



Great Denham Primary School

Inspiring excellence; everyone, everyday

EXCELLENCE RESPECT COURAGE DETERMINATION FRIENDSHIP EQUALITY

Newsletter 1 – Spring Term

10th January 2020

A message from the head.....

Welcome back and Happy New Year to all our families! I do hope you had a restful and enjoyable holiday. The children have come back to school refreshed and keen to learn. It has been a very busy first week back! The children in each year group have enjoyed a variety of different Stunning Starts including a trip to Rushmere Woods for Years 3 and 4 and a Greek day for Year 6 to name just a few! The teachers and support staff have worked tirelessly to create stunning immersive classrooms for the children to return to school to - please do pop your head into the classroom and take a look or have a look on our school twitter account for photos!

On Wednesday children in Reception - Year 4 enjoyed a fantastic performance of Cinderella by M and M productions in school. In the afternoon our Year 5/6 children went to Milton Keynes theatre to watch Aladdin. It was a fantastic show with the highlight being myself, Mrs Winton, Mrs Harwood-Bowles and Miss Bliss being called up on stage to show off our instrument playing skills!



This week we welcome Mrs Knox to our teaching team - Mrs Knox is an experienced teacher and joins us from Goldington Green Academy and is the class teacher for Andromeda class.

We also have welcomed two new children this week, Jordan to Aquila class and Aseel to Auriga class.

Hope you have a lovely weekend.
Denise Burgess

Follow the school on Twitter  @GreatDenhamPS

LOST PROPERTY

At back of the hall - from Monday 13th January – Please check to see if anything belongs to your child.

Anything not claimed will be recycled or disposed of.

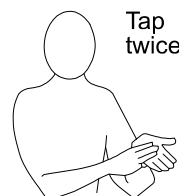


This week's letters home
– look for them in your
child's bag or via
ParentMail

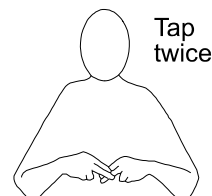
Theme Day Lunch Menu
Pre-School Funding Form

To follow next week:
Spring Term Diary Dates
Curriculum Maps
Take Home Tasks
Year Group Term Updates

LEARN MAKATON This week



Mum



Dad

REMINDERS

Y5/6 Hockey Trials

Tues 14th Jan 3.15-4.15pm

Children will need to wear shin pads for the trials. If selected for the team children will also need a mouth guard, but for the trials a soft ball will be used.

Jigsaw PSHE Programme

This week we launched a new programme in school for PSHE (Personal, Social & Health Education) called the Jigsaw Programme. The staff received training on this during our inset day last week and will be teaching weekly sessions with each class on the termly theme. Each year group has a puzzle piece character that supports them throughout their PSHE journey. This term the whole school theme will be 'Celebrating Difference' which links nicely with our value of equality. This programme will be used weekly in all year groups and will replace our annual Feel Good Week.



Keeping Safe – Top tips for parents!

TikTok

Parent / Carer Advice

What is TikTok?

TikTok is a social media app where users share short video clips of 15 seconds duration. It started out as an app named 'Musically' and was used to share videos of dancing and lip-syncing to music. Much of the content on TikTok still reflects these origins, but popular videos now also include pets, makeup, magic tricks, fashion, art, people reacting to situations, etc. According to OSA research, TikTok is now as widely used by 11-14 year olds as Snapchat and Instagram.

Safety Tips

- As with all Internet activity, talk to your child about how they use TikTok and any issues they have encountered.
- Discuss whether it would be best to change your child's account to private so avoid interactions with non-friends. If you agree to keep the account public you should discuss strategies for coping with negative feedback and for blocking users.
- Help your child to spring clean their account from time to time by removing videos you agree to be inappropriate.
- Ensure your child knows not to post videos in their school uniform. Also discuss how recording videos at school might break school rules and what the consequences could be.
- The TikTok settings allow you to set a time limit for how long each day you want your child to be able to use the app. This can be password protected to ensure they stick to the limit.

Reasons for concern

- TikTok has a minimum age rating of 13 and anybody under 18 should have parental permission to use the app. However, new users simply enter a date of birth to indicate their age and there are no verification steps. As such, children of any age can create an account by using a false date of birth.
- New users will be shown a range of video clips the app feels may be of interest. Many of these will quickly expose users to offensive language which will be inappropriate for children.
- The clothing worn and the type of dancing in some videos could be deemed sexualised and therefore something that might be inappropriate for younger users to be exposed to.
- The default privacy settings in the app are concerning. Although only friends can send users direct messages, the videos posted by users can be seen by anybody and anybody can like / comment on the videos. New users are also available for anybody to perform a musical duet with. Such default settings can leave children vulnerable to unwanted communication from others.
- Many children in the UK are posting videos to TikTok where they are wearing their school uniform, making it possible for strangers to identify their location.
- The nature of videos children are posting to TikTok (singing, dancing, etc) can leave them vulnerable to receiving negative comments which can have an impact on mental health.
- The company that owns TikTok is facing legal issues and stands accused of illegally collecting data on children (when it was Musically) and the app has been deemed a 'potential security risk by the FBI'.

www.onlinesafetyalliance.org

Online safety education for school staff, pupils and parents

© Online Safety Alliance, 2020

DIARY DATES

- Mon 13th Jan – 9.00am –** Open Day for prospective parents (Book on Eventbrite)
- Tue 14th Jan – 3.15-4.15pm** Y5/6 Hockey Trials
- Wed 15th Jan –** Deadline for Reception applications for Sept 2020
- Thu 16th Jan –** Themed day lunch
- Tue 21st Jan – 2.15pm** Y6 SAT's meeting
- Wed 22nd Jan – 2.30pm** Y5/6 Young Voices Assembly for parents of child in Y5/6
- Thu 23rd Jan –** Y6 Young Voices concert at the O2
- Thu 30th Jan – 5.30pm** Y6 SAT's meeting

Our attendance winners this week are Volans, Andromeda & Lacerta with 100%.

Our School Values & Soft Skills

Our value this half term is **Equality** and our soft skill is **Creativity** (coconut the monkey). Over the course of this half term we will be learning more about these in our assemblies.



YEAR 3 & 4 UPDATE

Year 3 and 4 have returned back to school and have jumped straight into our new project of Robin Hood and forests with such a positive attitude. On Monday, we discovered a fire on the school grounds with some lanterns and a treasure chest, which revealed some chapters of a book and a map! After this we began to think someone was lost or here for safety.

The map, which had an "X marks the spot", led us on a journey to Rushmere Country Park. This was such an exciting experience for the children as they were amazed by what a rich woodland had to offer. We saw squirrels scurrying up the trees, fairy doors dotted around the base of the tall trees, bark covered pathways and steep hills which led deeper into the woods. After a short walk, we set up camp in the woods and began den building, bark rubbing, resource collecting and listening to the sounds in the forest. Whilst we were there we discovered the remains of an arrow - this must be what the "X" was for!

The children are now working on discovering who lives in a forest, what is the difference between a forest and a wood and beginning to learn the legend of Robin Hood.

If you have any experience or interest in this topic please see your child's class teacher and we would love to have you in to support us with our immersive project.



Sports Coach

Closing date for applications:
Friday 17th January at 9am

Lunchtime Supervisor

Closing date for applications:
Monday 20th January at 9am

Details of both vacancies are on our school website.

Stars of the week



Little Stars:

Lionel & Harleen

Stars of the Week:

Cassiopeia – Laloonas, Orion – Dylan, Tucana – Megan, Aquila – Summer, Cygnus – Maxwell, Pavo – Aqeel, Volans – Ben, Delphinus – Braden, Pegasus – Eli, Andromeda – Tommy, Auriga – Aseel, Perseus – Remi-Grace, Eridanus – Mari, Vela – Usman, Lyra – Amari, Lacerta – Abdullah, Circinus – Zofia.

Values:

Cassiopeia – Okley, Orion – Yusha, Tucana – Aiyla, Aquila – Dominic, Cygnus – Eloise, Pavo – Amy, Volans – Matthew, Delphinus – Summer, Pegasus – Jemima, Andromeda – Amelia, Auriga – Elsie, Perseus – James, Eridanus – Oliver, Vela – Weronika, Lyra – Rosie, Lacerta – Lily, Circinus – Mariah.



Sports Update

Year 5/6 Boys Basketball league

The team played their first league match against Livingston. This is the first time we have entered this league so the boys were very keen to play and get a feel of the standard of play. The game was incredibly fast paced, but the boys adapted to the rules quickly, improved their movement around the court and started to play tactically. At half time the score was 2-2, however at full time the score was 7-2 to Livingstone.

Well done to the squad, they showed great sportsmanship and determination.

Congratulations to our player of the match: Hasnain.

Sports Stars of the Week:

Year 1 - Joseph (Aquila)

Year 4 - Rylee (Auriga)

Year 2 - Holly (Delphinus)

Year 5 - Leona (Eridanus)

Year 3 - Mollie (Andromeda)

Year 6 - Erin (Circinus)

Next week's fixtures

Tue 14th Jan - 3.15-4.15pm - Year 5/6 hockey trials (both girls and boys)

Tue 14th Jan - 3.15-4.15 - Fit for Fun club

Thu 16th Jan - 3.15-4.15 - Year 5/6 Boys Basketball match AWAY at Westfield

LOCAL EVENTS & ADVERTS



Lionkent Ltd
Manufacturer of Corrugated Cases and Scored Fittings

Lionkent is a family run business that can fulfil all of your packaging requirements. We design and sample anything from standard corrugated cartons, to complex corrugated displays. We cater for small runs and bulk orders delivered within a 50 mile radius of SG7. Our sales team can help you in designing bespoke boxes to suit your individual requirements.

Get in touch: www.lionkent.co.uk 01462 8892870

Children's Wellbeing Course Tuesday 14th January 2020

Four week wellbeing course covering mindfulness,
relaxation, positive minds and much more

Great Denham
Community Centre
4.30-5.15pm
£4.5

chill
your
beans

Chillyourbeansinfo@gmail.com
07971858346
chill-your-beans.co.uk

TWINWOODS ADVENTURE

PRESENTS



1ST FEBRUARY 2020

JOIN US FOR AN INCREDIBLE NIGHT OF MOTOWN MUSIC

8PM TO 12PM | TICKETS £10

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01234 816350

f /TwinwoodsUK

Twinwoods Adventure, Twinwoods Business Park, Thurleigh Road, Milton Ernest, Bedfordshire, MK44 1FD

GET A FREE
LEISURE PASS
WITH EVERY
TICKET!



Sports Zone

£4.50
PER SESSION

John Bunyan Sports
and Fitness, Mile Road,
Bedford MK42 9TS

Saturdays
January - July 2020

Sports Zone is a weekly sports club
run by Bedford Borough Council
Sports Development Unit.

It provides the opportunity for
young people between the ages of
5 to 18 years who have disabilities or
additional needs (and their siblings)
to have fun, develop skills and try
new sports in our multi-sport clubs.

For more information

Please contact Hayley Elphee at Bedford Borough Council Sports Development
Unit on 01234 718839 or email hayley.elphee@bedford.gov.uk

@bedfordsportsdevelopment @sportsdevbedford



Multi Sports Saturdays - just £4.50 per session

January	Activity	Time
04/01/2020	Football	10am - 12pm
11/01/2020	Tennis	10am - 12pm
18/01/2020	Dance or Boccia	10am - 12pm
25/01/2020	Dodgeball	10am - 12pm
February	Activity	Time
01/02/2020	Unihoc	10am - 12pm
08/02/2020	Tag Rugby	10am - 12pm
15/02/2020	Archery or Badminton	10am - 12pm
22/02/2020 - HALF TERM NO SESSION		
29/02/2020	Dance or Badminton	10am - 12pm
March	Activity	Time
07/03/2020	Basketball	10am - 12pm
14/03/2020	Tennis	10am - 12pm
21/03/2020	Swimming (meet at the Oasis)	10am - 12pm
28/03/2020	Dance or Badminton	10am - 12pm
April	Activity	Time
04/04/2020	Basketball	10am - 12pm
11/04/2020 - HALF TERM NO SESSION		
18/04/2020 - HALF TERM NO SESSION		
25/04/2020	Dance or Boccia	10am - 12pm
May	Activity	Time
02/05/2020	Cricket	10am - 12pm
09/05/2020	Dance or Badminton	10am - 12pm
16/05/2020	Dodgeball	10am - 12pm
23/05/2020	Football	10am - 12pm
30/05/2020 - HALF TERM NO SESSION		
June	Activity	Time
06/06/2020	Basketball	10am - 12pm
13/06/2020	Tennis	10am - 12pm
20/06/2020	Swimming (meet at the Oasis)	10am - 12pm
27/06/2020	Dance or Badminton	10am - 12pm
July	Activity	Time
04/07/2020	Canoeing	10am - 12pm
11/07/2020	End of term Celebration	10am - 12pm