



Great Denham Primary School
NEWSLETTER 12
Autumn Term
26th November 2021



Inspiring excellence; everyone, everyday

SPRING TERM CLUB BOOKINGS

We have been made aware that a few parents have not been able to book all the After School Club sessions that they require for the spring term.

The Extra-Curricular club team will be meeting this week to confirm which activities will be available for the spring term and be able to let parents know by the end of next week. This will hopefully help free up some spaces in After School Club or give parents an alternative to After School Club.

Year 6 Changes

At Christmas Circinus class will be saying goodbye to Mrs Jakeman who will be leaving her post as Year 6 leader and class teacher and taking on a new part time role within our school of our 'Catch Up teacher.' This is a new role that we have funded using the allocated money for our school for supporting children in catching up after the pandemic. Mrs Jakeman will continue to work with many of the children in Year 6 as well as supporting children in other year groups from Year 1 - 6. After Christmas we will be welcoming Mrs Lee to our school who will be joining us from a school in Luton. Mrs Allen will be taking over the role of Year 6 leader from January.

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

It has been a busy week with projects coming towards the end and Christmas play rehearsals for our youngest children! This week we have sent out all the details of the performances we are hoping to have this year - please make sure you have booked your tickets if you would like to attend as without the tickets we will not be allowing entry. Please also note we are asking parents to wear a mask for the indoor performances.

If you have a child due to start Reception next September (currently in our Nursery Class) please do not forget to apply online at Bedford Borough Council for your place in Reception before 15th January 2022.

Today we say a sad goodbye to Mrs Boyce in our office - we wish her well in her new role and thank her for her contribution to our school over the last 8 years!

Hope you have a lovely weekend
Denise Burgess



Friend

Family



LETTERS THIS WEEK

Carols By Candlelight Y3-6
Christmas Plays – Years 1 & 2
Christmas Play – Nursery Class
Christmas Play – Reception Classes
Christmas Events and Dates
Circinus Staff Changes – Year 6
Christmas Lunch Menu

Mixed Sports Hall Athletics – Y5 & 6
Mixed Sports Hall Athletics – Y3 & 4
Boys Futsal Tournament – Y3 & 4

Children in Need 2021

Thank you to everyone who participated in the non-school uniform and crazy hair day last Friday. We raised £520 for Children in Need.



CHRISTMAS IN A BOX 2021

Christmas in a Box is 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 3 years GDPS pupils have contributed enormously to this effort!

Each year group has 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 3rd December 2021.



Online Safety

Last week we sent out information regarding a fantastic online safety resource that we have subscribed to as a school from **National Online Safety**. This allows parents to sign up and receive access to a range of resources including training, help videos and regular updates on how you can keep your child safe online. If you haven't signed up already please take advantages of this brilliant resource by following the link below:

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/great-denham-primary-school>

Safety Squad

As part of our work at improving online safety awareness as a school we have elected children from each class to take on the role of a member of our safety squad. We are looking for 2 parents to join this group and take an active role in helping promote online safety across the school. The group will meet termly in school time for one hour, three times a year. If you are interested please email ruth.preece@gpds.uk for further information!

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one issue of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about CRYPTOCURRENCY

What is cryptocurrency?

Cryptocurrency is software enabling the exchange and storage of digital 'coins' representing financial value. To monitor who owns which coins, platforms save an online record of every transaction, called a 'ledger' or 'blockchain'. This is secured by cryptography: a set of methods for protecting sensitive information. Bitcoin, released in 2009, was the first cryptocurrency; other platforms have since launched such as Ethereum, Tezos and Filecoin. As cryptocurrency becomes a more established part of digital life, young people are bound to encounter it – so it's vital that trusted adults understand its risks, and how it can be explored and used safely.

COMPLEX TECHNOLOGY

Like any new software, cryptocurrency comes with bugs, flaws and limitations. Broadly, it hasn't yet evolved to be as user friendly as web browsing or social media. Using it safely means spending time learning about the complicated technology it uses. We would strongly suggest anyone considering getting involved in cryptocurrency should consult specialised tutorials to learn about it properly in advance.

BEING LOCKED OUT

If you forget your online banking password, you can reset it by proving your identity in another way. In the world of 'crypto', however, the private key to access your funds can't be reset. Cryptocurrency operates without intermediaries like banks – so no-one stores a copy of users' private keys. This has security benefits, but also presents the huge risk of permanently losing access to your account. Learn how to store private keys securely before purchasing any significant amounts of cryptocurrency.

WIDESPREAD EXAMPLES

Cryptocurrency software for smartphones is often free to download from app stores. Emails with links to cryptocurrency services can land in any inbox. Cryptocurrency is also advertised on search engines, on social media and in online games (for example to buy add-ons which help players level up). It can't be purchased easily without a credit card or bank account, but young people will still be exposed to cryptocurrency in various settings.

RISKY INVESTMENT

Prices can be very volatile, so cryptocurrencies are considered high-risk investments. If you might need your savings soon, don't hold them in cryptocurrency as their value could drop suddenly and sharply. Sometimes, cryptocurrency may be a profitable investment – but note that any gains are taxable. You may even have to pay tax when exchanging one cryptocurrency for another if the currency you're exchanging is priced higher than it was when you bought it.

CHANCE OF SCAMS

Cryptocurrency provides another opportunity for scammers to extract personal data and money from unwary web users. Unlike credit card transactions or wire transfers, a bank can't reverse cryptocurrency transactions after a suspected fraud – making it an appealing channel for online extortion. These transactions do leave evidence in the blockchain, however, which means that cryptocurrency scammers can and do get caught.

Advice for Parents & Carers

AVOID IF UNSURE

In the UK, cryptocurrency is considered risky, because users aren't well protected if something goes wrong. Most cryptocurrencies use software developed by decentralised communities, so there's no customer service and no support if your funds get stolen or you lose access to your mobile cryptocurrency wallet. Unless you understand cryptocurrency, it's probably best not to use it. After all, if you couldn't comprehend the highway code, it wouldn't be safe for you to drive.

EXPECT EXPOSURE

If your child plays online games that involve some form of virtual currency, and has access to some kind of payment method, they may find themselves in a position to buy and use cryptocurrency. There's probably no immediate danger, but discussing the potential risks with them could be useful. If your child is old enough to understand the concepts of spending and saving or to grasp the basics of programming, then they're old enough to learn about cryptocurrency.

STAY CAUTIOUS, STAY INFORMED

Approach cryptocurrency with caution as well as curiosity. Don't click on links in unexpected emails referring to cryptocurrency and beware of promotions promising free cryptocurrency in exchange for personal information. Avoid mentioning on social media that you own cryptocurrency, as this can attract scammers. Stay informed of potential new risks and regulations by regularly checking specialised sources (such as CoinDesk).

CHECK CREDENTIALS

Buying cryptocurrency for the first time involves wiring funds from your bank to a cryptocurrency exchange – a business that converts your money into cryptocurrency. They can also store cryptocurrency for you, though this could present a security risk. Cryptocurrency businesses in the UK must now comply with money laundering regulations; the Financial Conduct Authority's website has a list of all business that are approved, and it's best to avoid dealing with any that aren't.

Meet Our Expert

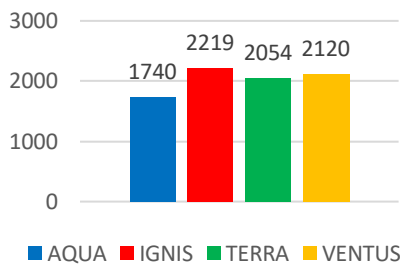
JP Vergne is an educator and associate professor at University College London's School of Management. His award-winning research on technology and organisation has been published in leading academic journals as well as in two books. JP is also a speaker and advises on startups. He tweets at @PirateOrg.

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

www.nationalonlinesafety.com [@natonlinesafety](https://twitter.com/natonlinesafety) [/NationalOnlineSafety](https://facebook.com/NationalOnlineSafety) [@nationalonlinesafety](https://instagram.com/nationalonlinesafety)

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Family Points



ATTENDANCE

Our attendance winners this week are:

Reception – Orion – 96.2%

Key Stage 1 - Delphinus – 97.1%

Key Stage 2 - Eridanus – 97%

YEAR GROUP UPDATE



Year 2

Year 2 had a wonderful trip last week at the National Sea Life centre.

It was such a long journey to get to Birmingham but we showed all our school values to the fullest! When we were there we were blown away by all of the amazing sea creatures. We loved going under the huge tunnel and seeing the massive Turtle called Mo. After spending so long learning about and becoming turtle experts seeing a real one was amazing!

We also really enjoyed the jellyfish room and the stingray tank. Being able to have this real life learning experience has made our project come to life even more now! We are now busy rehearsing our Christmas play and are looking forward to performing it to you very soon!



DIARY DATES

- **Wednesday 1st December** – Nursery Class – Christmas Play 9:30am
- **Thursday 2nd December** – Nursery Class – Christmas Play 9:30am

STARS & VALUES OF THE WEEK



Little Stars – Cody
Cassiopeia – Theo
Aquila – Lara
Volans – Aliza
Pegasus – Olivia
Auriga – Matthew T
Vela – Xara
Phoenix – Aseel

STARS

Tucana – Julius
Pavo – Reagan
Delphinus – Kai
Eridanus – Poppy
Perseus – Oscar
Lyra – Lottie
Circinus – Ramin

Orion – Celine
Cygnus – Cienna
Serpens – Robert
Andromeda – Euan

VALUES

Cassiopeia – Amara H
Aquila – Sara
Volans – Mohsin
Pegasus – Ayaan
Auriga – Gracie
Vela – Grace
Phoenix – Fathya

Tucana – Rudy
Pavo – Aafia
Delphinus – Paloma
Eridanus – Harry W
Perseus – Emilie
Lyra – Lailoma
Circinus – Ameera

Orion – Darby
Cygnus – Alaina
Serpens – Leo
Andromeda – Rayaana

SPORTS STARS

Cassiopeia – Jessica
Aquila – Olivia N
Volans – Elliana
Pegasus – Kyra
Auriga – Robert
Vela – Rowan
Phoenix – Bella

Tucana – Alice
Pavo – Oilvia V
Delphinus – Evie
Eridanus – Euan
Perseus – Ruqayyah
Lyra – Sabil
Circinus – Fathima

Orion – Finley
Cygnus – Jasmine
Serpens – Isla
Andromeda – Eleni

SPORTS UPDATE

Events next week:

Tuesday 30th November
4-6pm Year 5&6 Boys Dodgeball

Thursday 2nd December
12-2:30pm Year 5&6 Mixed
Sportshall Athletics
3-4:15pm Year 5&6 Girls Netball
Tournament

Friday 3rd December
10am-12pm year 3&4 Mixed
Sportshall Athletics

Boccacia tournament - Wednesday 24th November

Five children from year 4-6 took part in an indoor competition, playing a game very similar to boules. The children showed real courage as this sport was unfamiliar to them, however after the initial practise they started to really enjoy it. They successfully won 6 of their games, coming third overall.
A huge well done: Lewis, EJ, Mollie, Sabil and Rowan .

Year 5&6 Girls futsal league- Thursday 18th November

The girls played in the last of their matches to complete this league and what a huge success it has been! Each week both teams have improved their performance and knowledge of the game, growing in confidence and scoring impressive goals! Team A finished in 5th place and Team B in 6th place, this was out of 10 schools- well done we are really proud of you all.



LOCAL EVENTS & ADVERTS



SANTA'S GROTTO

At Great Denham Community Hall's *Winter Festival*

✧ Saturday 4th December ✧ From 2pm – 6pm ✧

✧ Only £3 per child ✧

Join us upstairs in the Anglian Suite, where the Elves will be on hand to help little ones to make reindeer food*, decorate baubles* and enjoy other festive activities, before they meet the Big Man himself, and receive a gift.

Each booking will meet Santa as a group. Adults do not need a ticket.

*Small additional charge for these optional activities in the Elves Area.

BOOK TICKETS ONLINE:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/friends-of-great-denham/e-ojgkaq>



Friends of Great Denham

SUPPORTING **Great Denham**
PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Children's Community Health HUB

Your one stop
contact point

0300 555 0606

ccs.bedsandlutonchildrenshealthhub@nhs.net

Open 9am-5pm
every weekday
(excluding BH)

New contact number and email
address for the Beds and Luton
0-19 services, including:

- Health Visiting
- School Nursing

New contact number for:

- Luton Community Paediatric
services (Edwin Lobo Centre)
- Beds and Luton Looked after
Children's services

Health HUB - a single contact point,
making it easier for you to
get in touch with us.



Luton
Children & Adults
Community Health Services



Bedfordshire
Community
Health Services