

# DEBDEN PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2023

Dear Parents,

And just like that, the first half term has been and gone! It has been an excellent start to the school year, and I would like to thank all of the children, parents, staff and governors for helping to make our school such a vibrant, flourishing learning community. Below are some details of events and activities from around the school over the last couple of weeks, in addition to information about upcoming events after the half term break.

**Tree Planting at Carver Barracks:** This morning, the children from our Kingfishers class, in addition to the children from service families in Newts year 5, visited the Carver Barracks to plant some trees! 33 trees were planted to mark 33 Engineer Regiment's effort to conservation and sustainability. Our Eco-Heroes here at Debden, who are always keen to be ambassadors of environmentally-friendly projects, were only too happy to help. They planted a range of trees, including apple trees, cherry trees, Sibirica trees and Jonagold trees. They were also treated to a lovely lunch of burgers, salad and fruit. Many thanks to all of the soldiers down on camp who helped to organise and facilitate this fantastic opportunity for our children. For once, I even agreed to get my own hands dirty! Please see the pictures below.

**Bus Behaviour:** We are always really proud of the children's behaviour in school, but it appears that of late, this positive conduct has not been transferring onto the bus (particularly in the afternoon). Whilst a few children have been involved in more serious incidents, we have been told that the behaviour of the children as a whole is not what we would expect. A couple of weeks ago, the teachers spoke to the children in their class about this – and let them know that we are aware of some of the choices that they are making on their transport home. However, following some further incidents, this morning I have had a stern word with all of the children who go home on the bus (and have talked individually with children who we know have been involved in particular incidents). We are also in contact with the bus company about staffing. It is important to note that, whilst we are happy to support the children's behaviour out of school in any way we can, the children are not actually under our care when they leave the school premises. This is a separate transport agreement between the bus company, Essex and parents, and the bus company does reserve the right to refuse to transport children where there is a persistent pattern of negative behaviour choices. If your child travels on the bus, please help to support the message that we have given today, by also speaking to your child at home.

**Black History Month Competition:** Many thanks to the children for all of their wonderful Black History Month competition posters – we have had lots of truly fantastic entries! As October does not actually finish until the first week back, I have opted to extend the competition closing date to Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October. The rationale for this is that it will provide a lovely activity to keep them occupied for a couple of hours on a rainy day! If a child has already entered, they are welcome to put in multiple entries. We

look forward to judging the entries on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November and presenting some prizes to winning entries in the Friday achievement assembly.

**BagstoSchool:** On Tuesday 7th November FODS have organised a Bags2School collection. This is a great opportunity to have a good old sort out at home and make money for the school too. Items that can be donated are good quality shoes (banded together), clothing, belts, handbags, jewellery, household lined, curtains, bed lines, towels and soft toys. They do not accept duvets, pillows and school uniform. Any unwanted school uniform can be donated to FODS for their second hand uniform sales. There is a full list of what's wanted at <https://bag2school.com/what-we-collect>. All donations must be in school ready for collection by 9am on that Tuesday. Donations can be placed under the Debden gazebo at the front of the school. The more we collect the more the school will earn as it is done on weight.

### **Some upcoming dates for your diary**

- Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> November – Open Morning (for Reception 2024 parents).
- Friday 10th November – Remembrance Events
- Monday 13th to Friday 17th November – Anti-Bullying Week
- Friday 17th November – Children in Need – details will follow

Wishing you all a fantastic half term break.

Kind Regards

Mr Hawley

Head of School

