



Great Denham Primary School

Inspiring excellence; everyone, everyday

EXCELLENCE RESPECT COURAGE DETERMINATION FRIENDSHIP EQUALITY

Newsletter 2 – Spring Term

17th January 2020

A message from the head.....

The children are now settled back into the school routine and have been immersing themselves in this terms projects.

Congratulations to **Ignis** family for winning the family points for the autumn term.

Please join me in wishing Mr Etheridge all the best in his new career when he join the police call handing centre, his last day will be Friday 24th January.

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

Diary Dates
Year 3 & 4 Trip
Year 5 Trip
Young Voices – Final
Arrangements
Debt Recovery Policy

YEAR 5 & 6 UPDATE

Year 5

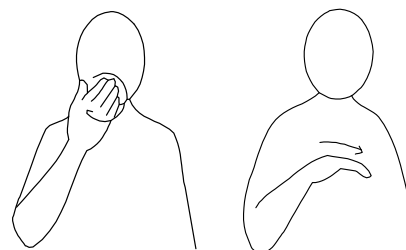
Year 5 have had a super start to the year and seem enthralled by their new project. So far, we have embarked upon rigorous astronaut training where we were tested on our skills of logic, problem solving, reasoning and agility; we have created some superb art work and started our new key text, George's Secret Key to the Universe. As well as this, we have tasted astronaut food and discovered a mysterious object on the school field!



This week, we have been introduced to our key question, 'Is technology really a giant leap for mankind?' and already the children are showing their enquiry skills and discussing their initial thoughts and opinions.

From this, we have written some big questions and we are looking forward to finding out as many answers as possible as we continue on this exciting learning journey together.

LEARN MAKATON This week



School

Home

REMINDERS

Assembly – Y5/6

Wed 22nd Jan – 2.30pm

Parents & Carers of children in Year 5 & 6 are invited to watch a sample of songs which will be performed at the Young Voices concert next week.

Uniform

Please ensure your child has the correct footwear for school. Fashion boots are not part of the school uniform. Our school uniform policy is available on our website or from the school office.

Next week we are excited to welcome a special visitor from the University of Cranfield (a student of aeronautics!) who is going to tell us all about forces.

We are very much looking forward to our upcoming trip to the National Space Centre in Leicester on the 11th February. Please look out for the information letter which has been sent home this week. Please return the reply slip as soon as possible to secure your child's space.

Year 6

At the end of last term, Y6 children entered their classroom to find a Christmas tree.... of books! They were very excited to find out that they had been given numerous new books for their classrooms. From books based on Alice in Wonderland to the Guinness book of records, there was something for everyone. We hope they enjoyed their read over the Christmas holidays and we look forward to seeing which book they choose next.



Since then, Year 6 have become fully immersed in their new project 'Ancient Greece'. The children have learnt which continent and hemisphere Greece lies in and some of the children shared their experiences of visiting Greece. After locating Greece, we placed the period on a 'tape measure timeline'. We discovered that it began longer ago than we first thought!



During our stunning start, the children received a mysterious note, written with the Greek alphabet, from a character called Elliot. He asked the children to answer some key questions in order to go on a journey with

him. To help with our research, a historian came into school. The children enjoyed their day - wearing costumes and masks to role play some of the myths and legends which were important to the Greeks.

More recently, the children were shocked to find a cow shed in the middle of their classroom! There were hanging stars, a glittery constellation and lots of copies of 'Who Let the Gods Out?' hanging from the ceiling. They quickly discovered that this book was our key text for the term. The children came up with some fabulous predictions of what could happen in the book and we have just begun reading the first few chapters. Next, we shall explore and analyse the key characters of the book including: Virgo, Pices and Mr Sopweed. This will support us in writing a diary entry in the shoes of Elliot, the main character.

Alongside our project, Year 6 have been practicing the songs and actions for our Young Voices concert at O2. We can't wait for the show next week and look forward to seeing lots of you there!



DIARY DATES

- **Monday 20th January** – Year 5 – Visitor from Cranfield University
- **Tue 21st Jan** - 2.15pm Y6 SAT's info meeting
- **Wed 22nd Jan** – 2.30pm Y5/6 Young Voices Assembly for parents of children in Y5/6
- **Thu 23rd Jan** – Y6 Young Voices concert at the O2
- **Fri 24th Jan** – Rec - Chinese New Year (children only)
- **Mon 27th Jan** – Reception – Vision Screening (morning)
- **Tue 28th Jan** – 1:00-3:00pm – Intra Sports Hall Competition (selected children only)
- **Wed 29th Jan** – Pre-School – Non School Uniform day (adopt a Koala in Australia)
- **Thu 30th Jan** - 5.30pm Y6 SAT's info meeting
- **Wed 5th Feb** – 2:30pm – Reception – Parents Invited for Cakes and Stories
- **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** – Midday – Closing date for Nursery class applications for September 2020

Sports Update

Year 5/6 Hockey trials Well done to all of the year 5 and 6 children who tried out for our hockey team this week. There were over 25 children who attended! Mrs Burgess and Miss Dix have selected the team and this will be communicated to the children next week.

Year 5/6 Boys Basketball Match Wow, wow, wow! This week the boys played two matches and played outstandingly! They worked hard to improve their passing, react quickly between attack and defence and jump for rebounds. There was an amazing amount of self-belief within the team and this made such a difference to their play.

The boys won 10-2 against Westfield B team and drew 4-4 against Brihill Primary. Well done to everyone!

Congratulations to our players of the match William and Daniel.

Thank you to all of the parents and family who came along to support us, it was lovely to see so many of you and it created a wonderful atmosphere for our team.

Lunchtime clubs and family competitions Next week our Sports Captains and leaders will launch their exciting lunchtime clubs and competitions for different year groups to join in with.

Here is a taster of what is on offer for this half term:

- Tuesday - Year 3/4 High 5 Netball and Year 5/6 Dodgeball
- Thursday - Year 5/6 Basketball and Year 3/4 Football
- Friday - Year 3/4 Fitness and Year 1/2 Multisports

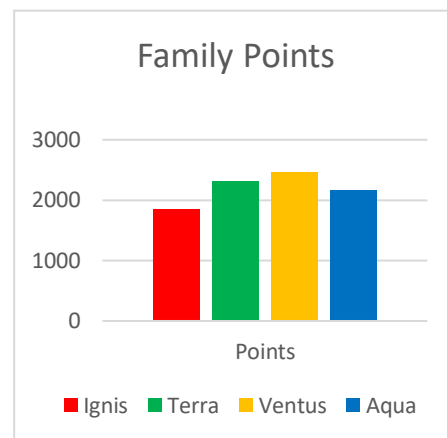
We look forward to sharing some photos with you next week.

Next week's fixtures

Thursday 23rd January- Year 5/6 Boys basketball - NO MATCH due to Young voices concert.

Our attendance winner this week is Lyra with 100%.

Our Family Points winner this week is Ignis with 106 points.



TIMES TABLES ROCKSTARS ACCELERATED READER

We are currently working with our School Council to develop a prize and initiative scheme to reward the use of Times Tables Rockstars and Accelerated Reader. We would like to offer a reward for children's continued hard work in the form of a voucher which will be gifted to classes each month. In order to do this, our School Council are looking for local organisations or businesses who would be willing to donate a one off cash donation of £30. To thank you for this, we would ensure that the organisation receives a month of free advertising on our newsletter and Twitter page. If this is something you feel you would be able to help us with, please speak to Mrs Burgess, Mrs Swanepoel or pop into the office.



In conjunction with Harper Collins Big Cat books.

Help our school collect 3,500 tokens to apply for **FREE** books.

Between 23rd November 2019 and

18th January 2020 The Sun newspapers printed tokens in their Newspapers, just bring them into school and we will do the rest.

Stars of the week



Little Stars: Amber & Theo

Stars of the Week:

Cassiopeia – Sebastian, Orion – Abdul-Basit, Tucana – Joseph, Aquila – Max, Cygnus – Lucas, Pavo – Melody, Volans – Hugo, Delphinus – Mia, Pegasus – Saheim, Andromeda – Romaine, Auriga – Surel, Perseus – Abu Dawood, Eridanus – Kian, Vela – Swayley, Lyra – Addison, Lacerta – Husnain, Circinus – Erin.

Values:

Cassiopeia – Tommy, Orion – Amiya, Tucana – Evelyn, Aquila – Jordon, Cygnus – Lewis, Pavo – Reuben, Volans – Catalina, Delphinus – Lewis, Pegasus – Clarabella, Andromeda – Joe-Joe, Auriga – Chloe, Perseus – Nardo, Eridanus – Lemar, Vela – William, Lyra – Olly, Lacerta – Ayana, Circinus – Grace.

Sports Stars of the Week:

Year 1 - Poppy (Pavo)

Year 3 - Julia (Andromeda)

Year 5 - Marco (Eridanus)

Year 2 - Samantha (Volans)

Year 4 - Orlando (Perseus)

Year 6 - Lilly (Lacerta)



LOCAL EVENTS & ADVERTS



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