

# DEBDEN PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school for spring half term 2 – we are over halfway through the academic year already! There are still a lot of exciting events and activities to look forward to across the school through the remainder of this year, many of which are taking place this coming term. A big thanks to everyone who continues to support our school and makes it the vibrant, buzzing place that it is. Please read on to here about some of the things that the children have been up to throughout this week and find out about some of the upcoming events and activities this term.

**World Book Day:** (notice from Mrs Caparelli). A reminder that Debden will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 2nd March. The children are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book character. Please don't forget the Debden Dressing up is available should you need it. If your child has PE on this day, they will not need their PE kit. We would like to invite parents to assembly at 2.35pm to share the children's wonderful learning from the day. A big thank you to those families who have kindly gifted books for World Book Day, there is a still time to do so. Please find our wish-list here: <https://amzn.eu/OjRldND> . We have already been fortunate to receive some fantastic new books from the list from generous parents. Lastly, Mrs Andrew will be making a book themed lunch, please find the menu attached. We are looking forward to an exciting day.

**Hockey Heroes:** (many thanks to Mrs Rewse-Davies for your match report and the support you have given to the hockey team).

10 members of the Debden hockey team headed out to JFAN on Wednesday to participate in a Hockey Tournament organised by Uttlesford School Sports Partnership. It was a fast-paced morning during which the children really did the school proud: they displayed some great hockey skills, worked brilliantly as a team and – best of all – supported and encouraged each other with real enthusiasm. They were a real credit to the school.



For those who like statistics, here are the highlights of our morning:

- We were one of 12 schools taking part and played 7 matches over the course of two hours
- Each match was 8 minutes long, and from the 10 player squad we had 7 on the pitch at any one time (3 of whom needed to be boys and 3 girls, plus one other of either gender)
- We won 1, drew 1, lost 5 and came a very respectable 6th out of 8 teams in our group, scoring 3 goals, and receiving 10 goals against

The full team is heading back to JFAN this afternoon for our penultimate match of the season, against Chrishall. We're hoping the tournament (and the extra training we've had from Mrs Bailey on Tuesday mornings – thank you!) will come together in another strong performance from our hockey stars. Watch this space!

**Ivy Todd Hill Speed Limit:** A reminder that the speed limit throughout Debden village (including the hill into the village) is 30mph. A number of residents have contacted us regarding the recent increased number of cars going significantly above the speed limit at both pick-up and drop-off times. Whilst

they are sure that this is not entirely families of the school, they have asked me to communicate this plea to all of our parents. There is no pavement coming up the hill, and many of the driveways have restricted visibility and so it is especially important that the speed limit is adhered to.

**Road Closure:** For those parents who drive to school, you may have seen the notification of a road closure in Ivy Todd Hill. You may remember that we have been here before, and the closure did not materialise – however we must assume that this time it will. This unfortunately means a long diversion through Wimbish and Thaxted to get to school. We are hopeful that they will let the school bus through as they promised previously.



**FODS Quiz:** Many thanks to all those who came to support the annual FODS quiz at Yuva last night (on Thursday 23rd February). We enjoyed a range of questions from our quiz master Martin covering geography, music, history, popular culture and much more! With “embarrassment” 😊 the winning team were the “HOPS” made up of some of the FODS team - not a fix, we promise! We were well fed and looked after, as usual, by the guys at Yuva. Well done to Ann who organised this event. Here’s a picture of the winning team.

**Facilities and Equipment Improvements:** You may have noticed a few changes around the school at the moment, as we continue to try and further improve the school environment for the children at our school.

-The Early Years garden has received a significant upgrade, with new year-round flooring (which is currently very bright red, but will blend in more as it settles!) and shade sails to ensure that children in our youngest classes can enjoy the outdoors even through the winter months.

-The wall near the oil tank has finally been fixed! A big thank you to Mr Watson for completing this work for us.

-The children’s toilet areas and the teachers’ meeting room have all received a fresh coat of paint, thanks to the soldiers from Carver Barracks. Big thank you to all of you for your help.

-Thanks to the FODs, we now have some shiny new netball posts out in the playground. The children have loved playing with these at breaktimes and in PE lessons.

-The library continues to be enhanced and is looking brilliant, thanks to Mrs Wilson and Mrs Samson.

Watch this space for a number of other facilities enhancement projects coming up over the next few weeks, including LED lighting across the school (using the government’s energy efficiency grant) and the improved outdoor trim trail equipment. The FODs are also purchasing a number of smaller items across the school.

A massive thanks to everyone who is helping our school through all of these projects!

### **A few more upcoming dates for your diaries**

**Industrial Action Days:**

Wednesday 1st March

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March

Thursday 16th March

As previously communicated, at present we do not anticipate that we will need to close any classes. However, this may be subject to change at late notice, and there may be some curriculum disruption on these days.

World Book Day: Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Children dress as their favourite book character.

Last Day of Spring Term B: Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March

First Day of Summer Term A: Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April

We are in the process of booking some curriculum enrichment trips and visits and will keep you posted with the details as they are confirmed.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Kind Regards

Mr Hawley

Head of School