



# DEBDEN PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2022

Dear Parents,

Welcome back everyone, and to those of you who are new to our school, we wish you a warm welcome! It has been a lovely start to the term here at Debden – the children seem to have settled brilliantly after the summer break and the school feels even more vibrant and purposeful than usual.

**Below are a number of important information items and upcoming events for the start of term:**

**-A formal welcome to our new staff members:** Kimberley McPherson, Clare Anstead and Maria Day. Miss McPherson is our new Dragonflies class teacher and maths leader. She has already made a good impression on the children and the staff, and we are all picking up tips from her eye-catching displays – her classroom looks beautiful! Both Mrs Anstead and Mrs Day are joining us as classroom assistants. They are both enthusiastic and hard-working individuals, who are looking forward to getting to know all of the children.

-Debden joins the world in mourning for **the passing of Queen Elizabeth II**. I am sure that many of you are feeling a profound sense of grief at the passing of the Queen, and it is going to take a long time for many people to fully process the news. The world has lost a wonderful person. Owing to the children's age, amongst other factors, we have opted to keep our in-school reflections upon this passing relatively low-key. We held a 70-second silence at 9am in recognition of her 70 years of tremendous service, and the teachers have also held short information/ Q and A sessions this morning to help the children understand why she was so loved and why this is such a momentous occasion. We obviously held our fabulous jubilee celebrations in her honour just a couple of months ago, and we think that this will provide the children with a far more vivid and colourful memory of the Queen to carry with them for the rest of their lives. What a day that was!

-As yet, we have not heard anything further from the Department for Education regarding the funeral/ potential day of mourning etc. but we will keep you posted when we do.

-We found out over the summer break that, for personal reasons, **Mrs Hayden** will not be returning to Debden for the foreseeable future. She had a lot of beautiful things to say about the school and has had to make an extremely difficult decision. I know that all of the children, staff and parents think very highly of her, and her absence will certainly be felt. We wish her well, and hope to welcome her back to Debden at some point in the future.

-We are currently **recruiting for a midday assistant and a learning support assistant**. I hope to announce the arrival of some more new staff members in the next couple of newsletters.

**-A notice from Mrs Caperelli regarding Essex Primary Schools Hockey Development:**

This year we are hoping to enter the Essex Primary Hockey Development. The NW Essex Hockey Development Programme, hosted by Joyce Frankland Academy, provides hockey training to local primary schools in Autumn Term of the academic year and then an inter school hockey league in the following Spring Term. We believe that through sport and physical activity, every child can enhance their health and well-being, build confidence and learn life skills. Each session takes place on a Friday - starts at 15:45 and finishes at 17:45. This will run from 16th September to 9th December (excluding

23rd Sept). The cost for these sessions are £8 per child and is open to years 4,5&6 (cheques are made payable to NW Essex Hockey Development). The children must wear shin pads and gum shields. For us to be able to enter the league, we need parental support. This includes staying at the training sessions and supporting during training. If you are able to help with the team, please do let the office staff know by Tuesday 13th September.

### **FODS News**

At the end of last term, FODS ran a promotion for new sign-ups to Easy Fundraising to win a bottle of champagne. We are pleased to have 21 new supporters and the winner is Rebecca A. Please come and collect your prize from the school office.

Every time you shop online, you could be raising money for FREE for Debden Primary Academy at no extra cost to you. Sign up to easyfundraising and earn 0.5% for school on every Amazon purchase for example. So far, we have already raised over £1100 using easyfundraising so imagine how much more we could raise for our new playground if you signed up too.

It is so easy to sign-up and support our school for FREE. Sign-up today.

[www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/debdenprimary/](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/debdenprimary/)

### **Some upcoming dates for your diary**

- Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September - 14.50pm - First achievement assembly – parents welcome
- Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September - 9.30am – Harvest Service at the church – parents welcome
- Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October – Last day of half term 1
- Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October – First day of half term 2
- Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November – 5.00pm – 7.00pm – Parent Consultations (in person this year).
- Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November – 9.30am – Open Morning – if you know of parents who are looking for a school for their child for next academic year, please spread the word!
- Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November – 3.00pm – 5.00pm – Parent Consultations (cont.)

Thank you for your support of our school. I hope that you have a nice weekend.

Kind Regards

Mr Hawley

Head of School