



DEBDEN PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Friday 23rd September, 2022

Dear Parents,

I hope that you are keeping well and that your children are enjoying the start to term. Despite the somewhat solemn recent events and the shortened week this week, the children have been in good spirits and the teachers have remarked positively on their progress. You may have seen on our Facebook page that Mrs Cox and Mrs Bailey have put together a touching display dedicated to Queen Elizabeth II in the school hall – it is comprised of some lovely notes of thanks to the late Queen from the children – please do go and take a look when you get the chance.

Sports and trips: Developing sports at the school is one of our key priorities this academic year. We were recipients of the ‘Gold Sports Mark’ in the last academic year, but this year we want to do even more to help our children to live healthy and active lives.

We have signed up for a number of local sports events this term, including:

Date	Details	Class/ Staff	Location	Time
4 th Oct	Sports Ambassador Training	Year 6 (Cameron, Lily, Amelia and Amy)	Zoom	2-3pm
5 th Oct	Carver Barracks Athletics Track Opening	2 children from each year group	Carver Barracks	1-2.45pm
19 th Oct	Cross Country	KS2 (opt out)	Chrishall	9.30-11am
2 nd Nov	Dodgeball	Year 3/ 4 (2 teams)	JFan	1-2.30pm
3 rd Nov	Teddy Runs	Year R,1,2 Ducklings Minnows Dragonflies (year 2s)	School Playground	(AM) 20 mins slot each TBC
16 th Nov	Dodgeball	Year 5/ 6 (2 teams)	JFan	1-2.30pm
17 th Nov	Scooterbility	Year R, 1, 2 Ducklings Minnows Dragonflies (year 2s)	School Playground	(AM) 30 mins slot each TBC
17 th Nov	Archery	Year 3/ 4 (whole class)	School Field	9.30-10.45am
17 th Nov	Archery	Year 5/ 6 (whole class)	School Field	10.45-12pm
w.c 21 st Nov	Intra- House Hockey Tournament	Whole School	School Playground/ Field	TBC
30 th Nov	Sports Hall Athletics	Year 3/ 4 (whole class)	JFAN	1-2.30pm
1 st Dec	Santa Dash	Whole School	School Playground	TBC

Please note that each of the events off-site are subject to us being able to secure transport.

Please also note that transport costs of these events have also risen substantially over the past couple of years, and the school budget takes a sizeable hit even if all parents were to contribute. For this reason, it is vital that parents contribute towards travel costs where they are able to.

There are also a couple of trips and curriculum enhancement events coming up this term, which we will email classes about individually.

Contrary to what you may have heard, funding transport to sports events and trips are not what school grants - e.g. service premium/ catch-up funding - are ringfenced for (more info about what we spend this money on can be found on our website under ‘Pupil Premium’).

Whilst we are feeling the pinch at the moment, it is important to mention that school budgets are facing the same pressures in addition to multiple ‘squeezes’ and ‘freezes’ over the past decade – to the point where some schools are cancelling trips altogether or requesting a large balance payment from

parents at the beginning of each term. Please, if we want these activities to be able to go on throughout the year, do continue to contribute to share the financial burden of these events wherever you possibly can.

Reception Baseline: From next week, Mrs Caparelli and I will be conducting the Reception Baseline assessments. These assessments, whilst government-mandated, are very informal; it is unlikely that the children will even know they are happening! More information about these assessments can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reception-baseline-assessment-information-for-parents>

School Council: This week, we have held elections for our new multi-committee format student council! The announcement of the school council representatives will just miss the publication of this letter but do please look out for the assembly slides (if you can't make assembly in-person) which will share details of this. We look forward to working with our student council to further enhance school experiences for all children.

A reminder of these upcoming dates for your diary

- Friday 30th September - 9.30am – Harvest Service at the church – parents welcome
- Friday 21st October – Last day of half term 1
- Monday 31st October – First day of half term 2
- Tuesday 1st November – 5.00pm – 7.00pm – Parent Consultations (in person this year).
- Thursday 3rd 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 3rd November – 3.00pm – 5.00pm – Parent Consultations (cont.)

Once again, thank you for your support of our school. Have a lovely weekend.

Kind Regards

Mr Hawley

Head of School