



Great Denham Primary School

Inspiring excellence; everyone, everyday

EXCELLENCE RESPECT COURAGE DETERMINATION FRIENDSHIP EQUALITY

Newsletter 7 – Spring Term

26th February 2021

A message from the head.....

I hope you all had a lovely half term break and are enjoying the improvement in weather this week! We are very excited to welcome back our whole school community in a week and start getting back to a little bit of 'normality.' Yesterday we sent a letter out with the details of the return on the 8th March, please ensure you have read this letter.

This week we were lucky to have the support of Marston Vale Forest Centre in providing us with and planting lots of trees on our school site. This is to support our development of our forest school work – we are very much looking forward to them becoming established over the next 5 years! A huge thank you to the amazing volunteers from Marston Vale who gave up their time to plant approximately 400 trees.

Hope you have a lovely weekend.
Denise Burgess

Follow the school on Twitter  @GreatDenhamPS

World Book Day 2021

Next Thursday we will be celebrating World Book Day with our very own 'Who's behind the mask?' challenge! A range of staff members will be reading stories for you in disguise! Who is behind each mask? How many masked readers will you guess correctly? Look out for the 'Masked Reader' videos on your seesaw and have fun guessing!



In addition to this, whether working in school or at home, everyone will be designing and making their own book character potato! This could be an existing character from a book or a newly invented character - we look forward to celebrating and sharing the creations!

Throughout the remainder of the day, the children will take part in their chosen book related activities, from extreme reading to scavenger hunts and live online sessions with authors. We cannot wait for this reading fun to begin!

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

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

Bedford Borough Council – Parent Survey

Y4-6 - iPad reset for new device management system

Y3-5 - Update on iPad lease scheme

Arrangements for school reopening on 8th March

REMINDERS

Clubs – this term

If you require Breakfast and/or After School Club for your child from 8th March up to the Easter holidays please ensure it is book on [SCOPAY](#) by Sunday 28th February.

Lunches

If your child requires a school meal please ensure their lunches are booked on [SIMS-PAY](#) for the rest of this term by Saturday 6th March.

Library

The library will only be open on **Monday** next week as we need to get the books sorted and back to the classrooms ready for the following week when children return to school.

Clubs for the Summer Term

Monday 22nd March @ 3.30pm
Tuesday 23rd March @ 3.30pm
Wednesday 24th March @ 3.30pm

Breakfast Club
After School Club
Friday Clubs

Friday clubs

Care clubs and Homework clubs will be in Year groups. We will be offering Dance and Sports clubs as well?

Extra-Curricular clubs

We will be offering a limited selection of Extra-Curricular clubs in Year groups.

PARENTS' EVENING

With the children returning to school on 8th March we have taken the decision to postponed Parents Evening until April. This will give the teachers more time to assess the children and where we can offer support if it is needed.

Meetings will be held online using school cloud – more details will follow nearer the time.

DIARY DATES

- **Thu 4th Mar** – World Book Day (No dressing up)
- **w/c 1st March** – Second hand uniform available (outside office)
- **Mon 8th Mar** – School open to all children
- **CANCELLED 9th & 10th March** – Parents' Evening
- **w/c 22nd March** – Club bookings open for the Summer Term
- **Fri 26th Mar** – School closes at **1.00/1.30pm** to all children

EASTER HOLIDAYS

- **Mon 12th April** – School closed for staff training
- **Tue 13th April** – Children return to school
- **w/c Mon 19th April** – Parents' Evening (Online)

Sports Update – Miles to Tokyo

We have had another successful week of completing 359 miles as a school. So that makes the total amount of miles completed so far 1398 Miles. We have travelled to Belgium, Germany & Poland and are now on our way to Belarus!

Our top 3 classes this week are

Gold Andromeda 64 miles, **Silver** Auriga 47 miles, **Bronze** Cygnus 41 miles

So far, this is how many miles each class has completed:

Andromeda 178, Auriga 161, Cygnus 134, Perseus 129, Vela 120, Pegasus 108, Delphinus 106, Volans 98, Lacerta 87, Pavo 85, Circinus 78, Tucana 67, Orion 50

School Games Sports competitions

Well done to all the children in school who participated in the fitness and basketball challenges during their PE lessons.

A massive thank you to those children who participated at home and entered their results online also. Children can still participate by visiting <https://www.teambedsandluton.co.uk/bedford>.

FITNESS ENTRY

Year 1 – Ellie & Maya, Year 2 – Luke, Year 4 – Mollie & Deborah, Year 5 – Lucas, Year 6 – Mahmood.

BASKETBALL

Year 1 – Maya, Year 2 – Hameeda, Year 5 – Lucas, Year 6 – Leona.



Stars of the week



Little Stars: Sienna & Daisy

Stars of the Week:

Cassiopeia – Emilia & Soraya, Tucana – Albie & Isla, Orion – Lauren & Scarlett, Aquila – Nathan & Lola-Rose, Pavo – Sofia & Junior, Cygnus – Isaac & Edith, Volans – Acacio & Alyssa, Delphinus – Helena & Maddy, Serpens – Lena & Amanda, Andromeda – Thabile & Ethan, Pegasus – Bilal & Oscar, Perseus – Max & Hollie, Auriga – Leo & Tommy, Vela – Jake & Summayah, Lyra – Musa & Eliza, Phoenix – Zayaan & Nora, Circinus – Miranda & Luka, Lacerta – Kian & Toyin.

Values:

Cassiopeia – Hugo & Karla, Tucana – Indiana & Rose, Orion – Catherine & Vihann, Aquila – Elsie & Aliza, Pavo – Edie & Maheer, Cygnus – Madeleine & Aiyla, Volans – Eleni & Anna, Delphinus – Max & Austin, Serpens – Matyan & Lukas, Andromeda – Florence & Ibrahim, Pegasus – Ruqayyah & Ehsan, Perseus – Evelyn & Tanisha, Auriga – Eden & Fabien, Vela – Sian & Ava, Lyra – Hamza & Hasna, Phoenix – Zara & Kaiyla, Circinus – Katherine & Weronika, Lacerta – Luca & Mari.

Link to celebration assembly

<https://youtu.be/7tlflwcprE>



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 12th 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 and we will send you a pack via email.

Any questions please email us on the email provided.

LOCAL EVENTS & ADVERTS



GRANDPARENT OF THE
YEAR AWARD P10-11



PLACES TO GO
P17-27



THINGS TO MAKE
AND DO P28-40



BEDFORD, SANDY & BIGGLESWADE



MAGAZINE & WEBSITE

THE GO-TO GUIDE FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILD

[Click Here to Download the Magazine](#)

**Get in touch to book a place for
your young explorer**

By post:

PO Box 1591, Bedford MK42 5DT

By email:

info@countrydays.net

By telephone:

07599336532 / 07938267057

Visit our website:

www.countrydays.net



The Leys Nature Reserve, Pavenham
Road, Felmersham Beds MK43 7EX



Easter Courses 2021

Course 1:

Monday 29th & Tuesday 30th March

Course 2:

Wednesday 31st March & Thursday 1st
April

Summer Courses 2021

Course 1:

Tuesday 10th & Wednesday 11th August

Course 2:

Thursday 12th & Friday 13th August



*We must teach our children
To smell the earth
To taste the rain
To touch the wind
To see things grow
To hear sun rise and night fall
To care*

Course Programme
Easter & Summer 2021

Country Days is an educational charity
providing outdoor learning in a beautiful
6 acre nature reserve for young people
aged 7-11 in Bedfordshire.



**Visit our website for more
information about our sponsors.
We are so grateful for their
ongoing support.**

Registered Charity Number 1181833



* Places cost £15 for each two day
course.

* If you sign up for two courses, the
price is discounted to £25 total.

* Free places for those on free school
meals or pupil premium.

Activities

Easter Courses

Activities include:

- * Pond-dipping
- * Creative Recycling
- * Arts and Crafts
- * Sport and Problem-Solving
- * Science

Summer Courses

Course 1: *Surviving in the Wild*

Activities include:

- * Obstacle Courses
- * Orienteering
- * Adventure challenges
- * Bushcraft

Course 2: *Stories of Nature*

Activities include:

- * Botany
- * Performing Arts
- * Storytelling
- * Creative Writing

**Visit our website for more
information about all the courses**

<https://www.countrydays.net/>



Monday 15th 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. Please book your place below...



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

To Book email communications@bbpcf.org.uk

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**Bedfordshire
Community
Health Services**



**BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL**



**Worried about your child's talking, listening,
interaction or stammering?**

**Book a phone consultation with the Speech and Language
Therapist from
Bedford Borough Children's Centres**

Thursday 4th March 9.00am-11.00am
Tuesday 9th March 8:30-11:30am
Wednesday 17th March 14:00-16:00pm
Monday 22nd March 8:30-11:30am

For more information - or to book (Blue dates only) please
contact cathryn.ellingham@nhs.net

For more information - or to book (Green dates only) please
contact rachel.hadfield@nhs.net

This service is for children aged 0-5 who are not already known to
the Speech and Language Therapy Service who live within Bedford
Borough.

Please check your spam/junk folder for responses

SPA Number: 01234 310163 / 310712

Email: ccs.beds.childrens.slt.admin@nhs.net

Web: www.childspeechbedfordshire.nhs.uk

Bedfordshire Adult and Children's Community Health Services are provided in partnership by East of England NHS Foundation Trust (EEFT) and Cambridgeshire Community Services (CCS) NHS Trust




LOCKDOWN ACTIVITIES

for Children with
Autism & Learning
Difficulties and
their families in
Bedford Borough

ONLINE ACTIVITIES NOW AVAILABLE!

We have exciting opportunities for **children with autism & learning difficulties and their families** in Bedford Borough to access a variety of activities during the COVID lockdown period. All activities are free of charge!

Activities include Swimming at St. John's School Pool, Various Sports Sessions, Inflatable Fun and Sensory Room at SSG.
These sessions will be available to the whole family. Parents / Carers are required to supervise and support their family throughout the activity (including going into the swimming pool with them).

Virtual Learning Opportunities include Street Dance, Musical Theatre, Drama, Music, Art & Dance.



Booking is essential as there are very limited places due to COVID restrictions. If you are unable to attend please ensure you cancel in good time to allow another family to book.

Visit the Bedford Local Offer website for timetables and booking information: localoffer.bedford.gov.uk/kb5/bedford/directory/site.page?id=rZoAyoQb-FQ

