



# Danbury Park Community Primary School

*Be wise, be happy, belong!*

## Newsletter

Website: [www.danburypark.essex.sch.uk](http://www.danburypark.essex.sch.uk)

**17<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Reading Awards

#### Congratulations to:

Isla W - **Topaz** Henry M - **Topaz** Lily W - **Topaz** Barnaby F - **Diamond** Ivy P - **Bronze**  
Ela S - **Ruby**

### Weekly News

This week the children in Year 6 have all been engaged in the end of Key Stage 2 national tests. They have coped in a mature and sensible way with these, staying focused on the tasks in hand and giving of their best. We are very proud of how they have applied themselves this week and for all their help in setting up the hall and classroom at the end of every day so that we were ready to get started first thing every morning. Well done Year 6!

This has also been another busy sporting week despite the unsettled weather. On Tuesday the High 5 Netball Team played against Great Leighs Primary school in the rain and we enjoyed a well-earned victory with a score of 5-3. Katie was voted player of the match by Gt Leighs as she worked skilfully to move the ball in the right direction up and down the court and to fearlessly intercept passes. There were also excellent performances from Phoebe N and Amber M who worked a great double act to get the ball in a position so that Phoebe could score. Well done, team, you deserved this win!

On Wednesday the Year 4 Tennis Team A went to the Chelmsford district finals and finished 4<sup>th</sup> overall. Considering over 50 teams played in all the heats and we were up against schools that have their own tennis courts, this is a remarkable achievement. Well done to Harry, Dominic, Amber and Harriet!

I am aware that there is talk amongst parents (and some children) regarding classes for next year. However, I need to point out that school has not yet started to make any definite plans. It is usually a job for straight after the summer half-term break, and this year, it will involve Mrs Jones, our new headteacher. As I write, it is looking as if the national drop in the birth rate will be affecting numbers for our new EYFS children in September and we may not have as many children coming in as in the past. However, from my years of experience the situation could rapidly change and we have to make provision for the fact that we could have up to 37 children in the year group and the maximum number of children we can have in an infant class is 30.

We are also still in the process of recruiting a new Key Stage 2 Lead teacher and sadly Mrs Murphy will be leaving Danbury Park at the end of the summer to move onto pastures new. We are pleased that Mrs Lees will be joining the Key Stage 2 team full-time in September. However, all this means that there are gaps to fill, so teachers have not yet been assigned classes. We have a lot of decision making and sorting out to do! As soon as we have a definite plan, we will share this with parents and the children.

## Walk to School Week



Our school is taking part in Walk to School Week (20-24 May). The nationwide event is organised by walking charity Living Streets and designed to help pupils experience first-hand the importance of walking to school. Children will be well on their way to reaching their recommended minimum 60 minutes of physical activity per day before even reaching the school gates! Not only will it set them up for a positive day in the classroom, but it will also help create healthy habits for life.

This year's challenge, The Magic of Walking, encourages children to travel actively to school every day of the week. Meeting various magical beings along the way, they'll learn about the important reasons to walk and the difference it can make for individuals, communities and the planet! Each pupil will be challenged to travel sustainably (walk, wheel, scoot, cycle or Park and Stride) to school every day for one week using the wallchart and stickers to log their journeys. Each class will work collectively to make as many active journeys to school as possible across the week. Individual activity diaries, daily stickers and end of week pupil rewards will complement this activity, reinforcing the benefits and keeping children engaged.

What do you need to do as a parent/carer? We would ask, if possible, to make arrangements so that your child/children can travel actively to school on week commencing 20th May, helping our school reduce congestion and pollution around the school gates. Walking, wheeling, scooting and cycling all count! If you live far away from school and need to drive or take public transport, try parking the car or hopping off the bus ten minutes away and walking the rest of the journey.

## Lunchtimes – Help Needed

You will have seen from previous newsletters that we have had vacancies for Midday Assistants since September. We have not been able to fill these posts and this is now sadly impacting on the areas of the school that the children can use at lunchtime. Now the weather is improving, they are keen to get onto the school field, play football and to use the Daily Mile track but when we are so short of Midday Assistants to supervise these areas, we have to limit the children to using the playground and the Daily Mile track only when we have enough adults.

The senior leadership team including myself have been carrying out lunchtime duties all year but other staff need their breaks as they are teaching in class and cannot take their lunchtimes flexibly.

If you can, or you know of anyone who might be able to support as a Midday Assistant, please ask them to contact the office for more details and an application form. We want the children to be able to fully utilize our lovely surroundings safely and enjoy lunchtimes with a variety of activities.

Thank you!



Essex County Council

## Helping parents to understand the changes to fines for term time holidays

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines issued for unauthorised holidays recorded by schools **after 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024**.

### Who may be fined?

Penalty Notice Fines are issued to each parent who allows their child to be absent from school.

For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent who allowed the holiday receiving 3 separate fines.

### National Threshold

There will be a single consistent national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England of 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period. These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence.

For example: a 5 day holiday would meet the national threshold.

The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years.

### First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for an unauthorised term time holiday the fine amount will be: £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

Increasing to £160 if paid between days 22-28.

### Second Offence (within 3 years)

The Second time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be: £160 per parent (who allowed the holiday), per child, payable within 28 days.

### Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed a Penalty Notice will not be issued and local authorities will need to consider other available measures to address the absence concerns. This may mean that cases are presented before a Magistrate's Court. Prosecution can result in criminal records and fines of up to £2,500.

Cases found guilty in the Magistrates' Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education'.

## Talented and Thoughtful Pupils

Indigo and Belle enjoyed success at their trampolining competition last weekend. Indigo came 1st in the 9-10 age category and after a nervous start Belle was able to nail her 2nd performance with one judge awarding her a score of 9.9 to help her achieve 4th place. They both really enjoyed the experience, they supported each other beautifully & are very proud of their achievement.



Charlie went to the biggest youth football festival on the bank holiday at Butlins Bognor Regis with his football team Danbury and Bicknacre Blues Under 9s.

They started off on the Saturday winning 1 game, drawing 2 and lost one and unfortunately on the 2nd day they lost both games but they thoroughly enjoyed the experience and came middle of the table.

Charlie's highlight of the weekend was meeting John Barnes!

## Mathletics Challenge

The Mathletics Challenge is underway and the children have been clocking up the minutes each week to earn a reward for the winning class over the term.

The class that made the most use of Mathletics last week was again:

### **Class Eider**

and the pupil was:

**Eva G** in Class Eider

**Well done and keep up the good work!**

For their reward from last term, the children in Class Eider chose to bring a special toy or game today to play with in an extended playtime.



# HAPPY'S CIRCUS

Even the kids will love it!



**SATURDAY  
6TH JULY**

**DANBURY  
PARK  
COMMUNITY  
PRIMARY  
SCHOOL  
CM3 4AB**

**ENQUIRIES**

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**Please note: No parking is available on-site.**

**Message from Wraparound Childcare Project Team,  
Early Years and Childcare, Education Operations, Essex County Council**

Dear Parents/ Carers

We would like to express our sincere gratitude for your participation in the recent parent survey, regarding wraparound childcare available in your area. Your valuable insights are essential to our understanding of parents' requirements across the county, to enable us to plan where additional wraparound childcare places will be needed.

Essex County Council has a statutory duty under the Childcare Act 2006 to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that there is sufficient and accessible high-quality early years and childcare provision to meet local demand. This includes provision of childcare places for children aged between 0-5 years as well as wrap around provision for school aged children (5-11 or up to 19 with additional needs).

The Department for Education (DFE) have released funding to Local Authorities to support the childcare expansion reforms. Some of this funding will be used to create new wraparound places in areas where there is currently insufficient provision. The places may be within schools, or alternatively provided by childcare providers or childminders. It is intended that these new places will be rolled out from September 2024 through to March 2026. Wraparound provision is a service that parents pay for and is not free of charge. The funding available from the government is to help support with the opening of provisions but not to subsidise the cost of the care, and provision is expected to be sustainable by March 2026.

Thank you once again for taking the time to complete the survey. If you missed the initial opportunity, the survey is still open (link below) and we welcome your continued feedback on the level of need in your area. Your input is essential in shaping the future of wraparound childcare services in our community.

Link to parents' survey- <https://forms.office.com/e/xHRVcgTE4J>

Kind regards

Nicole Conlon  
Caroline Brown  
Susie Threadgold

## Safeguarding

**Skips Safety Net** Keeping children safe online

### A Parent's Guide to Safety and Privacy Settings

Drugs Self-harm & Suicide Violence  
Crime Hacking Pornography

**When you give a child access to the Internet, you give them access to the adult world.**

The Internet treats everyone as adults and there are many things, they are not yet ready to know, which is why it is vital that some form of safety settings are in place. Doing something is better than doing nothing.

**What happens online has an effect to what happens offline and what happens offline has an effect to what happens online.**

**Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.**

Parents please contact your school to enquire attending their next e-safety workshop or have any concerns.

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

Skips Educational Email: info@skipssed.com Tel: +44 121 227 1941

Developed in partnership with:  
Home Office  
Advisance Reduction Unit  
Police and crime commissioner

**Skips** www.skipssafetynet.org

SKIPS Educational works in partnerships with multi-agency safeguarding partners and supporting organisations across the UK in a collective effort to keep children safe online. The organisation has provided schools with some useful information for parents including the poster opposite.

By actively engaging parents and carers in discussions about cyberbullying, it crucially reinforces positive behaviours both in and out of school amongst children and helps prevent them being dragged into situation either intentionally or inadvertently.

There is also lots of information on the 2 Johns' website:

<https://esafetytraining.org/resources/parents-carers-area/>

**Let's work together to keep the children safe!**

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'Family Learning' [aclessex.com](http://aclessex.com) 0345 603 7635 ACL Essex County Council

## Attendance

Part of our safeguarding duties and procedures is ensuring that when children are absent from school, we know where they are and that they are safe. Please remember to inform school by **9.20am each day** if your child is absent from school and to follow this up with a written letter of explanation on their return. If we do not know where your child is, we are required to use the emergency contact numbers you have given to school. So, it is vitally important that if you change your phone numbers, or your family and friends do, that you inform us.

The government, local authority and school take attendance seriously and school is required to follow up on irregular attendance and prolonged absences and also for unauthorised absences, so please do not be offended when we ask for proof of doctors' and dentists' appointment or ask for details of holiday bookings or delayed flights or sickness on return after school holidays. The government is also asking parents to send their children into school with mild illnesses and we would, of course, contact you should their condition deteriorate.

### Important information - Term time holidays

Improving school attendance is a key priority for all schools across Essex. Where families choose to take a family holiday during term time, this can detrimentally impact a pupil's progress and can prevent them from fulfilling their true academic potential. Our school attendance policy, available via our school website, clearly sets out the process that parents should follow if they wish to apply for leave during term time. Please note that applications should only be made, if you feel that there are exceptional circumstances which mean that the leave cannot be taken during the school holidays.

**We would ask all parents to note that, where families choose to go on holiday during term time and the absences are coded as unauthorised, Essex County Council may not issue penalty notices and may instead proceed to prosecution and place the case directly before the Magistrates for their consideration in court.** If found guilty by the Magistrates, parents could face a fine of up to £2,500 and/or 3 months imprisonment.

**In the Autumn Term we received answerphone messages and e-mails informing us that children are ill. A pattern is emerging and this often seems to happen on the day(s) before an unauthorised holiday. If we have reason to suspect that you have taken your child(ren) out of school on a holiday or excursion, the absence will be unauthorised and we will write to you. If you can prove that you travelled on the days in your original application for leave of absence or explain why school could not contact you on your home phone line or why we got the international dialing tone, then we will reconsider the classification of the absence. Please be advised that this may still lead to a fixed penalty notice or prosecution as explained above.**



## Danbury Park School Vacancies

### Get Active Co-ordinator

We are looking for an enthusiastic and caring person to join our friendly, supportive midday team working 12.00pm to 1.30pm term-time only as soon as possible. We have an all-weather track around our field and the older children enjoy the challenge of trying to walk a mile every day.

We are looking for the right person to help organise the Daily Mile and encourage the children to take part. This involves being creative and setting inter-class competitions as well as adding extra challenges. We can be flexible as to days. For more information, please contact the school office.

### Midday Assistant

We are looking for a midday assistant to join our team working at lunchtimes on Wednesdays, Thursday and Fridays. For more information, please contact the school office.

***The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects the staff to share this commitment. All appointments are subject to an enhanced DBS check, medical clearance and satisfactory references.***

## Danbury Park School Lottery

We would like to remind parents about the school lottery and thank those who regularly donate their winnings back to the school.

The Schools' Lottery is where parents can take part in a weekly draw with proceeds going to the school.

Over the past four years we have raised £4 000 which we have spent on special projects like the EYFS outdoor classroom and the KS2 garden, which we could not otherwise afford. Every little contribution helps!

**Please visit the website and support us:**

**[www.yourschoollottery.co.uk](http://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk)**

**Search for Danbury Park School**

You must be 18 years of age to play and tickets cost just £1 a week.



## Notification and Reminders

**Sun Hats** – as the weather starts to improve, please provide your child with a sun hat to provide protection at break and lunchtimes from the sun.

**New Phone System** – the new VOIP phones are now up and running using our number of 01245 224994 but please listen carefully to the options for reporting an absence or wanting to speak with the office. Please be aware that when we dial out, this may come up as a different number but will start 01245 981xxx.

**School Gateway** – Thank you to all the parents who have now joined the new online payment system. Please ensure that you download the app as per the letter sent out at the end of last term. Payments for school dinners and trips need to be made via this app. Please note that we are now well on our way to being a cashless school as part of *Our World, Our Future* project. By having the online system, staff need to make fewer journeys by car to the bank, thus reducing emissions and we are using less paper.

**Measles** – The Primary Health Care Trust has asked us to remind parents about the measles vaccine, which is available through GP surgeries. They are anxious to vaccinate all children to prevent an outbreak of a potentially dangerous disease.

**Free School Meals** – Due to Covid-19 we understand that your circumstances may have changed or may change in the near future and you may now be eligible for free school meals. To check eligibility please contact Essex County Council on 0345 603 2200 or for more information and online application go to <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

This is the eligibility criteria ECC use:





### Entitlement and what is required

The Government set the criteria for free school meal entitlement. To be entitled, you need to receive:

- Universal Credit with an annual income of £7,400 or less
- Income Support
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income Related Employment & Support Allowance
- Pension Guarantee Credit
- Child Tax Credit (But not working tax credit) with an annual income of less than £16,190
- Parents with Asylum Seeker status who receive support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Working Tax Credit 'Run-on' – the payment someone may receive for a further 4 weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

Please apply on the link above

### Letters sent out this week:

-  **Y6 Crucial Crew**
-  **Year 2 Mini Games**
-  **Year 6 Itinerary for School Journey**
-  **Young Voices Concert 2025 Y5/Y6**



## Owl's Barn School Meals

### Week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024

**Week 3**

**Fresh bread and milk available daily**

<b>Monday</b>	Homemade Tomato Pasta Bake or (V)Cheddar Whirl	Garlic Bread Cucumber Sweetcorn	<b>Key Stage 2 only</b> Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Jam and Coconut Sponge with Custard Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
<b>Tuesday</b>	Chicken Fajita Wrap or (V)Quorn Fajita Wrap	Sweet Potato Wedges Peas Mixed Salad	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling Cheese Baked Beans Tuna Mayo	Tutti Fruity Flapjack Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
<b>Wednesday</b>	Local Butcher's Pork Sausage or (V) Vegan Sausage	Creamy Mash Potatoes Baked Beans Peas, Green Salad	<b>Key Stage 2 only</b> Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Shortbread Biscuit Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
<b>Thursday</b>	Homemade Minced Bolognese or (V) Vegan Minced Bolognese	White/Wholegrain Pasta Mixed Vegetable Mixed Salad	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling Cheese Baked Beans Tuna Mayo	Jelly and Fruit Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
<b>Friday</b>	Omega 3 Fish Fingers or (V) Cheese and Tomato Quiche	Chips Peas Cucumber	<b>Key Stage 2 only</b> Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Cherry Muffin Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt

### SCHOOL DINNERS COSTS FOR SUMMER TERM 2024

1<sup>st</sup> Half Term: **15<sup>th</sup> April – 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024** = 29 days at £2.70 = £78.30

2<sup>nd</sup> Half Term: **4<sup>th</sup> June – 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024** = 36 days at £2.70 = £97.20

**Total for Summer Term = £175.50**

**Please note that all school meals should be paid for in advance via School Gateway.**

**Dates for the Diary**  
**Week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

**Mon 20<sup>th</sup> May**

**3.30pm**

**High 5 Netball Match v St Pius (home)**

**Tues 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Weds 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**am**

**2.55pm**

**Police dogs and car to visit classes Jay and Hummingbird  
Let's Present**

**Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**3.30pm**

**Boys' Football Match v Our Lady Immaculate Primary School (home)**

**Fri 24<sup>th</sup>**

**2.45pm**

**Class Cuckoo Assembly to families and the whole school**

**Full term dates for the academic years  
2023-24 and 2024-25 are available on the school website.**

Yours sincerely,

Carol Gooding,  
Headteacher



## Dates for Summer Term 2024

Date	Time	Event
<b>May</b>		
Week beg		
20 <sup>th</sup>	3.30pm	High 5 Netball Match v St Pius (home)
22 <sup>nd</sup>		Police dogs and car to visit Classes J & H
24 <sup>th</sup>	2.45pm	Class Cuckoo Assembly
	2.20pm	Boys' Football Match v OLI (home)
27 <sup>th</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup>		Half-term break
<b>May</b>		
<b>June</b>		
3 <sup>rd</sup>		INSET – School closed for staff training
		Year 4 Multiplication Assessments (2 week window)
4 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am – 11.45am	Year 2 Mini-games
5 <sup>th</sup>	Am	Class and Team photos
	12.45 – 3.15pm	Year 3 Swimming 1/6
6 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Governors' Resources meeting at school with site walk at 6.30pm
7 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm KO	Mini Football Tournament v Boreham Primary and St Peter's Primary Schools at Boreham
10 <sup>th</sup>		Year 1 Phonics Screening window opens (2 weeks)
	9.15 – 3.15pm	Classes J and H to visit Barleylands Farm
11 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Meeting for parents of September entrants
12 <sup>th</sup>	12.45 – 3.15pm	Year 3 Swimming 2/6
13 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Governors' Personnel Meeting (virtual)
14 <sup>th</sup>	2.45pm	Class B Assembly
	9.15am- 3.15pm	Classes G and F to visit Braintree Museum
Week beg 17 <sup>th</sup>		Year 6 School Journey to Stratford upon Avon
		Assessment Week for Years 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5
17 <sup>th</sup>	All day	Year 5 to Danbury Outdoors
18 <sup>th</sup>	12.45pm	New entrants in for school lunch and to visit Classes J and H
19 <sup>th</sup>	12.45 – 3.15pm	Year 3 Swimming 3/6
21 <sup>st</sup>	12.00 – 3.30pm	Girls' Football Tournament at Heybridge Swifts
	2.45pm	Class G Assembly
24 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	EYFS Welly Walk
		Year 5 Taster Day at Sandon School
26 <sup>th</sup>	12.45 – 3.15pm	Year 3 Swimming 4/6
		Year 6 Induction Day at Sandon
28 <sup>th</sup>	9.20am	New entrants to visit and class swap to meet the next teacher
	2.30pm	Year 2 Assembly to families
<b>July</b>		

3 <sup>rd</sup>	12.45 – 3.15pm	Year 3 Swimming 5/6
5 <sup>th</sup>	2.45pm	Class H Assembly
6 <sup>th</sup>		DPSA Circus Event on School Field
8 <sup>th</sup>	1.30pm	New entrants to visit and class swap to meet the next teacher
9 <sup>th</sup>	2.45pm	Class J Assembly
10 <sup>th</sup>	12.45 – 3.15pm	Year 3 Swimming 6/6
11 <sup>th</sup>		Pupil end of year reports to go out
	7.00pm	Full governing body meeting
12 <sup>th</sup>		Sports Day Picnic Open afternoon
	Eve	DPSA Year 6 Leavers' Disco
19 <sup>th</sup>	PM	DPS Got Talent
23 <sup>rd</sup>	9.10am 10.00am	Year 6 Leavers' Presentation of gifts in front of families and whole school Year 6 Leavers' Final Assembly to families
		Break up for the Summer Holiday