

DEBDEN PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Friday 18th October 2024

Dear Parents,

It has been another busy couple of weeks in school! Please see below for a round-up of what has been happening across our school in the last couple of weeks, in addition to some upcoming dates for your diaries.

Cross-Country

Due to the lack of transport available, we were unable to attend the cross-country en-mass as a school this year. However, a number of brave souls took part in the event independently with the support of their parents. This shows a real commitment to fitness and representing the school. There were also some fantastic results – well done to all of you!



Events and Visits

Lots more curriculum enhancement experiences have taken place over the past two weeks, including:

-Frogs visited Debden Church to learn all about the different parts of churches and their purpose/ symbolic meaning. Many thanks to the new incumbent, Rev'd Lynda Sebbage, and Ms Ursula Lyons, who gave up their time to support this learning opportunity for the children. Rev'd Lynda was very impressed by the children's curiosity and their thoughtful questions.

-Newts visited West Stow Anglo-Saxon village, to supplement their learning about Anglo-Saxons in history. The education team at the venue reported that the children were amongst the most knowledgeable and well-behaved that they had ever had at the village. Well done, Newts!

-We received a visit from the Essex Fire Service to give the children a talk about Fireworks Night and Halloween. They equipped the children with lots of information and guidance to ensure that they can stay safe and enjoy themselves throughout these special nights of the year.

Communications

We have had some feedback recently about a small group of parents not feeling informed/ connected with the school. I have found this rather surprising, to be honest, as I have always felt that this is a real strength of Debden - there are so many different ways that you can keep up to speed with everything going on in your child's education! The different channels are outlined below:

-*Headteacher newsletter* – sent via Parentmail to all parents every 2-3 weeks.

-*Class teacher newsletter* – sent via Parentmail every term.

-*School Facebook Page* – updated with in-school events and activities as they happen.

-*Admin Team Updates* – provided as and when needed.

-*Topic Web/ Knowledge Organisers* – sent via Parentmail every term.

-*Celebration Assembly* – every Friday at 2.45pm – all parents invited. We share what each class has been learning, in addition to announcing star of the week, children on gold, behaviour hero and house points. Slides are also sent out to all parents via Parentmail.

-*Parent-Teacher Consultations* – Take place every October and February.

-*Full Written Academic Reports* – Released every July.

-*Beginning/ End of Day* – Headteacher is on gate once per day, whenever possible. Class teachers/ LSAs can hold short discussions at drop-off/ pick-up (easier at the end of the day).

-*Intervention Letters/ OnePlan Meetings* – Further termly communications for those with additional learning support requirements.

-*SEND Coffee Morning* – Held by Mrs Bailey once per term as an opportunity for parents of children with SEND to meet and discuss any issues/ network with other parents.

-*Phonics/ Maths workshops* – Held once a year by teachers/ subject leaders to support learning from home in these areas.

Tapestry – Updated regularly with pictures and achievements for children in our Reception class.

Reading Journal – Used to communicate children's reading progress at home and in school.

In addition to all of these mediums, the school office is open anytime from 08.30am-3.30pm. If you cannot reach the office in person, you can call on 01799 540302, or email at admin@debden.essex.sch.uk. If you would like to make an appointment with your child's teacher to discuss their learning, please do so through the admin team.

Finally, I am always delighted to show parents (both prospective and existing) around our school. I love showing off what happens at the school day-to-day, and I think that the parents who take up this opportunity are always very impressed. If you'd like a school tour, please don't hesitate to make an appointment through the admin team.

A Note from Uttlesford Food Bank

“Everyone at Uttlesford Foodbank would like to thank the children, parents and staff of Debden C of E Primary Academy for your very generous Harvest Festival collection which weighed 115.42kg. This is enough to provide around 230 meals! How fantastic is that?”

Every month we hand out on average 5 tonnes of food which is the same as 10 baby elephants! Without the support of children and schools like yours and our amazing community, we couldn't do the work that we do. Harvest donations are so important to keep our shelves topped up after a busy summer and keep us going until all the Christmas goodies come in

We have been overwhelmed by the level of generosity. Above all, your thoughtfulness will provide so much hope and comfort to those people who are going through a difficult time and will help them while steps are taken to provide more permanent support.

Once again thank you so much for your generous donation.”

Kingfishers Cake Sale

FODS will be holding a cake sale after school on Friday. This time it is Kingfisher's turn to supply the cakes. Cakes will be 50p each. If your child travels home on the bus and they would like to buy a cake, please send them in with 50p and they will be given the chance to buy their cakes before the end of the day.

Key Dates for this Term

Friday 18th October – Kingfisher Cake Sale

Tuesday 22nd October and Thursday 24th October – Parent-Teacher Meetings

Friday 25th October – Final Day of Autumn Half Term 1

Monday 4th November – First Day of Autumn Half Term 2

Kind Regards



Matt Hawley

Headteacher