

DEBDEN PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Friday 4th October 2024

Dear Parents,

October is already upon us, and there certainly has been an autumnal feel in the air over the past few weeks. Despite the colder weather and the nights drawing in, the school has been a hive of activity recently, with lots of exciting activities and learning opportunities taking place. Below is a digest of recent happenings at our school, in addition to a look forward to upcoming events.

European Day of Languages



Last Thursday, we celebrated the European Day of Languages in the school. This day teaches the children about the importance of learning about other languages and cultures. The day began with an assembly by Madame Bailey, in which she gave information to the children about the different languages across Europe, and why it is so important that these languages are not lost. The children then took part in activities across the day, for example linked languages sessions in whole class reading, history and art. Ms Alina introduced the children to the Ukrainian language and culture and taught the children some Ukrainian stories and games. Finally, (this was probably their favourite part!) children got to taste some different foods from across the channel in our 'Debden French Café', such as brie, croissants and crepes!

Many thanks to Mrs Bailey for putting this invaluable day together for the children.

Curriculum Enhancement Days

There have been lots of trips and educational visits taking place recently! Last week, the Newts Class had a great time at the West Stow Anglo-Saxon village, to supplement their current learning in history. The Frogs had their Ancient Greeks morning in school and the Kingfishers welcomed a special visitor from the past as a part of their World War II afternoon. This week, the Minnows visited the House on the Hill Toy Museum, and the we welcomed a steel band into school to kick off our Black History Month focus. The children listened to the band play, and then each class visited for focused workshops throughout the day. A big thanks to all of the teachers and the admin team for arranging these special days for our children. Also, a huge thank you to FODs who have generously donated funds to these trips/visits to reduce the expense to parents.



Bus Queries and Contact Details

We are having lots of dialogue with parents at the moment about issues regarding the school bus. Whilst we will of course support you in any way that we can, please remember that the bus company is contracted by Essex local authority, and is separate from the school – we do not have any staff on the bus to supervise the children. We help where we can, but we have as much control over the bus as you do - I sometimes feel as though we deal with more incidents taking place on the bus than we do in the school!

Should you have any questions or concerns about matters relating to the school bus, in the first instance please contact Acme, the bus company, on 01279 871707 or via email: jane@acme-bus.com.

For Essex School Transport, please contact on 0345 603 2200 or via email: passenger.transport@essex.gov.uk

Learning Support Assistant Role

We presently have an advert out for a 1-2-1 learning support assistant role. The role is Monday to Friday 12pm to 3.15pm. Prior experience is not a must, and indeed some of our wonderfully-talented current crop of LSAs have started their career in education with us – we provide training. If you or someone that you know are interested in becoming a teaching assistant, please don't hesitate to get in touch, and we'll direct you through the application process.

Harvest Service/ Uttlesford Food Bank Donations

Thank you to everyone who supported our Harvest Service this morning down at the church. As we are ever-expanding, it is creating more and more of a logistical challenge every term, but we just about crammed in! Thank you also for all of your kind donations for the Harvest Collection. The goods donated will be making their way to the Uttlesford Food Bank next week, and will be given to families in need in and around the Saffron Walden area.

Tesco Golden Grant Winners!

Some brilliant news to end with. You may remember that our school has been in the Tesco 'Stronger Starts' blue token scheme, raising money for a community wellbeing garden that the student council would like to create as a part of their 'courageous advocacy' work. If we won, we would have received £1,500, second £1,000 or third £500. However, one wonderful customer (thank you whoever you are!) found the 'Golden Token' and chose Debden to be the recipient of a grant of £5,000! To say that we are delighted and incredibly thankful is an understatement! This grant will be used to create an enhanced version of the wellbeing garden, and will also fund other wellbeing activities (e.g. wellbeing week, mentoring, etc. across the school).

Key Dates for this Term

Tuesday 8th October – Mr Roberts (JFAN Head) coming to visit Kingfishers

Wednesday 16th October – Flu Jabs – please remember to sign up for this

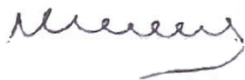
Friday 18th October – Kingfisher Cake Sale

Tuesday 22nd October and Thursday 24th October – Parent-Teacher Meetings

Friday 25th October – Final Day of Autumn Half Term 1

Monday 4th November – First Day of Autumn Half Term 2

Kind Regards



Matt Hawley

Headteacher