

DEBDEN PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Friday 6th October, 2023

Dear Parents,

It has been another busy few weeks in school, with a plethora of exciting activities taking place across each of the classes. I have been really impressed when visiting the children in their classes at present; they are focused, purposeful and engaged, and this is leading to some fantastic progress being made. It has been an excellent first half term so far!

Harvest Service: We enjoyed a lovely in-school harvest service last Friday. The children sang hymns, presented artwork, songs, and poems, and joined in prayer to celebrate this season of thankfulness. As has become tradition, the service was led by our Kingfishers Class, who demonstrated strong reading skills, tone and expression in communicating the importance of harvest. Despite the absence of a permanent vicar/ church link to the school, we are already making plans to enable the Christmas service to proceed at the church as normal.

Theatre Performance: We were fortunate to experience a wonderful theatre performance of Oliver Twist last Monday. The children loved watching the highly-talented performers singing, dancing and acting before a backdrop of impressive sets, lighting and audio. We were so impressed with M&M theatrical productions that we have booked them in for another production next September!

European Day of Languages: On Tuesday 26th September, we celebrated European Day of Languages. I have no doubt that the children will have returned home excited about some of the different foods that they sampled (this is always the most popular part of the day!) Mrs Bailey also spoke to the children about the importance of learning different languages, and a number of their lessons across the day had a European Languages focus. Wunderbar!

Black History Month Competition: October marks Black History Month in the UK. We launched this with a special assembly on Monday, in which we discussed why BHM exists, in addition to learning about some influential black individuals from across history. Children now have the opportunity to enter our special competition! They simply need to research an influential black person - this could be someone famous, someone from their community, or even someone that they know personally - and produce a poster presenting their findings (complete with colour and photos/pictures please). We look forward to seeing some of the entries and presenting some prizes to winning entries in the last achievement assembly before the half term break.

FODS AGM: FODS held their first AGM in school this morning. It was a successful meeting and it was great to see some new faces. Please find attached their annual report. The committee has been elected as follows:

Chair – Clair Samson

Treasurer – Alison Hare

Secretary – Lilly Barker

Other Committee Members – Jodie Hodgson and Ann Palmer

Drum Lessons: We are sad to say goodbye to our drum teacher, Mr Stuart Pringle, who is moving on after teaching drums at Debden for over 10 years. We are really grateful to Stuart for being such a fantastic teacher and role model for the children – we have particularly enjoyed some of the shows and performances that his students have put on over the years! We have a new drum teacher beginning with us shortly, Tom Hancock, who is a close acquaintance of Stuart and comes highly recommended. If you are interested in drum lessons for your child, please contact the school office who can forward you Tom's details. All the best for the future, Stuart!

Drop-off: We've had a few occasions over the past few weeks in which staff have found children unattended in the playground before the school day has commenced. Of course, this is a significant safety risk, (especially for younger children) as the gates are open to allow other families in, meaning that the unattended children could leave the school premises undetected. Whilst we open the gates 5 minutes before the school day to prevent a large queue from forming towards the main road, the school day does not begin until 8.45am. Therefore, please ensure that your child is safely with an adult before leaving them in the morning.

Bus Pick Up: The bus company have requested that all parents collecting children from the bus stop on the barracks make themselves known to the bus escort as your child is brought forward. This is in the interests of safety as the new bus escort does not know who each child's parent is.

Some upcoming dates for your diary

- Friday 13th October – Newt's cake sale
- Thursday 19th October – Last day of Half Term 1 for the children.
- Friday 20th October – Staff Inset Day
- Monday 30th October – First Day of Half Term 2
- Tuesday 31st October and Thursday 2nd November – Parent Consultations
- Thursday 2nd November – Open morning for prospective parents
- Thursday 7th November – FODS Bag2School collection (details to follow)
- Wednesday 8th November – FODS Movie Night (KS1)
- Friday 10th November – Remembrance Events
- Monday 13th to Friday 17th November – Anti-Bullying Week
- Tuesday 14th November – FODS Movie Night (KS2)
- Friday 17th November – Children in Need – details tbc
- Sunday 26th November – FODS Christmas Fayre
- Thursday 30th November – Christmas Wreath Making – 7.30 pm

Wishing you all a great weekend!

Kind Regards

Mr Hawley

Head of School