



DEBDEN PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Friday 24th June, 2022

Dear Parents,

Over the past few days, the children have been partaking in our inaugural 'Sports Week' here at Debden. The children have had a fabulous time trying out new sports (including learning fencing from a former Olympian, and tennis from our local tennis coach), learning about famous sportspeople and developing their understanding of healthy lifestyles. The week culminated in our really well-attended sports day – the first to include spectators for 3 years – which was highly-competitive, yet lots of fun! We hope that the week has enthused children to take up new sports, join clubs and remain healthy and active. A big thank you to Miss Matthews for arranging a fantastic week! A big thanks also to our FODS and the wider school community for supporting the event.

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

Transition: We are currently finalising the class lists for the coming academic year. We will begin the year with 5 classes, as we have had this year. Within the next two weeks, parents of children moving into years 2, 3 and 5 in September will be receiving some important communications from us regarding your child's class and teacher for the coming academic year.

-For parents of children moving into Year 1, you will not receive a communication from us regarding your child's class and teacher, because all Year 1 children will be in Minnows class with Miss Weetch and Mrs Hatch.

-For parents of children moving into Year 4, you will not receive a communication from us regarding your child's class and teacher, because all Year 4 children will be in Frogs class with Mrs Bailey.

-For parents of children moving into Year 6, you will not receive a communication from us regarding your child's class and teacher, because all Year 6 children will be in Kingfishers class with Miss Rowe (3 days per week) and myself (2 days per week).

Our whole school transition/ move up day will then take place on Monday 11th July. On this day, the children will spend the morning in their new class, with their new teacher. There will be ice-breaker sessions, opportunities to build new relationships and activities designed to help the children to feel comfortable in their new classes.

Written Reports: The classes have recently completed the final round of assessments, and the teachers are currently writing their final written reports to parents. 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. These reports will be sent to you by Monday 18th July.

DebFest: DebFest is drawing ever closer! A reminder that this exciting event will be taking place on Friday 1st July, 4pm until 8.30pm. The event is being organised by our FODs, with the funds raised going towards our new play equipment. It will include class performances, an Ed Sheeran tribute band, inflatables, games, face painting, a BBQ, a bar and much more! For further details, please type

debdenprimary.hoot.cloud into your web browser. A big thanks to our FODs for organising the event – it should be a lot of fun!

Car Parking: We've had feedback from a few parents who have asked us to politely request that all members of our school community demonstrate 'considerate parking' at drop-off and pick-up times. The biggest complaint seems to be that some people are parking in the middle of large spaces big enough for at least two cars – leaving gaps that are vast, but not wide enough for someone else to park in. This has meant that others have been unable to find a space.

I appreciate that this is becoming more difficult as we grow, but we are actually relatively fortunate compared to other schools with regards to parking (particularly urban schools). However, please do ensure that you park your car with consideration of other members of the community.

Dinner Money Debts: We still have a few families who are significantly behind on paying for school lunches – I will reiterate the message from earlier in the year:

'we are one of the few schools in the area that offer a flexible school lunch offer in which your child is able to choose their preferences day-by-day, and you do not need to pay in advance. This approach has always seemed to work best for everyone, but of late there have been a number of families that have racked up relatively considerable debts - In one or two cases, the amount owed has become so high that we have had to withdraw the offer of school lunches until the balance is paid. This is not a comfortable conversation for anyone involved! Please do ensure that you continue to pay for school lunches in a timely fashion, so that we do not need to revert to a more rigid, choose-and-pay-in-advance system.'

Assessment Outcomes: After the last two items, I wanted to end with something more positive! At the beginning of each year, we set ourselves ambitious attainment targets, to ensure that we strive to achieve the best learning outcomes possible for the children. The early results back with us are painting a really positive picture of the great work that is happening here: in all of the KS1 SATs, the writing element of the KS2 SATs, the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile results, the Year 1 Phonics Check and the Year 4 Multiplication Check we have met or exceeded our targets – what fantastic news, a big well done to the teachers! More details on these will be given in your child's report and also the official assessment results – published on our website and emailed to you in late July. The KS2 SATs results will be released on Tuesday 5th July – fingers crossed for more positive news!

Class	Attendance Percentage for this academic year
Ducklings	91.54%
Minnows	93.67%
Dragonflies	95.41%
Frogs	95.48%
Kingfishers	95.07%

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

Kind Regards

Mr Hawley