



# Great Denham Primary School

*Inspiring excellence; everyone, everyday*

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

## Newsletter 2 – Spring Term

15<sup>th</sup> January 2021

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

As we settle into week 2 of the national lockdown I continue to be blown away with the dedication, kindness and support of our school community - thank you. The children at home are doing an amazing job with their home learning and we are getting into more of a routine. Please read the section below for information on a few minor changes to our remote learning from next week.

Our children who are in school are also doing an amazing job showing such maturity in coping in these difficult times.

Please remember if your child is struggling at home Emma our family support worker is here to support, please just drop her an email or give her a call.

Congratulations to Mrs Borner and family on the new arrival of their baby girl. Mum and baby are doing well.

Hope you have a lovely weekend.  
Denise Burgess

Follow the school on Twitter  @GreatDenhamPS

### Remote Learning

The government changed their guidance last week to state that children should be provided with the following amount of remote learning a day:

KS1 children (Year 1 & 2) - 3 hours a day  
KS2 children (Year 3 - 6) - 4 hours a day

Please note that whilst this is what we are therefore providing, please use it as a guide, I fully understand the pressures of trying to juggle home schooling and working at home which I know many of you are, so please just continue to do the best you can and not worry too much if some days your child does less, other days they may do more.

From next week we have therefore simplified the timetable for each year group into 4 sessions - approximately 1 hour in length for Year 3-6 and shorter sessions for Year 1-2 (and reception). Hopefully the timetables will be easier to follow.

### Zoom Calls

From next week we will be returning to having 2 zoom calls a week for each class from Year 1 - 6. Reception will continue to have one zoom a week. One of the zoom calls is for social purposes, for teachers to check in with the children, see how they are and to support their mental health and well-being as we are aware these are difficult times. The teachers will arrange fun things to do with the children and it will be informal and a chance to

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

parents/letters home/2020-21

**Nursery Funding Form (for children in school)**  
**Home Learning Timetables**



### Recipe Book

In 2017 the Friends of Great Denham, produced a Recipe booklet to raise fund for the school. It includes contributions from parents, staff and pupils. It also includes some favourites from the school kitchen.

They have now made it available to download from the school website for free at

<https://www.greatdenhamprimary.org.uk/parents/friends-of-great-denham>

share learning, talk about how they are getting on and most importantly connect with each other and have some fun.

The second zoom will be focused around learning - the teacher may use it as an opportunity to teach a new skill, practice something they have learnt already or to teach a specific subject to the children. They may also use it as an opportunity to introduce the new independent learning tasks or to review ones the children have already done.

## Live Lessons

Next week our year 6 children will begin having a live English lesson each day with their teachers. Please encourage your child to attend if possible. The times of the live lessons will be on the weekly timetable. The following week Year 4 and 5 will also begin a live English lesson each day - more information to follow on times etc. on the timetables next week. Please can your child have a pencil / pen and some paper with them for the live lesson and their English book if you collected one - if you would like to collect one there are still plenty outside the main office.

We will not be offering live lessons to any of our younger children as we do not believe it is the most effective way for the younger children to learn - we believe that the pre-recorded videos by the teachers are better as it allows the children to pause and revisit as they wish.

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### Nursery

Due to the changes in Government guidance we are offering all of our nursery children their places back in school irrespective if they are children of critical workers. We understand though that many parents would prefer to keep their child at home as this is the safest place, however, if you would like your child to return to school please email [Jo.morey@gdps.uk](mailto:Jo.morey@gdps.uk) by Monday at 4pm.

## Reading Books

From Monday 18th January we will be setting up a library for children to borrow reading books and books to support them with their independent work. The library will be open 4 days a week, as outlined on the timetable below. If you wish to borrow books for your child, please come to the community room door at the scheduled times, ensuring that you are wearing a face covering. You will be able to borrow one reading book and one project related book. In order to ensure that we do not lose any books, we will keep a record of books borrowed and the date that they are returned. You are welcome to borrow more books once you have returned the first two.

**Monday: 10am-11am**

**Tuesday: 1pm-2pm**

**Wednesday: 1pm-2pm**

**Thursday: 1pm-2pm**

## LOCAL EVENTS & ADVERTS

The poster is for HM Government and Citizens Advice. It features a blue background with white and yellow text. At the top left is the HM Government logo. At the top right is the Citizens Advice logo. The main text reads: 'IF YOU NEED SUPPORT TO APPLY TO THE EU SETTLEMENT SCHEME HELP IS AVAILABLE IN YOUR LOCAL AREA'. Below this is an illustration of two teacups, one white and one blue, each with a small house-shaped tea bag inside. At the bottom, there is a dark blue box with white text providing the deadline (30th June 2021), the website ([gov.uk/eusettlementscheme](http://gov.uk/eusettlementscheme)), and contact information for Citizens Advice Luton.

HM Government

citizens advice

**IF YOU NEED SUPPORT  
TO APPLY TO THE  
EU SETTLEMENT SCHEME  
HELP IS AVAILABLE IN  
YOUR LOCAL AREA**

30th June 2021 is the deadline for EEA and Swiss citizens to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme. We encourage you and your family members, to apply now to protect their rights in the UK: [gov.uk/eusettlementscheme](http://gov.uk/eusettlementscheme)

Citizens Advice Luton are offering free support to make an application.

Please contact Citizens Advice Luton on: 01582 544778 or alternatively you can email us at: [eussadvice@lutoncab.org.uk](mailto:eussadvice@lutoncab.org.uk)



# FREE Dyslexia Training for Parents & Carers



**Thursday 21st January 10.00am-12.30pm & Wednesday 27th January 6.30-9.00pm**

This free training is for Parents & Carers based in Bedford Borough.

This is the very first module and it will help you gain a proper understanding of what dyslexia is. By developing this understanding, you will be able to appreciate the challenges that your child faces with many aspects of learning as well as recognise the strengths and abilities that they have.

This module busts some myths, identifies the common areas of difficulty, provides an overview of the differences in the brain and provides and insight into the life experiences of dyslexic individuals. All too often the available information on dyslexia can appear to be very confusing.

The aim of this module is to provide a clear introduction to the subject that will lead to a greater level of understanding, which will in turn enable you to effectively support individuals who are dyslexic.

For more information please see the British Dyslexia Association <https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/>

Both sessions are the same so you will only need to book onto one session. Places are limited and will be offered on a first come first served basis, please email us to book your place. [communications@bbpcf.org.uk](mailto:communications@bbpcf.org.uk)

