



DEBDEN PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Friday 1st April, 2022

Dear Parents,

It is difficult to believe that we are two-thirds of the way through the school year already, but here we are! It may have been a relatively short term when counting the number of weeks, but there have been so many challenges and events recently that I think we are all in need of a good break! We hope that you and your family get to spend lots of time together making memories this Easter.

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

-Community Spirit: Huge thanks to everyone who has helped us out across the school this term. There are too many people to thank, but a few special mentions:

-Thank you to Mr and Mrs Belchambers, who have helped us with our Health and Safety protocols and have completed maintenance works around the building when it has been needed;

-Thanks to all of the FODS for the events and activities that you have run this term (the Easter Egg competition this week appears to have been a particular success!)

-Thank you to the Icetons, who have helped us by transporting new furniture to our school;

-Thank you to Mr Lowry, who arranged for several of the soliders from Carver barracks to paint the library, the rear windows and the hall. It was so helpful and has saved the school thousands of pounds.

All of the above people, in addition to countless others, have helped the school to continue to grow and to thrive. I don't know what would have happened to the school over this past few years without all of your help and support. Thank you!

-Staffing: I am pleased to announce that we have now recruited a permanent teacher for the Dragonflies Class from September. More details about the teacher will follow once all of the post-recruitment procedures are completed, but I thought it was important to let you know that the vacancy has been filled by a really strong teacher, who we are excited to have joining our team!

I have been really pleased with the progress of the Dragonflies Class this half term. I would like to ensure that they have consistency for the remainder of the year and for this reason I will continue to be the main Dragonflies teacher until we break up in summer. We are fortunate to now have a really strong teaching team at the school - led by our senior teachers Mrs Bailey and Miss Matthews – and so we are taking this step in full confidence that other areas of the school will not be overly affected during the final term of the year.

-Competition Winners: A big congratulations to John house, who have become the back-to-back house champions this week! The end of the last week of term has proven exceptionally busy and so we will be ensuring that they get their prize/ treat on the first week back.

A big well done also to everyone who entered our Egg Decoration Competition! The winners are listed below and pictures are at the bottom of the newsletter.

Ducklings: Molly and Penny

Minnows: Reya and Benjamin

Dragonflies: Daniel and Pheobe

Frogs: Oliver and Romily

Kingfishers: Rose and Owen

Length of the School Day: You may have seen in the news that the minimum length of the school day has been increased by the government in their recent white paper. This will mean that (from September) the length of the school day will be increased by 15 minutes at Debden. I am delighted about this, as this is something that the governors, the academic team and myself have already been in discussions about over the past year – there seems to be universal approval that this would be a positive step for the school. More information on this will follow shortly.

-Return to School: A reminder that Monday the 18th April is a bank holiday and Tuesday 19th April is a staff inset day. Therefore, the children will return to school on Wednesday 20th April. We look forward to hearing about everything that they have been up to over the Easter break.

Thank you for your continuing support of our school.

Kind Regards

Mr Hawley

