

DEBDEN PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Friday 8th July, 2022

Dear Parents,

There may only be a couple of weeks to go until the summer term, but things have certainly not been slowing down here at Debden!

For one night only, our sleepy village became an entertainment and nightlife hub as the FODs hosted their inaugural DebFest event. And what an event it was! There were performances from the school children, giant inflatables and kids' games, a BBQ, a bar, a selection of drummers, a band, an Ed Sheeran tribute artist, a raffle and much more. A big thanks to everyone who came along to support the event. There was a moment where I sat at the top of the playground and looked across the playground at everything that was going on – truly astounded at what had been achieved.

A massive thanks obviously need to go to all of the FODs and other parents who helped in creating the event. We are so lucky to have so many people who voluntarily work to support our school. Mrs Belchambers, who was the chief organiser, is actually a wonder woman – I have no idea how she juggles being a mum, her demanding job, being a school governor and a FOD! I'd also like to give a big shout out to a number of the dads (not fully-fledged members of the FODs) who were instrumental in setting up and manning the various attractions.

Not only was the event a lot of fun, but the FODs also managed to raise a whopping £2556.63, which will contribute towards the school's new playground equipment. What an incredible achievement!

Here are some important news items and notices regarding recent and upcoming events:

Transition: You should have now all received confirmation of your child's class for the next year. We've taken a lot of time to ensure that children are placed in the correct class, to give them the best opportunity to thrive. Thanks to those of you who've been in touch to share your feedback, which thus far has been universally positive! A reminder that on Monday, your child will get an opportunity to meet their new class teacher, as we are holding our 'Move-Up Morning.' They don't need to prepare anything specifically for this, but they may wish to consider some thoughtful questions that they'd like to ask their new teacher.

Written Reports: A reminder that teachers are currently finishing the writing of reports. These will include details of your child's progress and attainment in each subject (exact scores will also be given for KS1 and KS2 SATs, Year 1 Phonics Check and Year 4 Multiplication Check), an outline of their learning behaviours, skills and their attendance, written comments from the teachers and myself and targets for the year ahead. A confirmation to all year 6 parents – we have received the KS2 SATs results and these will be included in the reports. The reports will be sent to you by Monday 18th July.

YUVA Trip: The FODs have been very busy recently, as besides the DebFest, they also treated our Year 6 children to a meal at the YUVA restaurant last week! This was a lovely gesture that was appreciated by all – even those year 6s who ate too much and struggled through the afternoon!



Peripatetic Music Lessons: A big thanks to Drummer Stu, who has put on a couple of performances with his drummers over the past couple of weeks (at Debfest and in Achievement Assembly). He is a great instructor who is really popular with the children and parents who use his services - as are all of our peripatetic music teachers. A reminder that these lessons are available – please contact the admin team for more information.

Afternoon Toddler Group: Join other parents and toddlers for refreshments and a chat to explore the possibility of a regular group in the autumn.

1:30-2:45pm, Monday 11 July, New Room, Debden Church

Call Revd John for more details 01799 541 619

Staff Thanks: I have been working from home over the past few days, after testing positive for COVID earlier in the week. Unfortunately, I am not the only one! I wanted to communicate a big thanks to the staff team, who really pull together and work flexibly when we have absences such as these. A special thanks to Mrs Bailey, my very capable lieutenant, who juggles some of my responsibilities alongside her teaching commitments whilst I am away. I think that most of you will have noticed already that she is a very special individual, who is at the beating heart of our wonderful school. Always appreciated.

End of Term Events

Below is a list of the dates and times for the end-of-year events:

Monday 11 July – Move Up Day

Tuesday 12 July – Dress Rehearsal Key Stage 2 Production ‘Dream On’

Wednesday 13 July – 1.15 pm Key Stage 2 Production ‘Dream On’

Thursday 14 July – 6 pm Key Stage 2 Production ‘Dream On’

Sunday 17 July – Year 6 to Residential

Monday 18 July – Ducklings STEM afternoon

Thursday 21 July – 9.30 am Leavers Service held in the school hall (for year 6 leavers and parents)

Tuesday 6 September – Back to school

Thank you for your continuing support of our school. I hope that you have a lovely weekend!

Kind Regards

Mr Hawley