



# Great Denham Primary School

Inspiring excellence; everyone, everyday

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

Newsletter 5 – Spring Term

5<sup>th</sup> February 2021

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

Week 5 is complete - well done! Only one week until half term! From next week for the children at home we have introduced a session a week called 'screen free time' to try to support the children in taking a break from all the work online they are having to do. The idea grids will be sent today with the weekly timetable.

We are also hoping that lots of the children take part in our valentines 'friendship' virtual bake off next Friday - children in school are also welcome to take part!

Have a lovely weekend and stay safe,  
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

EY/KS1 Screen Free time ideas

KS2 Screen Free time ideas

Next weeks' timetables

Y5/6 – Omegle – information  
for parents

## REMINDERS

### Library times

The library will be open at the  
same times each week

- Monday 10 - 11am
- Tuesday 1 - 2pm
- Thursday 1 - 2pm

Please only come to change books  
at these times.

### Paper Home Learning packs

Will be available from 10am on  
Monday mornings if you have  
requested them. To request a  
pack please email the year group  
email address.

## Great Denham Primary School

### Great Denham Nursery Class 2021/2022

Due to the current pandemic, Great Denham Primary School has extended its closing date for the Nursery Class applications (Starting September 2021).

The new closing date is **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021**. We wanted to give parents an extended opportunity to apply as it has been a very difficult year for most.

Application packs are available to collect from the school office Monday-Friday 9am-3pm or you can email [admissions@GDPS.uk](mailto:admissions@GDPS.uk) and we will send you a pack via email.

Any questions please email us on the email provided.

The return of [@trishandden1](https://twitter.com/trishandden1) 

Are you

or



Have you sent them your challenge yet?

[trishandden@gdps.uk](mailto:trishandden@gdps.uk)

### DIARY DATES

**HALF TERM** 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Feb

- **Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb** – Keyworker children return to school



Harry & Caoimhe  
Year 2

# Sports Update

## Miles to Tokyo update:

Well done and thank you to everyone who has contributed to clocking up 328 miles this week! An amazing achievement and total of 532 miles have been completed so far as a whole school. We are 73 miles away from getting to Germany and will be heading onto Poland by Tuesday!

If your child/ children walk to and from school, go for a walk, jog or run around Great Denham, EVERY step counts. It would be great if you could help add up the distance/ miles with your child so that they can update their total on Seesaw each week.

## Dance and basketball challenges

This week we are launching two more virtual School Games competitions. More information will be communicated to your child by their class teacher and a video is on Seesaw for our home learners. You can use this link to find out more <https://www.teambedsandluton.co.uk/bedford>.

**Dance competition-** there are 2 options to learn/ create a routine and submit a video entry via the website.

**Basketball competition** - there are 3 challenges to complete and scores entered. We will submit results for children in school, home learners can follow the link on Seesaw to enter their results.

**GOOD LUCK EVERYONE!**



## Stars of the week

**Little Stars:** Krzysztof, Millie & Trixie

### Stars of the Week:

Cassiopeia – Leo & Lilah, Tucana – Gustavs & Teddy, Orion – Sophie & Amelie, Aquila – Ace & Finley, Pavo – Robert & Joseph, Cygnus – Layle & Okley, Volans – Harry & Dominic, Delphinus – Kyra & Alex, Serpens – Harry & Teddy, Andromeda – Oisin & Ibrahim, Pegasus – Catalina & Zara, Perseus – Muhammad & Amelie, Auriga – Rowan & Mohamed, Vela – Afrin & Ben, Lyra – Chloe, Lacerta – William & Eivissa, Circinus – Elias, Phoenix – Amari & Isaac.

### Values:

Cassiopeia – Phoebe & Louie, Tucana – Zach & Sara, Orion – Harleen & Nahum, Aquila – Ben & Elliana, Pavo – Austin & Summer, Cygnus – Joanna & Eliza, Volans – Jordan & Joseph, Delphinus – Helene, Serpens – Oakley & Rayyan, Andromeda – Tyler & Lulu, Pegasus – Finley & Euan, Perseus – Zara & Harman, Auriga – Tom & Aisha, Vela – Florence, Lyra – Ishaq & Amber, Lacerta – Kevin & Veronika, Circinus – Isobel & William, Phoenix – Olly & Laila Marie.

### Maths & English Awards:

Congratulations to the monthly winners of the £15 cash prizes. These children have shown excellence in Maths and English both at home and in school. Thank you very much to Mr Slade for your kind donation towards the cash prize.

Winner of Maths: Madeline Year 1

Winner of English: Leona Year 6

**Link to celebration assembly**  
<https://youtu.be/VAspVNL63OM>



## Parent Questionnaire

Thank you for the positive comments and suggestions to improve our remote learning offer. We have reviewed them all and are able to take on board some of the suggestions made, please see below.

Changes we have made...

- From next week we will not be having any zoom calls over the lunchtime period between 12–1.30pm
- Library opening times will stay the same each week – 2 afternoons and one morning
- Staff will try to give as much notice as possible when planning activities that involve art or cookery
- Daily welcome video for each class explaining the days learning and activities
- Daily live lessons for years 4 – 6 in English, and Maths for Year 6, rolling out daily Maths lessons too after half term for year 4 and 5 as well
- Trying to find opportunities for siblings to work together on something similar – so far the valentines cake bake, and the screen free time sessions starting next week
- Having work packs available before 1pm on a Monday – from week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> February we will have these ready for 10am on Monday
- Including Spanish sessions in Key stage 2
- Live lessons for years 4 – 6 in classes rather than year groups – we have started this and are moving to this currently over the next week

These are just a few of the suggestions we have already taken on board. We are still reviewing others that are not so simple and easy to implement so please don't think we are not listening to your feedback and taking it on board, we are constantly refining and trying to improve our offer.

Thank you for your continued support.





# Great Denham Bake Off

This year we are hosting a valentine's bake off focusing on our value of FRIENDSHIP.

Can you make a cake or sweet treat for someone you love – friend, parents, grandparents etc?

**When :** Entries must be in by **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February at 9am** on seesaw

**Who can take part:** EVERYONE – teachers and children

**How will we judge:** We will be judging your cakes on creativity and how they look but please feel free to share a video on how they taste.



# LOCAL EVENTS & ADVERTS



Do you need childcare during the February Half Term?

SSG have spaces remaining on their COVID-19 Safe February Half Term Active Childcare programme, running 8.30am-5pm Monday - Friday.

**SSG**  
**FEBRUARY HALF TERM ACTIVE CHILDCARE**  
**15TH - 19TH FEBRUARY**

Bedford's chosen childcare COVID-19 response provider  
SSG - COVID-19 Safe

**EARLY BOOKING ADVISED**  
**BOOK NOW**  
01234 340782

DATE	THEMED DAY	TIME	AGE GROUP
Monday 15th	<b>OLYMPIC SPORTS DAY</b>	8.30am-5pm	5-12 Years
Tuesday 16th	<b>MISSION SURVIVAL DAY</b>	8.30am-5pm	5-12 Years
Wednesday 17th	<b>ACTIVE ADVENTURE HIGH &amp; MIGHTY DAY</b>	8.30am-5pm	5-12 Years
Thursday 18th	<b>WACKY CRAFTS &amp; MAD SCIENCE DAY</b>	8.30am-5pm	5-12 Years
Friday 19th	<b>DREAM TEAM &amp; CONSTRUCTION CAPERS DAY</b>	8.30am-5pm	5-12 Years

All SSG Half Term Active Childcare Days are located at | Alexander Sports Centre, Sidney Road, Bedford, MK40 2BQ



To book online please visit  
[www.ssgservices.co.uk](http://www.ssgservices.co.uk)

f | SSGactivities  
t | SSG\_Activities



Monday 22nd March – 10am - Virtual Get Together

Down's Syndrome (impact from Covid)

Julian Hallett from the Down's Syndrome Association will be joining us to cover what they have learnt about how COVID-19 affects children and adults with Down's syndrome, issues around being on the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable list, access to vaccines and support for carers from the Down's Syndrome Association

**BOOK YOUR PLACE - [communications@bbpcf.org.uk](mailto:communications@bbpcf.org.uk)**

## **BBPCF Events Spring Term 2021**

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 10-11.30 - 7-8.30pm

### **SENDiass training – Remote Learning**

Jonathan Foster and Sue Riley will be running this session to provide advice and support to parents who are helping their child with Remote Learning.

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> Feb – 7pm

### **SEND Support Get Together**

Tim Long will be joining us for this session to discuss What is seen as good SEN support, what you need to know and how parents can support their children at home

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March – 10am

### **Virtual Get Together – What is personalisation?**

In this get together we will be discussing what is personalisation which is making sure services work for your child on an individual basis.

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You are welcome to book onto any of these free online events, please email us at [communications@bbpcf.org.uk](mailto:communications@bbpcf.org.uk) to book your place or call us 07943 524553

