



Great Denham Primary School

Inspiring excellence; everyone, everyday

EXCELLENCE RESPECT COURAGE DETERMINATION FRIENDSHIP EQUALITY

Newsletter 8 – Autumn Term

23rd October 2020

A message from the head.....

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support this term. It has been a tough and challenging term for us but how amazing the children have been and the support we have had from our community has made it so much easier!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff (of which there are over 90 of them!) at Great Denham who have all gone above and beyond this term in ensuring the school feels safe, normal and happy for our children each and every day. They have done an amazing job and I am very privileged to work with such fabulous people!

Today we say goodbye and thank you to Mrs Jackson (Teaching Assistant in Year 2) and wish her all the best for the future. This week Mrs Braniff joined the Early Year team as a Teaching Assistant.

I hope you all have a lovely half term and enjoy a break and I look forward to seeing you on the 3rd November.

Denise Burgess

Follow the school on Twitter  @GreatDenhamPS

This week's letters home – look for them on our school website under

parents/letters home/2020-21

Y3-6 Extra-Curricular Clubs
Letter from BBC Public Health
Rec & Nursery – Evidence Me
Changes for after half term

DIARY DATES

Half Term

26th – 30th October

- **Sat 31st Oct** – Deadline for Secondary School Applications to reach Bedford Borough Council
- **Mon 2nd Nov** – Inset Day
School Closed
- **Tue 3rd Nov** – Children return to school
- **Tue 3rd Nov 8pm** – Friends of Great Denham AGM (Zoom)
- **Tue 3rd Nov** – Y3-6 Extra-Curricular Clubs start
- **11th Nov** – Coat donations to "Wrap up Biddenham" (Park and Ride)
- **Thu 26th & Fri 27th Nov** – Rec-Y6 Flu vaccinations
- **Fri 4th Dec** – last date for Christmas in a box donations
- **Thu 10th Dec** – Y3-6 Extra-Curricular Clubs end
- **Fri 18th Dec** – Last day of Autumn term

School closes at 1.30pm for ALL children

OUR NEW 5-A-SIDE ASTRO TURF PITCH



Year 6 – Secondary School Applications

A reminder that all applications for Secondary School need to be made to Bedford Borough Council by 31st October.

Please click on the link below to submit your application online or contact the admissions team on 01234 718120.

<https://www.bedford.gov.uk/schools-education-and-childcare/schools-and-collegescadem/school-admissions/transfer-to-secondary-school/>

YEAR 6 UPDATE

Year 6 have well and truly delved into their new project, putting themselves in the shoes of Victorians and debating the question 'were they really hard times?' The children attended a coronation party, where they tasted cucumber sandwiches, scones and tea. During our experience day, they took on the role of a Victorian child and learnt about life in the classroom - they have all agreed that school today is far more pleasant!



Currently, Y6 are enjoying finding out about the stark differences between the rich and poor, focusing mainly on the character Jim Jarvis from the book 'Street Child'. The children have worked hard to understand the events of chapter one to four. From this they have written a setting description focusing on use of powerful language to engage their reader.

After half term, the children will begin to explore Victorian homes. Learning about iconic Victorian architecture. Over half term, it would be wonderful if the children could explore our local area to see if they can spot any bay windows or iron railings! We shall be sketching Victorian buildings and critiquing along the way, until we get our final pencil drawings.



Phew! What an amazing and busy few weeks we have had!

Stars of the week

Little Stars: Oliver

Stars of the Week:

Cassiopeia – Lionel, Tucana – Ignacy, Orion – Vihaan, Aquila – Omar, Pavo – Sabastian, Cygnus – Emily, Volans – Anaya, Delphinus – Asher, Serpens – Freddie, Andromeda – Chanel, Pegasus – George, Perseus – Elliya, Auriga – Mollie, Vela – Ameera, Lyra – Madi, Lacerta – Mari, Circinus – Ziyad, Phoenix – George.

Values:

Cassiopeia – Louie, Tucana – Isla, Orion – Nahum, Aquila – Tommy, Pavo – Sofia, Cygnus – Amy, Volans – Harry, Delphinus – Dom, Serpens – Euan, Andromeda – Imogen, Pegasus – Mason, Perseus – Amelie, Auriga – Anayah, Vela – Ben, Lyra – Mohammad, Lacerta – Teigan, Circinus – Katherine, Phoenix – Rosie.



Christmas in a Box 2020

Christmas in a Box is a simple idea and a great way to help others who need some extra help at what can be a stressful and difficult time of year. For the past 2 years GDPS pupils contributed enormously to this effort!

Each year group will have a box where children can bring in items to help build a lovely hamper of food and toiletries. The gift will go to a local family or person in need and will make Christmas that little bit happier.

Contributions can be made up to Friday 4th December 2020.



REMINDERS

Winter Uniform

All children should be in winter uniform when we return after half term. Ties for year 3-6 are available at the school office or from our uniform supplier <http://www.affordableschoolwear.com/>

Sports Stars of the Week:

Year 1 – Victoria, Chloe & Marlo
Year 2 – Alyssa, Hameeda & Aqeel
Year 3 – Riley & Ella
Year 4 – Laura & Tommy
Year 5 – Yusuf & Chloe
Year 6 – Oliver & Micah



Sports Update

Outdoor and Adventure Activities (OAA)

Year 3, 4 5 & 6 have worked hard to develop their outdoor and adventure skills this week, and the weather certainly didn't stop them from enjoying every minute!

The School Sports Partnership led exciting OAA activities throughout the week that required navigational skills using a map in order to find clues, clear communication and problem solving to complete challenges and amazing team work to succeed!

Well done Key Stage 2 for showing all of our school values during these challenges!

EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS

If your child is in Year 3-6 the following clubs are now available to book on www.SIMS-PAY.co.uk

Year 3 – Multi-Skills

Year 4 – Gym

Year 5 – Badminton

Year 6 – Basketball

If you have any problems booking your child a place please contact claire.boyce@gdps.uk

LOCAL EVENTS & ADVERTS



UKE JAM SESSIONS

For absolute beginners to music making - we just need enthusiasm and a willingness to learn!

Led by Sue Snell, a wonderful Ukulele specialist teacher - your confidence and music making ability will blossom in just one session!

Sessions will last for an hour and we will have different age groups catered for. Each hour session will cost £8 and held at Pilgrims Pre Preparatory School. Full booking details are on the website www.bedfordshiremusictrust.org.uk Any queries please email helen.nightingale@bedfordshiremusictrust.org.uk



Do you have a coat you no longer need? – Why not donate it to **WRAP UP BIDDENHAM** who will be collecting unwanted coats to be distributed in December to people in need by local charities supporting the homeless.

One such charity will be the Kings Arms Project, who *'...deliver services to empower people on their journey out of homelessness'* in Bedford.

<https://www.kingsarmsproject.org/>

They have a target of 50 coats to gather over the three-day campaign starting 9th November. Men's, women's and children's coats will all be welcome, and they'll be collecting donations in the **car park opposite the school on Wednesday 11th November at pick up time**

For more information on the national campaign, please visit: <https://wrapuplondon.org.uk/>

Are you close to the end of your mortgage term?

Need advice on Help To Buy options?

Thinking of moving?

Please feel free to call Ross Turner for independent, whole of market advice.

07901 661183



YOUR HOME MAY BE REPOSSESSED IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON YOUR MORTGAGE JLM Mortgage Services Ltd is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, (FCA), registration number: 300629. The FCA do not regulate some forms of mortgages. JLM Mortgage Services Ltd is registered in England, No. 470 1803. The guidance within this website is solely targeted at consumers based in the UK. Registered office: JLM Mortgage Services Ltd, 21a Churchyard, Hitchin, Hertfordshire SG5 1HP. Registered company number 04701803. Registered in England & Wales. *A fee of up to 1% of the mortgage amount may be charged depending on individual circumstances. A typical fee is £495. In some circumstances no fee will be payable.



Virtual Get Together with Royal Society for Blind Children
Friday 6th November 10am

Do you have a child who is blind or sight impaired? The Royal Society for Blind Children want to join us for our online get together to let you know about services they can offer you and your child. They can offer various support and guidance for any families who have children aged 0-25. Please come and join us to ask questions, use the link below to book and check out their [website](https://www.rsb.org.uk/)

<https://www.rsb.org.uk/>
communications@bbpcf.org.uk



Tuesday 10th November - 7pm

Accessing SEND Support during Covid

communications@bbpcf.org.uk



Fitness Pilates and Relaxation

Tuesday 17th November - 10.30am
Friday 20th November - 7pm

We ran a poll over the summer to ask what parents want us to organise in order to help with their own wellbeing. Following that poll we have arranged two Pilates/Relaxation sessions that will be run online so you can do it in the comfort of your own home. This is an opportunity to take some time out for yourself and relax. Please email us to book your place at either or both sessions.

communications@bbpcf.org.uk



Tuesday 8th December - 7pm

Social, Emotional and Mental Health
Support and SEND Support

communications@bbpcf.org.uk



Wednesday 18th November -10am

Does your child with SEN attend mainstream school?

We have invited the Whole School SEND Team to join us in delivering a session to you about how Whole School SEND works. They bring together schools, organisations and individuals who are committed to ensuring that every child and young person with SEND can maximise their potential.

On occasion, relationships between families and schools are not as successful as they need to be. By building trust this can change and a new way of working together can be developed.

Please join us to hear some ideas of how you can improve relationships with your child's school. This will be an online session.

Please [email us](#) to book your place.

communications@bbpcf.org.uk



Annual Survey

Our annual survey is now available to complete (please click on link below).

We need as many parent carers as possible to give us their views to ensure we get an accurate picture of the 'lived experiences' of SEND families in our community.

All of the feedback collected will be fed into the SEND Improvement Board at the Local Authority and will form the basis of our State of the Nation report to be published at a later date.

You can enter a draw to win £50 Love Bedford Vouchers when you complete the survey. It should only take you a maximum of 10 minutes to complete.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/AnnualSurveyBBPCF>