



DEBDEN PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Friday 12th November, 2021

Dear Parents,

The first two weeks of the second half term has flown by, and as always there are details of lots of activities and events to update you on:

Remembrance Day: On Thursday, the children in our Kingfishers Class (Year 5 and 6) joined the local villagers, parents, and representatives from the British Legion and Armed Forces in remembering those from this parish who gave their lives in service of our country. They were integral to the event, planting crosses which bore the names of each of the parish members who had died, and we were delighted with their conduct and the level of respect that they showed throughout the service. In school, the children from the other year groups each had a short class assembly informing them about remembrance and the wearing of the poppy, before observing the two minutes' silence at 11am.

Field Trips: Currently, our blocked subject is Geography, and the particular units that the children have been studying are related to the local area. As a result, many of the classes have been on (or are arranging to go on) field trips into Debden and the surrounding areas. Here, they have been using maps and compasses to find different directions and locations, and they have been noting different human and physical geography features. If the visit is still upcoming for your class, please do ensure that they are dressed suitably, including wearing a coat on cold days, as we have had a couple of poor little souls who have returned to school freezing!

FODs: Many thanks to the FODs, who have as always have been working hard to help our school community over the past few weeks. Movie night was lots of fun and a record 74 children munched pizza and popcorn while watching The Croods 2. The FODs raised an amazing £274.67! In addition to this, the FODs were also on hand to welcome prospective new parents throughout our Open Morning, serving coffee and cakes. Thank you for continuing to support our school, FODs, it is hugely appreciated. On the topic of the FODs, they are currently recruiting some new members! If you are interested, please contact the school office, and we will be able to put you in contact with Mrs Clare Samson: the FODs chairperson.

FODs will once again be holding their amazing Christmas raffle. If anyone has any prizes that they would like to donate, please send them to the school office. Tickets will be sent out soon and the prizes will be drawn during the last achievement assembly of the term on Friday 10th December.

FODs have organised a clothing & shoe collection with Bag2School on **Thursday 18 November**. Bag2School collect good quality textile items for reuse and then give a payment to FODs based on the weight.

Bags need to be at school by 9am that day. Please leave your bags under the red gazebo that we will put up at the front of the school on Tuesday 16 November. Items that Bag2School accept are shoes (tied together please), clothing, belts, handbags, jewellery, household linen, curtains, bed linen, towels and soft toys.

They don't accept duvets and pillows and school uniform. School uniform can be donated to FODs for their second-hand uniform bank at any time. There is a full list here <https://bag2school.com/what-we-collect>

A reminder about the Christmas wreath making workshop, being held in the school hall on Tuesday 30 November at 7.30 pm with Alison Hare. Please contact the school office for more details.

Children in Need Ramble: On Friday 19th November, we will be supporting Children in Need by wearing spotty clothes and taking part in a whole school ramble starting at 9am (straight after registration). Children will be asked to make a donation of £1. We would love it if as many parents and younger siblings could come along for the ramble too (also for a donation of £1) and join the children for hot drinks and biscuits in the hall afterwards. Please remember to send your child/ren to school in warm (spotty!) clothes, coats and wellies. Please send in a pair of shoes to change in to afterwards.

Y3/4 Dodgeball: Last week, the Year 3 and 4 children attended a local dodgeball competition at Joyce Frankland Academy. They had great fun throughout the afternoon, whilst remembering the five D's of dodgeball - "Dodge, Duck, Dip, Dive and Dodge!" The staff who attended the event also complimented them on their excellent behaviour during the event – well done to all who participated!

Play Markings: Those who drop their children to school may have noticed that we have some new playground markings. Below are some pictures of the children enjoying the new markings at break and lunchtimes. Watch this space for more playground upgrades coming very soon!

Governor Vacancy: Mr Michael Adeleke has recently left his position as a Governor at the school, meaning that we have another vacancy available for a parent governor. This would be an excellent opportunity for somebody who would like to contribute to the continued development of our school. You would be joining a warm and close-knit bunch of governors, who are highly committed to ensuring that our school continues to thrive and develop. If you would like more information about this, please contact Mrs Lin Stephenson, the Chair of Governors, at l.stephenson@debden.essex.sch.uk.

On a final note, I'd like to extend a special thanks to Mrs Bailey (ably supported by Miss Matthews and the other teachers) who led the school whilst I was unwell last week. By all accounts, she did a superb job! I feel really fortunate that we have such a great staff team here at Debden.

Kind Regards

Mr Hawley

