



Great Denham Primary School

Inspiring excellence; everyone, everyday

EXCELLENCE RESPECT COURAGE DETERMINATION FRIENDSHIP EQUALITY

Newsletter 5 – Spring Term

7th February 2020

A message from the head.....

It has been a busy week with lots of interesting things going on! We are looking forward to seeing parents next week at Parents' Evening, if you haven't booked your appointment yet please do so via the new booking system. Please can I remind you that children in Year 5 and 6 must attend with their parent.

Next week we break up for half term on Friday afternoon and After School Clubs will run as normal.

Hope you have a lovely weekend.
Denise Burgess

Follow the school on Twitter  @GreatDenhamPS

Parking near the school

Please do not stop on the yellow lines outside the front of the school, we have noticed a few parents have been doing this lately. The traffic enforcement officers do patrol regularly and will issue fines on the spot if you are caught doing so. If we spot cars doing this regularly, we will take down registration numbers and report the cars to the enforcement team.

Kingswood Way Gate

You may have seen comments from local residents on the community Facebook page regarding the issues surrounding parking and congestion around the school including dangerous and inconsiderate parking. As I have said on many occasions previously, the school is working with the council and the parish council to come up with a solution. Until this point I have not given details on what this may look like as I did not want to promise something that perhaps may not happen. However, as there have now been comments on the Facebook page and speculation, I thought it best to clarify the situation.

There are plans to have railings installed along Kingswood Way which will mean parents will be able to safely use the new pathway from the park and ride to the pedestrian crossing and across to the Kingswood gate. The railings will mean that children can wait outside the gate safely for it to open. As well as this, it is hoped that the railings will prevent parents parking in Muirfield and allowing their children to run across the road to the gate, as the quickest route to the gate will be via the park and ride and new pathway. We are awaiting confirmation from the council as to a date the railings will be installed and then once this is done we can reopen the gate.

Is your child at the early stages of learning to read?

Here is a link to an online course which will help parents and children with learning to read at home.

<https://www.udemy.com/course/help-your-child-to-read-and-write/>



This week's letters home – look for them in your child's bag or via ParentMail

REC - Kempston library visit (selected children)

REC - Languages Pilot Scheme

REC - Writing Workshop

REC - Marvellous Middle

Y5 - Girls Netball Trials

Pre-School - Term overview

Head Boys/Girls & Prefects -

Help at Parents' Evening

Break the rules day

Invoices for:

- After School Club
- Breakfast Club
- Friday Afternoon Club

REMINDERS

Office Closed 1.00-1.30pm

The school office is not manned between 1.00-1.30pm on Monday to Thursday. If your child has an appointment and needs to be collected from school at lunchtime they will need to be collected before 1.00pm or after 1.30pm.

Year 5 trip

Tuesday 11th February.

The coach will be leaving school at 9:00am so please ensure that your child arrives promptly for 8:30am through the school gates as usual.

The coach is due to return to school at approximately 4:00pm (dependent on traffic)

YEAR 1 & 2 UPDATE

Year 1

On Monday we came into our classroom and the eggs had cracked. Our dinosaurs were on the loose! Throughout the week our cheeky dinosaurs have caused all sorts of mischief. They even went into Mrs Burgess' office and had a party!



We have written dinosaur diaries to record what they have been up to around the school. As well as this, we have designed and created our very own dinosaur puppets using our sewing skills.

Year 2

The children in year 2 have been having a brilliant time learning about birds in their 'Up, Up and Away' project. We were so lucky to have Mick and his wife come in from the Raptor foundation with 7 of their amazing owls. The owls were from Asia, Canada and England. This really captured the children's inquisitive side and they took on board so much new knowledge about owls.



The children were lucky enough to stroke some of the owls. Nookie Bear was a huge owl that they have been looking after for 22 years; he was so gentle with the children. If you have a chance to, be sure to check out the raptor Foundation website and look at the incredible work they do for rare, injured and abandoned birds.

<https://raptorfoundation.org.uk>

This week the children have been creating some incredible art based on Nicole Zeug's animal eyes artwork. They have been exploring charcoal and mixing it with oil pastels. We have also had fun flying kites in preparation for building our own kites ready for our fabulous finish!



DIARY DATES

- **Tue 11th Feb** – Safer Internet Day
- **Tue 11th Feb** – Year 5 – Marvellous Middle – National Space Centre Trip
- **Tue 11th Feb** – 3:30-5:30pm – Aquila Parents Evening
- **Wed 12th Feb** – 4:00-7:00pm – Pre-School-Year 6 - Parents Evening
- **Thu 13th Feb** – 3:30-5:30pm – Pre-School-Year 6 - Parents Evening (not Aquila)

Year 5 & 6 Pupils to accompany their parents/carers to parents' evening meeting

- **Fri 14th Feb** – Break the rules day
- **Fri 14th Feb** – Midday – Closing date for Nursery class applications for September 2020
- **Fri 14th Feb** – Tuck Shop

HALF TERM

17th - 21st February

- **Mon 24th Feb** – Children return to school
- **Mon 24th Feb** – Y2 Marvellous Middle – Visitor
- **Tue 25th Feb** – Pancake Day Races
- **Tue 25th Feb** – Rec – Marvellous Middle – Adventure Day
- **Wed 26th Feb** – Y3/4 – Trip to Sherwood Forest
- **Thu 27th Feb** – 3:15 - 4:15pm – Y5 Netball Trials
- **Thu 27th Feb** – Shout out to SEND Conference
- **Fri 28th Feb** – 9.00-9.45am – Rec – Writing Workshop

Sports Update

Year 6 Netball team - Trip to watch Pre-season friendly Mavericks v Wasps - Wow - what an experience that we will never forget! We wanted to see a real netball match, so we decided to go and watch one. We had front row seats at this match so we didn't miss a thing. The girls watched in awe at the speed and skill shown by the players, three have been named in the England squad, and it was certainly a match full of excitement. The final score saw the Mavericks win 59-47, much to the delight of our girls!

After the match we were fortunate enough to meet some of the players and especially thrilled to meet Fisher (GS/GA) who didn't miss a shot the entire game!

Once again the girls were an absolute credit to the school and it was lovely to see their love for netball grow and for them to be so inspired! Special thank you to Mrs Boyce for driving the mini bus!

Year 5&6 Boys basketball FINALS - Yesterday the boys played in their last basketball fixtures, which saw them compete for one of the top 4 places in the league. The boys played Scott Primary in the semi-finals, which turned out to be a very close match. They worked hard to regain possession when they lost the ball and showed determination to score after going 2-0 down. A penalty was awarded and we scored 1 point from it, but unfortunately it wasn't enough to win us the game. We lost 2-1. This meant we then faced Brickhill Primary for the chance to take third place.

The play-off match was extremely fast paced, both teams wanted to finish third and were willing to play hard to win. We had a lot of possession throughout the game, but we just couldn't seem to score. Brickhill won 4-0, which meant we came 4th out of 8 teams.

We could not be prouder of the team who have showed so much improvement and potential week after week- Congratulations you are all stars!

It has also been so amazing to have so many parents/ carers and family come along and support us each week. A special thanks to Coach Waj (Husanin's brother who has coached the team) THANK YOU!

Team: Daniel P, Hasnain, Husnain, Haydar, Kevin, Ben, William & Daniel T, well done, we couldn't be prouder of you!

Year 5&6 Mixed Badminton Tournament - Thank you to the children who volunteered themselves to play in this event. Whilst many of them had not played badminton before, they showed that with super determination and a great attitude to new experiences, you can achieve! The children competed in singles matches, in teams. There were mixed results from all, which included defeats, draws and impressive wins!

Overall both teams came 4th out of 6 teams in their group fixtures. A great achievement!

Well done to our Year 5 players: Wanny, Isobel A, Micah and our Year 6 players; Husnain, Haydar, Zofia, Zuzanna and Kevin.

Year 5&6 Sports leader awards - Congratulations to our sports leaders who have been, and continue to be, excellent role models for the children at Great Denham Primary. Week after week they continue to lead lunchtime clubs, run intra-school competitions and some leaders have even been busy giving up their own free time, to assist during extra-curricular clubs.

Well done to these children for earning their bronze and/or silver awards:

BREAK THE RULES DAY

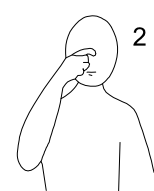
The Friends of Great Denham are holding a 'Break the rules day' on Friday 14th February. It would be lovely if the children would like to take part and break at least one school rule for the day! More details have been sent home this week.

LEARN MAKATON

This week



Brother



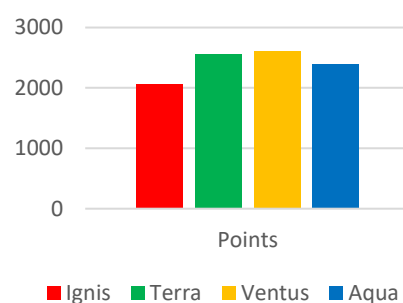
2 taps

Sister

Our attendance winner this week is Pegasus with 100%.

Our Family Points winner this week is Aqua with 245 points.

Family Points



Bronze:

Aqua leaders: Hasnain, Erin, Hannah, Flynn, Daniel B, Katherine and Ayan.

Ignis leaders: Husnain, Grace, Finton, Amy VF and Micah.

Terra leaders: Aleena, Sophia, Lily, Ismail, Leila and Caleb.

Ventus leaders: Jai, Niamh, wanny, Daniel T and Kevin.

Silver:

Aqua leader: Zofia

Terra leader: Zuzanna

Ventus leader: Daniel P

Next week's fixtures

Wed 12th Feb - Year 6 Girls County Cross Country race - Good luck Zofia and Zuzanna!

Stars of the week



Little Stars:

Scarlett & Leo.

Stars of the Week:

Cassiopeia – Kaliese, Orion – Edie,
Tucana – Maya, Aquila – Ayaan,
Cygnus – Aryan, Pavo – Niamh,
Volans – Isaac, Delphinus – Annie,
Pegasus – Mije,
Andromeda – Anayah,
Auriga – Amelia, Perseus – Rylee,
Eridanus – Marco, Vela – Luka,
Lyra – Olly, Lacerta – Maryam,
Circinus – Kevin.

Values:

Cassiopeia – Divya,
Orion – Summer, Tucana – Hugo,
Aquila – Milo, Cygnus – Marwa,
Pavo – Maryam, Volans – Anais,
Delphinus – Raqayyah,
Pegasus – Zachary,
Andromeda – Leo, Auriga – Yusuf,
Perseus – Anaya-Rose,
Eridanus – Veronika, Vela – Amelie,
Lyra – Nora, Lacerta – Maciej,
Circinus – Niamh.

Sports Stars of the Week:

Year 1 – William,
Year 2 – Samantha,
Year 3 – Tommy,
Year 4 – Musa,
Year 5 – Micah,
Year 6 – Husnain.



HM Government



CORONAVIRUS: PUBLIC INFORMATION

The Government and NHS are well prepared to deal with this virus.

You can help too.

Germs can live on some surfaces for hours.

To protect yourself and others:

- Always carry tissues with you and use them to catch your cough or sneeze.
- Bin the tissue, and to kill the germs, wash your hands with soap and water, or use a sanitiser gel.
- If you have arrived back from China within 14 days follow the specific advice for returning travellers.


This is the best way to slow the spread of almost any germs, including Coronavirus.

Find out more at [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)


Keeping Safe – Top tips for parents!

Further information regarding this app and the risks it poses to children. A reminder that children should not have this installed on their school iPad.

At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one platform of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.



TikTok is a video-sharing social media app available on iOS and Android which lets users create, share, and view user created videos much in a similar manner to Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat. It's main draw, however, is that users can record and upload bite-sized looping videos of themselves lip-syncing and dancing to popular music or soundbites, often for comedic effect, which can then be further enhanced with filters, emojis and stickers. TikTok has been designed with the young user in mind and has a very addictive appeal. At the beginning of 2019 it skyrocketed in popularity to become the iOS store's most downloaded app with over 33 million downloads. Estimates suggest that it now has anything between 500 million and over 1 billion monthly active users worldwide.



AGE RESTRICTION
12+
If under 18, supervision of a parent or legal guardian required.

What parents need to know about

TIKTOK

MATURE CONTENT

On the iOS store, TikTok is listed as 12+. On the Google Play Store it is rated as 'Parental guidance recommended'. When signing up for the app, it's possible to lie about your age without any form of verification. As children scroll through their feed, most of the videos they're likely to come across are light-hearted or funny takes on dance routines which are designed to make people laugh. However there has been a slew of videos which have been reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, self-harm and sexual content, including young teens dressing overtly sexually and behaving suggestively. Given the deluge of material uploaded to TikTok every day, it's impossible to moderate everything and it can be quite common to come across explicit content on the 'for you' feed when logging into the platform.

INAPPROPRIATE MUSIC

TikTok revolves around creating music videos through lip-syncing and dancing. Inevitably, some of the music featured by users will contain explicit or suggestive lyrics. Given the undeniably young user base, there is a risk that children may look to imitate the explicit language they hear or the suggestive actions they see when viewing others' videos on the app.

TIKTOK FAME

TikTok is very image focused and there is a notable preoccupation with appearing cool and attractive. Many teenagers now attempt to go viral and become what's known in-app as 'TikTok famous'. TikTok (and its predecessor musical.ly) has spawned its own celebrities – social media stars Loren Gray and Jacob Sartorius have been catapulted to fame through their initial exposure on the app. Obviously, most budding influencers looking to become the next big thing will be disappointed, but this may have the knock-on effect of making them go to more and more drastic lengths to get noticed.

ONLINE PREDATORS


As a social network, TikTok makes it easy to connect with other users. This includes the ability to comment on and react to other user's videos, follow their profile and download their content. Be aware that by default, any user can comment on your child's video if their account is set to public. Most interactions are harmless enough but as an app, TikTok is prone to predators because of the abundance of younger users.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Social media is designed to be addictive and TikTok is no different. It can be fun and hugely entertaining. However, it is also because of this that it can be hard to put down. In addition to the short, punchy nature of the looping video format, the app's ability to keep you guessing what will come on screen next makes it easy to turn a five-minute visit into 45-minute visit.

IN-APP PURCHASES

Aside from the content, there's also the option to purchase in-app extras called 'TikTok coins'. Prices range from £0.99 for 100 coins to an eye-watering £93.99 for 10,000 coins. TikTok coins are used to purchase different emojis to reward content creators that a user finds funny or entertaining. In the iOS version of the app you can disable the option to buy TikTok coins but this sadly doesn't seem to be a feature in the Android version.



National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Safety Tips For Parents

TALK ABOUT ONLINE DANGERS

Assuming your child is above the age limit to use the app, make sure you also take the time to talk to them about what they are seeing on the app. Have a dialogue, get them to give you their opinion on what is appropriate and model the correct behaviour for them. Go over why they shouldn't give out private information or identifiable photos and be positive and understanding of them. In the long run, getting them to think critically about what they're seeing goes a long way to keeping them social media savvy.

USE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Undoubtedly, the easiest way to safeguard your child on TikTok is to make sure their account is set to private. This means only those users your child approves can view, like, and follow their content. Setting the account to private may clash with your child's goal of social media superstardom, but it will keep their account secure from strangers. This setting can be enabled under the privacy and safety menu by pressing the ellipsis in the 'me' tab of the app. To be extra safe, there are additional controls available to toggle such as who can send comments and messages, among other options.

ENABLE RESTRICTED MODE

In the digital wellbeing section there's the ability to turn on restricted mode using a PIN. Restricted mode filters out content that is not age appropriate although it should be noted that this isn't always 100% fool proof. When enabling restricted mode, parents should still be vigilant to what their child is watching and take note that the algorithm moderating content is not infallible.

EXPLORE AND LEARN YOURSELF

Understanding and learning the app yourself is a great way to get to grips with TikTok. You could then even use the app with your child and watch some videos with them. If you are the parent of a teen, even if it does not make you popular, keep a close eye on what they're viewing and sharing. That said, it's a brilliant chance to turn it into a bonding opportunity with your child also. You could even unleash your inner performer and make videos with them while (more importantly) keeping them safe online.

LEARN HOW TO REPORT AND BLOCK INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT


With the proper privacy settings in place, TikTok can be a safe space for your child to express themselves. However, just in case something does manage to slip through, make sure your child knows how to recognise and report content that isn't appropriate and get them to come to you about what they have seen. TikTok allows users to report offenders and comments within the app. You can also block individual users by going on their profile.

MODERATE SCREEN TIME

As entertaining as TikTok is, you can help your child moderate their time on the app by making use of the digital wellbeing section. Under the screen time management option, you can limit the daily allotted time allowed on the app in increments ranging from 40 to 120 minutes. You can also lock this preference behind a PIN number which has to be inputted in order to then exceed the daily time limit. This way your child can get their daily dose of memes without wasting away the day.

Meet our expert

Pete Bath is a writer with over 10+ years in research and analysis. Working within a specialist area for West Yorkshire Police, Pete has contributed work which has been pivotal in successfully winning high profile cases in court as well as writing as a subject matter expert for industry handbooks.



SOURCES:

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter - @natonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 06.01.2020

LOCAL EVENTS & ADVERTS



Great Denham Dinkies

New baby and toddler group starts Friday 28th Feb 2020
Great Denham Community Hall 9:30 – 11:30
First child £2 additional children £1



EVERY FRIDAY **£5.00 ADMISSION**
6PM - 7PM **@ GREAT DENHAM**
COMMUNITY HALL

THE SINGING
DIVA

SING LIKE YOU'VE NEVER SUNG BEFORE!

COME AND JOIN AN HOUR OF FUN SINGING POP
SONGS WITH THE VOCAL COACHING GUIDANCE OF
PROFESSIONAL INDUSTRY SINGER RENAE RAIN
CALL 07960028214 TO
BOOK YOUR PLACE



'Church' with a difference!

3.30pm - 5.30pm

St James's Church Barn, Biddenham

Tuesday 21 January

Tuesday 25 February

Tuesday 17 March

Tuesday 21 April

Tuesday 19 May

Tuesday 16 June

Tuesday 7 July

Tuesday 15 September

Tuesday 20 October

Tuesday 17 November

Tuesday 15 December

Free - No need to book - Just come along after school!

Everybody Welcome!

Includes tea for the children

St James's Church, Biddenham



BOOK YOUR FREE TRIAL

Interested to meet our team and discuss your child's needs? Want your child to see the centre in action? Then try Explore for free.

Call us on 01483 447414 or head to explorelearning.co.uk to book a free trial in your local Explore Learning centre.

HURRY

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centres
nationwide

FIRST 50 SAVE £50*

Offer ends 29th February 2020

*The first 50 members to join their local Explore Learning centre will save £50 off their membership. For full terms and conditions, visit explorelearning.co.uk/offer. Participating centres only.



Trustpilot
Rated 'Excellent'
★★★★★

AWARD-WINNING MATHS & ENGLISH TUITION

explorelearning.co.uk



AWARD-WINNING MATHS & ENGLISH TUITION

Helping your child reach their potential



★★★★★
“This is the best thing we've ever done for our son's education.”
Reviewed on Trustpilot



1 YEAR'S PROGRESS
in
28 HOURS

Skills for life, not just for tomorrow

Members at Explore Learning make one year's worth of progress in 28 hours of tuition*. But our support has always gone beyond a quick win with spelling or moving up a set in maths.

We inspire children to be fearless learners: confident, bright, determined and ready to tackle anything. Explore Learning gives children skills for life, not just for tomorrow. We've won countless awards, been voted 'Best Tuition Provider in the UK' and rated 'Excellent' on the independent review site, Trustpilot.

*Based on Explore Learning members' average scores in National English.

Trusted by parents, loved by kids

Our incredible people make a huge impact on the lives of our families.

Not only are they passionate and inspiring role models for your child, they will also help you to navigate the ever-changing education system with confidence.

*2019 Ofsted report rated Explore Learning Tuition Service 'Very Good' and 'Very Good' respectively.

Keeping you in the loop, every step of the way

Every parent wants their child to succeed, to flourish at school and to achieve academically.

Unlike other tuition providers, you'll get feedback on your child's progress after every single session. Not to mention, regular parents' meetings throughout the year. This means we can stay on track with helping them achieve their goals.