.

-Half Term Clubs and Activities: We continuously receive information about exciting opportunities for children during the half term break. As many of these are from private companies, we are

prohibited from putting these forward to you directly in newsletters/ emails. However, I invite you to take a look at our community noticeboard on our website for further details.

-World Book Day: I thought that it might be helpful for you to know that World Book Day this year is Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. We are looking forward to being able to celebrate it this year in-person, and have lots of exciting activities planned for the day. As always, children will be invited to attend in costume, and there is no particular book theme – the only rule is that children should only dress as characters from books (not video games, Fortnite etc). More information will be sent out about this nearer the time – this is just a heads up!

Thank you for your continuing support of our school.

Kind Regards

Mr Hawley