

DEBDEN PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Friday 25th September 2026

Dear Parents,

It has been a busy and productive couple of weeks as we settle back into the routines of a new school year. The children have returned with enthusiasm and have been working hard in their lessons while also enjoying a range of exciting activities and events. We hope you enjoy reading about some of the highlights from across the school.

Our New House System

As our school community continues to grow, we are excited to introduce our new six-house system, creating even more opportunities for children to work together, build relationships and develop a strong sense of belonging. Each house has been carefully named after a significant individual who embodies one of our core school values, providing inspiring role models for our pupils. Every house is led by a teacher and a Year 6 House Captain, who will help to organise events, encourage participation and foster house spirit throughout the year. We are looking forward to seeing our houses flourish and the positive impact this will have across the school.

Debden Primary Academy Houses



House Captains and Teachers

Seacole House	Mandela House	Jemison House	Shackleton House	Shakespeare House	Curie House
<i>Compassion</i>	<i>Respect</i>	<i>Aspiration</i>	<i>Endurance</i>	<i>Creativity</i>	<i>Wisdom</i>
Bethany Rose Ms Bacon	Elliott Bower Miss Rowe	Jasmine Peters Miss Douglas	Declan Parkes Mrs Hatch/Mrs Hopkinson	Teddy Bethune Mrs Barden	Alice Tedman Mrs Caparelli/Mrs Auty



Democracy Day

This week, the children took part in Democracy Day, learning about what democracy means and why it is such an important part of life in Britain. Throughout the day, classes explored how everyone has a voice and how voting helps people make decisions fairly.

In the afternoon, the children put their learning into practice by taking part in our own democratic process. Candidates for the Student Council delivered their speeches, sharing their ideas and explaining why they would make good representatives. Pupils then cast their votes, just like in a real election, helping to choose the children who will represent their peers this year. It was a fantastic opportunity for everyone to experience democracy in action! Well done to those children elected!

European Day of Languages

Today, we celebrated European Day of Languages, giving children the opportunity to explore the value of learning another language and the many benefits it brings. They discovered how learning languages can help us communicate with others, understand different cultures and open up opportunities in the future. Working in their new house teams, pupils then took part in a creative challenge, translating our school values into a range of different languages. Their colourful creations will be displayed in the library, celebrating both our school community and the many languages spoken around the world. It was wonderful to see children collaborating across year groups and embracing the rich diversity of language and culture.

Uniform Reminder

Recently, we have noticed that some aspects of our uniform expectations have started to slip, so we would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of our school uniform requirements, which are outlined below.

Children should wear:

- Black or grey trousers, shorts, skirt/pinafore dress
- White polo shirt (this does not need to be branded)
- Red school jumper, sweatshirt or cardigan (this does not need to be branded)
- White, grey or black socks/tights
- Shoes should be plain black.
- If your child finds tying laces difficult, please choose a Velcro-style shoe where possible.

PE Kit

- Black joggers, leggings or shorts
- A plain white T-shirt
- Suitable trainers for PE activities
- Red school jumper, sweatshirt or school fleece. Black sports hoodies or sports jumpers are not part of our PE uniform and should not be worn.

Hair, Jewellery and Accessories

- Long hair should be tied back.
- Large bows, oversized headbands and other prominent hair accessories should not be worn.
- Children should not wear nail varnish, make-up or temporary tattoos

- Jewellery should be kept to a minimum for safety reasons. The only jewellery permitted is **one small plain stud earring in each ear**. Hooped earrings, dangly earrings, necklaces, bracelets and rings should not be worn. Earrings must be removed for PE and sports activities in line with Essex health and safety guidance.

We recognise that some children, particularly those with SEND, may require reasonable adjustments to uniform expectations. Where uniform does not meet expectations, children will initially receive a verbal reminder followed by a slip to take home to make parents aware. To support families, FODS offers a large range of good-quality second-hand uniform at affordable prices.

Village shop:

The village shop will be reopening on Monday 5th October!

Key Dates for this Term

Thursday 1st October- Uttlesford food bank assembly

Friday 9th October – Harvest Service – 9.20am Debden Church

From Monday 5th October – Start of Black History Month

Thursday 15th October- Children's First Aid sessions with Mini Medics

Tuesday 20th October and Thursday 22nd October – Parent Consultations

Friday 23rd October – Final Day of Autumn Half Term 1

Monday 2nd November – First Day of Autumn Half Term 2

Have a wonderful weekend.

Kind Regards,

Sarah Bailey

Headteacher