

Dunmow St Mary's Primary School

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Friday 10th January 2020

Dear Parents

Happy New Year! It was lovely to see the children back at school this week looking refreshed and ready for their new term.

Changes to the premises



You will have noticed that we have made some improvements to our school grounds this week. The fence along the driveway was planned to follow the positioning of the relocatable classroom and further ensures the safety of our children as they enter and leave these and the other nearby classrooms. In addition we have altered the position of the gate at the back of the school. This was in response to feedback that parents were concerned about queuing along the pavement especially when they have

younger children with them. We hope that the additional space will have alleviated this problem and would ask parents/carers arriving earlier to move up within this space to allow access for everyone.

We do our very best to have an adult on duty at the end of the day at both the front and back gate to ensure that no child leaves the ground without appropriate supervision. However, please may we remind parents with younger children that it is probably safer to keep them with you rather than allowing them to run across the field or ahead on the path where you would be unable to prevent them going through the gates without you.

We have fixed our scooter park at the side of the year 1 classrooms. Please can we ask that from now on all scooters being left on school site are 'parked' here and not left behind sheds, at the back gate etc. Any found will be moved here during the day. Please note that scooters are left at your own risk and the school will not accept liability or responsibility for these. We hope by half-term we will be in a position to provide bike racks by the back gate to allow secure storage of bikes during the school day.

YR, 1 and 2 Disco Party

The KS1 Disco Party for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children will be held on Tuesday 28th January from 4.00pm – 5.00pm. The cost is £3 per child and this includes a drink and a biscuit. Payment should be made via your child's online account where permission can be given too. Children will need to be dropped off and collected from their classroom on the day. Any children attending Olivers Lodge will be taken to the classroom and collected from the disco unless you make alternative arrangements with them.

Club cancellations

Please note that there will be no TTGymnastics, Craft Club or Reading Club on Tuesday 28th January due to the KS1 disco.

Parent Assemblies – Spring term

KS2 Assemblies are from 10.40 – 10.50am on a Wednesday in the hall. These assemblies are not a special presentation for parents, they are part of the normal timetable and their main purpose is for the children to share their work with the other children. However, parents are very welcome to attend. Please don't feel that it is expected that you will be there. If you do wish to come, please make sure you are here at 10.35 to be seated as the hall is very full and it is hard to come in once the assembly has started. KS1 assemblies are in the classroom at 2.55pm on a **Wednesday afternoon**.

Wednesday 29 th January 10.40am	3RB		
Wednesday 5 th February 10.40am	4LR		
Wednesday 12 th February 10.40am	5SM		
<i>Half term</i>			
Wednesday 26 th February 10.40am	6TH	Wednesday 26 th February 2.55pm	1BI
Wednesday 4 th March 10.40am	3SC	Wednesday 4 th March 2.55pm	2BR
Wednesday 11 th March 10.40am	4LW	Wednesday 11 th March 2.55pm	1RF/GM
Wednesday 18 th March 10.40am	5NR	Wednesday 18 th March 2.55pm	2SJ
Wednesday 25 th March 10.40am	6BH		

NSPCC Number Day



We will be supporting the NSPCC Number Day on Friday 7th February. Children will be allowed to wear a non-uniform school top with a number on to show their support. They will be asked to bring a donation (suggested amount £1) on this day.

Further details of the day will follow.

World Book Day

This is celebrated this year on 5th March. We have decided to do something different this year and will not be asking the children to dress up on the day. We wanted to give parents/carers advance notice of this before anybody goes out and buys a costume in anticipation. Further details of this year's plans will follow in due course.

Lost Property

Our lost property box is currently overflowing with coats, jumpers, cardigans and various other items. If you believe your child has lost an item of uniform etc then do please check the box by the office – items will very shortly be placed in our recycling bin if they remain unclaimed.

Head Lice/Nits

We have a few cases of head lice/nits in school at the moment. Please ensure you are brushing and checking your child's hair for head lice/nits on a regular basis and dealing with the problem as soon as it is discovered. Some simple steps can be used to deal with head lice without the need for expensive treatments which are outlined on the NHS page of their website

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>.

Safeguarding incident

Another primary school has received information from a parent that someone purporting to be a School Nurse contacted them by text to ask questions about their child. This was reported to the Police and has been confirmed as a hoax. Virgin Care wish to ensure all schools are aware of this. School Nurses do not send text messages as their first contact with parents. If you receive a text message requesting information about your child from anyone purporting to be a School Nurse, please DO NOT engage. To check the validity of any request received, please contact the Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service Single Point of Access:

Mid Essex 0300 247 0014 (option 2)

North Essex 0300 247 0015

South Essex 0300 247 0013

West Essex 0300 247 0122

Events

Please find below the event calendar for next week:

Week commencing Monday 13th January	
MONDAY	Y6 Parent Consultations
WEDNESDAY	Y6 Parent Consultations

Other events

As we advertise a number of events on a weekly basis we have decided to put these all in one place to make it easier for our parents to read and access the information. These are on our community noticeboard page on the parents tab of our website. Please see the noticeboard for details of sports, health, activity camps and so on: <http://dsmprimary.essex.sch.uk/parents/community-noticeboard/>
Please note this page is updated every Friday during term time.

Yours sincerely
Clare Griffiths