



DEBDEN PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Friday 20th May, 2022

Dear Parents,

What a busy time it has been at Debden!

This week, we held our annual Wellbeing Week, which I know is always one of the children's favourite times in the school year. During Wellbeing Week, we participate in events and activities that help to build our physical and mental health, through our five wellbeing lenses:

-Monday - Be Active: Miss Matthews kicked off Wellbeing Week with a 'Wake Up, Shake Up' on the main playground. We were then joined by soldiers from Carver Barracks, who put the children through their paces on a specially-designed assault course. The children enjoyed wearing the 'camo facepaints' doing the silly warm up and getting to sit in the back of the army trucks!

-Tuesday - Learn A New Skill: Every staff member from the teaching and learning team ran a 'New Skill Workshop' with groups of 10-12 children from across the school. Examples of some of the new skills children learnt included photography, hockey, cross-stitch, musical keyboards, and dance. Mr Dale visited the school in the afternoon, to teach the KS2 children how to administer first aid.

-Wednesday - Be Mindful: We ran activities through the day encouraging children to consider their own mental health and also the wellbeing of others. We were aided in this by our partners from CORAM SCARF, who ran live online sessions with the children. Thank you also to everyone who brought in stationery items for children in Ukraine on Be Mindful day.

-Thursday - Get Creative: The teachers designed lessons that helped the children to get their creative juices flowing. We also held our 'Debden's Got Talent' competition, which included some really memorable performances from the children!

-Friday - Connect: Finally, on Friday, we considered how positive relationships with other people can help us to feel happy. The catering staff put on a lovely whole-school wellbeing picnic and there was a visit from an ice cream van in the afternoon. To end the week, as always, we celebrated the week in our achievement assembly.

We consider wellbeing week as one of the most important weeks in our school calendar. Not only do the children love it, but it helps them to reflect on the things in life that make themselves and others happy. They consider the personal qualities and skills that they can utilise to look after the social, emotional, physical and mental aspects of their lives. A huge thank you to Ms Weetch - who organised the whole week – for putting the schedule together, and for always being our wellbeing beacon across the school. Thanks also to the other members of our school community – the teachers, parents, soldiers and FODs who helped to plan and run some of the different events.

Below are some important news items and notices regarding recent and upcoming events:

Jubilee Events in School: Next Friday (20th May) we are running our Platinum Jubilee events in school. Information about this was sent to all parents a couple of weeks ago. To see the events taking place, please consult our correspondence on 6th May. It promises to be a brilliant best-of-British day!

SATs assessments: We deliberately placed our wellbeing events in the week after SATs – which can be quite a daunting and stressful proposition for some children. I am pleased to report that the children did really well in trying their very best in all of the assessments. Knowing how hard they tried, we will be proud of them whatever the outcome!

KS2 SATs results are sent to Headteachers in early July, and I will be happy to communicate these with Year 6 parents once I receive this communication.

In terms of the KS1 (Year 2) tests, these have already been marked internally. We will not be able to share these results, however, until they have been externally moderated by the Essex local authority – this takes place in mid-June.

Upcoming Assessments: I am afraid that the assessments do not quite end there! Towards the mid/end part of June, Year 1 children will be taking their phonics check, and the Year 4 children will be doing their multiplication check. Further information will follow for these parents. However, if you have a child in Year 4, please do encourage them to continue practicing their times tables and playing TT Rockstars!

Bus Stop at Carver: We've had some reports from those at the bus stop at Carver Barracks that, whilst waiting for the bus, some of the unsupervised children have recently been playing dangerously/ running in the road, etc. Disappointingly, from what has been reported to me, this is predominantly the older children. We will obviously address this with them in school, but this is taking place off the school site at a time when we are not responsible for the children's supervision. We appreciate that lots of parents have work, etc. but we do ask that if it is at all possible, please do escort your children to the bus stop and wait with them until they are safely on the bus.

Half Term: A reminder that next Friday is the final day of the half term. Monday 6th June is a non-pupil day, and so the children will return to school on Tuesday 7th June.

Thank you for your continuing support of our school. I hope that you have a lovely weekend!

Kind Regards

Mr Hawley

FODS JUBILEE AFTERNOON TEA



FRIDAY 27 MAY
3 TILL 4 PM
TEA AND CAKE £1.50