



# Great Denham Primary School

*Inspiring excellence; everyone, everyday*

EXCELLENCE . . . . RESPECT . . . . COURAGE . . . . DETERMINATION . . . . FRIENDSHIP . . . . EQUALITY

Newsletter 4 – Spring Term

31st January 2020

## A message from the head.....

This week we had our annual review of the project based curriculum and I am very proud to say it was a great success.

Some of the highlights were: behaviour for learning; how confident our children are in talking about their learning; their ability to critique their work; stunning immersive room environments; the staff relationships with the children and how ingrained our ethos is across the school. We are so proud of all the staff & children for all their hard work.

Please join me in welcoming Logan who joined Cygnus class this week.

Hope you have a lovely weekend.  
Denise Burgess

Follow the school on Twitter  @GreatDenhamPS

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

Parents' Evening

Y4 Bikeability

Y5/6 Netball match trip

Badminton Tournament

Pre-School Term update

Pre-School Curriculum Map

## RECEPTION UPDATE

Reception have had a very exciting start to the spring term and our new project 'Into the woods'. The children were very excited when they came in to find that their classrooms had been transformed into magical woodlands full of cosy spaces and sparkly lights. Our Stunning Start teddy bears picnic was lots of fun and then children enjoyed making their own biscuits and sharing them with their special bear. Over the last block we have been exploring the book Goldilocks and the Three Bears and the children have been writing letters to Goldilocks asking her to say sorry to the Bears for going into their house. This term we have also started sharing 'helicopter stories'; this is a time we set aside each week for the children to perform stories they have told. They tell their teacher the story, who scribes it, and then at the end of the day they all get the opportunity to perform in each other's stories.

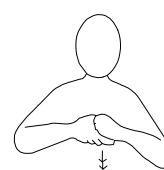


The children love it, perhaps we have some future writers and performers amongst our children!



## LEARN MAKATON

This week



Friend



Family

## REMINDERS

### Payments

With 531 pupils now in the school please ensure you label any money coming into school with your child's full name, class, amount & what the payment is for. This will ensure that money brought in is allocated to the correct pupils account.

Our attendance winner this week is Lacerta with 98.3%.

# Sports Update

**Year 2 OAA competition run by our Sports leaders** This week 16 of our sports leaders ran an orienteering and problem solving competition for our year 2 children. The children competed in their families with their family leader. It was wonderful to see the younger children so motivated to compete and listen to their leaders. Our fabulous leaders flourished in their roles as role models. They demonstrated great confidence, enthusiasm and pride. Well done!



Congratulations to these year 2 children who were selected by our leaders for showing one of our the Sports games values; Flora, Tami, Kawthar, Harvey, Lewis & Brayden

**Year 6 Boys and Girls District Cross Country Competition** Our runners took part in a race against other year 6 and 7 pupils from schools across North Bedfordshire. The event was held at Sharnbrook Upper School and saw the children run a tough course, round a muddy farmer's field, in cold and windy conditions. The girls ran a distance of 2.8km and the boys 3.1km, pretty tough at the best of times, without the mud!

Well done to our determined runners who completed the course, they are; Hannah, Grace, Zofia, Zuzanna, Isabelle F, Ben, Finton, Flynn & Hasnain.

*\*Special congratulations goes to Zofia who finished an impressive 9th and Zuzanna who came 17th in their race, which means they will represent North Bedfordshire at the County Cross Country race on Wednesday 12th February at Ampthill park. Good Luck girls!*

## DIARY DATES

- **Wed 5<sup>th</sup> Feb** – 2:30pm – Reception – Parents Invited for Cakes and Stories
- **Tue 11<sup>th</sup> Feb** – Safer Internet Day
- **Tue 11<sup>th</sup> Feb** – Year 5 – Marvellous Middle - National Space Centre Trip
- **Tue 11<sup>th</sup> Feb** – 3:30-5:30pm - Aquila Parents Evening
- **Wed 12<sup>th</sup> Feb** – 4:00-7:00pm – Pre-School-Year 6 - Parents Evening
- **Thu 13<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> Feb** – Midday – Closing date for Nursery class applications for September 2020

## Stars of the week



### Little Stars:

Elizabeth & Kayhan

### Stars of the Week:

Cassiopeia – Alexander, Orion – Victoria, Tucana – Emily, Aquila – Anaya, Cygnus – Madeleine, Pavo – Harry, Volans – Finley, Delphinus – Robert, Pegasus – Hollie, Andromeda – Julia, Auriga – Ameera, Perseus – Bandile, Eridanus – William, Vela – Amy, Lyra – Kaif, Lacerta – Isah, Circinus – Grace.

### Values:

Cassiopeia – Jai, Orion – Alaa, Tucana – Elsie, Aquila – Alex, Cygnus – Finley, Pavo – Sam, Volans – Flora, Delphinus – Elsie, Pegasus – Ken, Andromeda – Isabella, Auriga – Ophelia, Perseus – Fathima, Eridanus – Ahmed, Vela – Swayley, Lyra – Sophia-Grace, Lacerta – Abu Bakr, Circinus – Kambi.

### Year 6 Boys Basketball match

Our final 2 matches this week were our best yet. The boys attacked with dedication and were exceptionally quick to react and defend strongly. The players have grown in confidence, in themselves and as team, week after week so it is with great pleasure to announce their two wins! The results were 6-4 against Westfield A team and 4-2 against Castle Newnham. Well done boys we are so proud of what you have achieved!



Congratulations to our players of the match - Hasnain and Ben!

### Year 6 Girls Netball team Preseason friendly Mavericks vs Saracens

Tomorrow we will be watching our first professional netball match at Hertfordshire University. The girls are extremely excited to watch real players in action. Look out for our match report in next week's sports bulletin!

**Lunchtime Sports clubs** This week has been a huge success with clubs being over-subscribed! Our sports leaders continue to show great passion towards promoting participation and leading their own clubs. Well done leaders!

Tuesday - Year 3/4 High 5 Netball, Year 5/6 Dodgeball

Thursday - Year 3/4 Football, Year 5/6 Basketball

Friday - Year 3/4 Fitness, Year 1/2 Multisports

### Next week's fixtures

**Tue 4th Feb** - Year 5/6 Boys and Girls Badminton competition AWAY at Alexander Sports Centre

**Tue 4th Feb** - Year 5/6 Hockey Teams training session after school

**Thu 6th Feb** - Year 5/6 Boys basketball FINALS - Venue TBC via parentmail

Reminder: Please can we ensure children are wearing the correct Great Denham PE kit and that it is in school everyday.

### Sports Stars of the Week:

Year 1 : Cleusia

Year 2 : Braden

Year 3 : Charlie

Year 4 : Surel


Year 5 : Wanny

Year 6 : Isabelle





# LOCAL EVENTS & ADVERTS



**'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





Confidence



Coordination



Concentration



PERFORM<sup>®</sup>  
WATCH YOUR CHILD SHINE



Communication

GREB210220

# Confidence Building Fun

Try a **FREE** drama class

Drama, dance and singing for 4–12s

Visit [perform.org.uk/free](http://perform.org.uk/free) to book a FREE class

**Perform Bedford**

Saturdays at 9.30am - Trinity Arts And Leisure, Bromham Road, Bedford, Bedfordshire, MK40 2BS

**Perform Bletchley**

Saturdays at 2.30pm - St Andrew's Baptist Church, St Andrew's Rd, Bletchley, Milton Keynes, MK3 5DR

**Perform Heath And Reach**

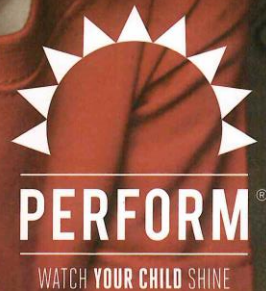
Tuesdays at 4pm - St Leonards Church Hall, Leighton Road, Heath And Reach, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 0AA

**Perform Hitchin**

Wednesdays at 4pm - Church House Hall, Church Yard, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG5 1HP

**Perform Harpenden**

Saturdays at 9.30am and 11.15am - Harpenden United Reformed Church, Vaughan Road, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, AL5 1ED



PERFORM<sup>®</sup>  
WATCH YOUR CHILD SHINE