



# Great Denham Primary School

Inspiring excellence; everyone, everyday

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

## Newsletter 9 – Autumn Term

6th November 2020

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

Thank you for your support this week as the children return from half term. The children have returned refreshed and keen to learn, they have continued to impress us with their attitudes to learning. They also appear to be enjoying their play and lunchtimes in their year group bubbles getting the opportunity to mix and play with their friends in other classes in their year group.

Thank you for your support with the staggered start and finish times - they appear to be working really well. We are thrilled that our attendance remains high - over 96% which is fabulous. This week we had 5 classes (Orion, Tucana, Cygnus, Delphinus & Lacerta) who all had 100% - well done!

Hope you have a lovely weekend.  
Denise Burgess

Follow the school on Twitter  @GreatDenhamPS



This week we welcome some new teaching assistants - Mrs Church to our year 3 team and Miss Pickard and Mrs Weir to Year 2.

#### Staff Changes

As well as this we have made a few changes to our staffing in our bubbles. Miss Collins is now working in our year 3 and 4 bubbles and is teaching Auriga every Monday and Pegasus every Thursday. Mrs Graham is now working in the Year 1 and 2 bubbles teaching Aquila on a Thursday and Volans on a Friday morning. Miss Ewang is now teaching Orion 4 days a week with Mrs Hardy on the Tuesday.

#### Special Educational Needs

Unfortunately, Mrs Preece our SENCO will not be in work for the rest of this term as she is not well and needs to have an operation. In her absence please contact your child's class teacher or Emma (our family support worker) who will be able to help.

The SENCO email [senco@gdps.uk](mailto:senco@gdps.uk) will be checked daily by myself and Emma.



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

[parents/letters home/2020-21](#)

Return to school arrangements

Parent governor ballot

SeeSaw Family

Flu Immunisation Consent

New COVID Guidelines

Y5 - Marvellous Middle – Egypt

PE Timetable

#### DIARY DATES

- **Mon 9<sup>th</sup> Nov** – Year 3-6 Extra Curriculum Clubs cancelled for 4 weeks
- **Wed 11<sup>th</sup> Nov** – Coat donations to “Wrap up Biddenham” (Park and Ride)
- **Fri 13<sup>th</sup> Nov** – Children in Need
- **Mon 16<sup>th</sup> Nov** – 4pm – Deadline for Parent Governor votes
- **Thu 26<sup>th</sup> & Fri 27<sup>th</sup> Nov** – Rec-Y6 Flu vaccinations
- **Fri 27<sup>th</sup> Nov** – Break the Rules day
- **Fri 4<sup>th</sup> Dec** – last date for Christmas in a box donations
- **Wed 9<sup>th</sup> Dec** – Christmas “Classroom parties”
- **Thu 10<sup>th</sup> Dec** – Y3-6 Extra-Curricular Clubs end
- **Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Dec** – Last day of Autumn term
- **Nursery & School closes at 1.30pm for ALL children**

# NURSERY UPDATE



As usual our youngest members of the school completely amaze me, they have settled into school life with ease and are becoming a big part of Great Denham Primary School. Their friendships are blossoming and it is lovely to watch how they interact with each other.

This term we are we are learning "All about me". We are learning about each other's families and what makes each and every one of them unique. The children loved bringing in their all about me bags to share with the rest of the class.



This week we are learning about why we celebrate Firework night and look at other celebrations from around the world. For example; Diwali and it is from this that the children have started to make Diwali lamps and they are excited to show you the end result.



## Christmas 2020

Unfortunately, due to the government restrictions on children singing in schools and also on gatherings we have made the decision not to hold any Christmas concerts this year. Our nursery and reception children will be doing something small and recording it for parents to view but the rest of the school will not be this year. We will make up for it next year when this is all over!

We are though working with the Friends of Great Denham to ensure the children have some things to look forward to as we approach Christmas.

Our Christmas lunch will look a little different this year and there will be a Christmas buffet instead on Wednesday 9th December. Also on this day each class will be having bubble Christmas parties - more information to follow shortly!

## REMINDERS

### Winter Uniform

Please can you ensure if your child is in Year 3-6 they are in their winter uniform now which is a shirt and family colour tie. Please also ensure your child has a cardigan or jumper in school each day now the weather is getting colder.

### Christmas Boxes

Don't forget each year group are collecting items for the Christmas boxes again this year.



## Charity events

This year we will be supporting Children in Need on **Friday 13th November** by taking part in their 'Five to Thrive' challenge and coming to school in non-uniform. This year Children in Need are making children's mental wellbeing a priority and they have created a number of resources for us to use with the children.

The five key areas for 'Five to Thrive' are **Connect, Take notice, Get active, Be curious and Give**. On Friday morning the children will have the opportunity to explore these different areas and do their part for children in need.

We will be asking for a donation of £1 if your child would like to come to school in non-uniform. This can be given to the class teacher on the morning. Please feel free to wear as many Pudsey ears or spots as you fancy!

# Educational Psychologist Virtual Drop-in sessions

Our school Educational Psychologist, Aneta Warrentowicz, will be offering 20 minute drop in appointments for both teachers and parents on the 18th November from 9.30am to 2pm. All appointments will be virtual and conducted online.

These sessions are an opportunity to discuss issues or concerns you may have which are impacting your child in school or at home and plan some strategies that may help them to move forward.

If you would like to book an appointment please can you email [senco@gdps.uk](mailto:senco@gdps.uk) or call the school office with details of your name, your child's name and class, your email address (for the invitation to the virtual session) and times when you would be available and we will do our best to accommodate you.

## Stars of the week

**Little Stars:** Isla

### Stars of the Week:

Cassiopeia – Leo, Tucana – Evie, Orion – Catherine,  
Aquila – Mohsin, Pavo – Cairo, Cygnus – Isaac,  
Volans – Samuel, Delphinus – Amelia, Serpens – Sam,  
Andromeda – Lyla, Pegasus – Mia, Perseus – Ava,  
Auriga – Sarah, Vela – Fathima, Lyra – Amber, Lacerta – Nicola,  
Circinus – Szymon, Phoenix – Micah.

### Values:

Cassiopeia – Emilia, Tucana – Gerasim, Orion – Isaac,  
Aquila – Evelyn, Pavo – Ashton, Cygnus – Abdul Basit,  
Volans – Alyssa, Delphinus – Jacob, Serpens – Reuben,  
Andromeda – Summer, Pegasus – Ethan, Perseus – Amelie,  
Auriga – Julia, Vela – Elsie, Lyra – Ishaq, Lacerta – Veronika,  
Circinus – Freya, Phoenix – Sophia-Grace.



### Break the Rules Day Friends of Great Denham

On **Friday 27th November** we will see our second break the rules day - after the success of the last one it will be back! More information to follow shortly!



# LOCAL EVENTS & ADVERTS



Do you have a coat you no longer need? – Why not donate it to **WRAP UP BEDDENHAM** 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**

We are working with a number of Department of Justice volunteers who have helpfully defined this for us. Volunteering is an excepted activity if it has a social need during the pandemic. They have determined that Wrap Up serves a social need including delivering to beneficiaries.

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



**23RD - 27TH NOVEMBER 2020**

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES ONLINE CONFERENCE 2020

Following the success of our 2019 conference, we have arranged a week-long online conference this year for parents and carers across Bedfordshire.

Your online ticket will allow you access to any of the talks, presentations and workshops available throughout the week (see weekly schedule for more info on times and presentation content). You will be sent log-in details closer to the event.

**Cost for an online ticket (per person):**  
£25 Autism Beds members  
£30 non-members

**TO BOOK YOUR PLACE, PLEASE CONTACT A MEMBER OF THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES TEAM**

@ enquiries@autismbeds.org  
01234 214871



## More information on the attached PDF Leaflet

## Do you know a child with sensory challenge?



- Training for everyone - no referral needed
- Learn about your child's sensory preferences
- Learn sensory smart strategies to help develop resilience
- Learn how to adapt tasks to increase participation



Access the online training video package here:

[www.cambscommunityservices.nhs.uk/sensory-processing-awareness-training](http://www.cambscommunityservices.nhs.uk/sensory-processing-awareness-training)

To contact the service email: [ccs.sensoryawarenesstraining.ot@nhs.net](mailto:ccs.sensoryawarenesstraining.ot@nhs.net)

Children & Young People's Centre  
Redgrave Garden's, Luton, LU3 3QN

Child Development Centre  
Kempston, Hill Rise, MK42 7EB



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



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## PARENTS/CARERS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Bedford Borough Parent Carer Forum's annual survey is now available for parents & carers to complete. They need as many parents & carers as possible to complete this to allow them to get a true picture of what it feels like for families in Bedford Borough. This information is used to create their annual State of the Nation report and also for them to take to the local authority and CCG to help improve services. It will only take 5-10 minutes to complete and parents & carers can enter their email for a chance to win £50 Love Bedford vouchers before Christmas.

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