

Dunmow St Mary's Primary School

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Friday 14th February 2020

Dear Parents

Parent consultations

Parent consultations for Year R to 5 will be taking place on Monday 16th March and Wednesday 18th March between 3.30pm and 6.30pm. Booking for these sessions will take place online via your child's Scopay account from 9am on Monday 24th February and will close on Sunday 15th March. Please also be aware that there are issues with using the system via mobiles and tablets so where possible please use a computer/laptop. You are unfortunately not yet able to use the Scopay app.

For families with multiple children we advise leaving 10 minutes between appointments to move around the school and unless there are exceptional circumstances it would be really helpful if split families could arrange to meet teachers together. There are a limited number of slots available and we believe it is important that teachers are able to deliver the same feedback to both parents.

PTA

Fundraising opportunity: **Do you shop in the Co Op?** If so you can easily help raise money for the school by nominating our school as a charity and each time you swipe your card when you shop you can add to the fund. Please click on this link to sign in or sign up to start raising money!

<https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/42530>.

The PTA are very pleased to announce that the tea towel sale that took place before Christmas raised approximately £675 for the school. Thank you to you all for your support. There are a couple of important dates for your diary. The first is that the next PTA quiz will be on 27th March and a Mother's Day gift sale will be held during the week commencing 16th March. Watch this space for more details.

The PTA are also very excited to announce that this year they will be trialling a "PTA Summer Ball" at Foakes Hall on Friday 17th July. There will be food, drinks, live music, DJ set and auction. It is hoped that this will prove to be a fun and sociable way of raising valuable funds for the school and that you will be up for joining the fun! More details will follow after half term.

Sports Roundup

Hockey - last Friday DSM travelled to Felsted Independent School to play in the DEEP hockey tournament. As there were eight teams it was a round robin competition. DSM won four games and lost three games, making them 5th overall. Well done to everyone who played.



Athletics - on Wednesday, 34 pupils from Y4 and Y6 travelled to Lord Butler Leisure Centre, Saffron Walden to compete in the Sports Hall Athletics Finals. It was a very busy morning where every pupil competed in two field events and two track races. Our Y4 team came 4th and our Y6 team came 3rd out of 20 schools. Fantastic overall results and some brilliant individual successes.

There are some open X country events coming up for Y1-6 children. They will take place at Herberts Farm on Thursday 5th March and Great Easton on Thursday 19th March. Both races start at 4pm.

Please note that there will be no Hockey club on Wednesday 26th February.

World Book Day

Although World Book Day is not until Thursday 5th March we wanted to let you know of some fun and exciting things we will be doing to celebrate. As already communicated we will not be asking children to dress up but instead will be asking them to bring in a potato that they can 'decorate' during the day as a favourite character. We are also taking part in the 'Share a million' stories campaign that is running and will be recording all instances where children are sharing stories for 10 minutes from 27th February to 27th March. The library is also running 'The Great Book Giveaway' and all children in the school will be put into a daily draw to win a free book prize during this month. There will be separate draws for KS1 and KS2. Please see attached notice for more information.

School dinners

It would be appreciated if all outstanding dinner money was paid before we come back after half term. Meals are payable in advance. If you would like to pay for your child's meals for the next half term the cost is £69.

World Thinking Day/Founders Day

Saturday 22nd February is World Thinking Day/Founders Day. Girlguiding members use the day to think about members of the Girlguiding movement around the world of which there are over 10 million members in 145 countries. The Scout Association call this day Founders Day to celebrate the birthday of their founder, Lord Baden-Powell. In honour of this day any child who is a member of Girlguiding (Rainbows, Brownies and Guides) or the Scout Association (Beavers, Cubs and Scouts) may wear their uniform to school on Tuesday 25th February.

Unwanted football shirts

If anyone has football shirts that their children have grown out of, we are collecting them for children in Kenya. Miss Rogers will be visiting Kenya during the May half term and will be taking these with her. Please hand them into the school office over the coming months.

Lego

The school is also in need of unwanted Lego pieces/sets. If you have any that children no longer play with could you please pop it into the school office.

Half term activities

If you are looking for something for your child to do at half term details of local clubs and activities can be found on our community noticeboard on the website:

<http://dsmprimary.essex.sch.uk/parents/community-noticeboard/>

Swimming Instructor required

Unfortunately Mrs Clarkson is unable to run our in-house swimming programme this year. We are therefore looking to recruit on a fixed term contract a swimming instructor from Monday 20th April to Wednesday 22nd July inclusive. Usual working hours are Monday afternoons (12.30pm - 3.15pm) and Tuesday to Thursday mornings (9am -11am) and Tuesday to Thursday afternoons (1.15pm to 3.15pm), although we do ask for some flexibility to be able to run catch up sessions where necessary. Swimming instructors must hold an appropriate teaching qualification as well as a current life guarding qualification and be confident in effecting a rescue from water and carrying out CPR. Experience of teaching primary school age children would be highly beneficial. Salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications. If you know of anyone who might be interested/available then please do ask them to contact Jess Horrocks on 01371 872340 to discuss the role in more detail.

Events

Please find below the event calendar for the first week back after half term:

Week commencing Monday 24th February	
MONDAY	Back to school
TUESDAY	Mrs Tyrell vs. Children pancake race World Thinking Day/Founders Day – Rainbows, Brownies, Guides/Beavers, Cubs, Scouts to wear their uniform if they wish
WEDNESDAY	Individual and sibling photographs
WEDNESDAY 10.40	6TH Class Assembly
WEDNESDAY 2.55	1BI Class Assembly

Have a lovely half term break.

Yours sincerely
Clare Griffiths