

Dunmow St Mary's Primary School

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Friday 13th November 2020

Dear Parents

Headteacher Award

I was delighted this week to be able to walk around the classrooms and present the following children with my Headteacher Award. Congratulations to you all!

6BH	Jude Whitehead	2TH	Violet Hackshaw
6LR	Sofia Ivanes	2SJ	Max Latos
5NR	Phoebe Rees	1BI	Mia Dynamou
5SM	Ava Barton-Jinno	1RF/GM	Charlie Lord
4LH/NT	Miley Coulter/Isla Maguire	1YP	John Pikett
4LW	Rose Witham	RLEB	Freddie Shaw
3RB	Safa Ahmed	RBR	Ishan Pedulu
3SC	Ernie Ambrose	RVL	Lloyd Hall

Contacting your child's teacher

As restrictions continue, we appreciate that it can be difficult to maintain contact with your child's class teacher. If you have the kind of question you previously would ask at the classroom doors you will be able to email teachers directly. A list of email addresses is below. Please be aware that teachers may not be able to respond right away as they may only be checking the inbox once a day, either before or after school, but not during the school day. If you have a pressing concern, we would always recommend that you either call or email our school office.

Mr Harris - 6BH@dsmprimary.essex.sch.uk
Mrs Rooney - 4LR@dsmprimary.essex.sch.uk
Miss McCarthy - 5SM@dsmprimary.essex.sch.uk
Mrs Rogers - 5NR@dsmprimary.essex.sch.uk
Miss Whittick - 4LW@dsmprimary.essex.sch.uk
Mrs Hughes/Mrs Thapa - 4LH-NT@dsmprimary.essex.sch.uk
Miss Bussell - 3RB@dsmprimary.essex.sch.uk
Miss Cramer - 3SC@dsmprimary.essex.sch.uk
Mr Heath - 6TH@dsmprimary.essex.sch.uk
Miss James - 2SJ@dsmprimary.essex.sch.uk
Year 1 and Reception parents are able to contact teachers via Tapestry.

Free School Meals

We understand that parental circumstances change during the school year and particularly in such uncertain times. You may now be in a situation whereby you could claim free school meals for your child(ren). If you match any of the following criteria you can make an application via <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Flu vaccinations

About 88% of our children had the flu vaccination nasal spray this week. For those children who missed it you are able to phone 0300 790 0597 to book a catch-up vaccination. The first opportunity is at the Dunmow Clinic tomorrow.

Head Lice

We have had an outbreak of these in Year 2. Do please check for live lice and eggs when brushing your child's hair every day. Unfortunately there is nothing you can do to prevent them. There is no need for children to be off school but treating your child and family as soon as you see them will help reduce the spread. To find out more please visit <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>.

Library

The library, like everything in these strange times, is different but we are trying to provide the children with a selection of new and exciting books within the limitations. Before the first lockdown we let children take more books home than usual to help with their reading. We have had lots of these books back but still have over 150 missing. If we believe you have a missing book you will have received notification of this. For those of you who have returned or paid for missing books, thank you so much. If you find any more at home we would love to have them back or would be more than happy to have a good condition replacement.

Library fundraising - During the first week of December we shall be providing each class in years 3- 6 with a few book/Christmas related pencils, erasers, bookmarks etc. all priced at 50p for children to buy. If your child would like to buy any of these please send money in a named sealed envelope which they should give to their class teacher. We will remind you nearer the time.



Christmas

We are really looking forward to Christmas this year and have lots of exciting activities planned in school. More information will follow in the coming weeks so please do keep an eye out for emails and information in this newsletter.

In the meantime, we want to let you know we will be supporting Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day on **Thursday 10th December**. In addition, year group Christmas post boxes will be available for Christmas cards, there will be virtual Christmas plays for some year groups and Christmas parties to look forward to. We are however really disappointed that our KS2 children are unable to have a Christmas lunch on Thursday 10th December. Instead Mrs Tyrell has planned a treat for them on that day.

We are still in need of a few Christmas trees for our classes so if you can either donate or loan one to us our children would be very grateful. Please drop these off at the office.

Parenting Alone

Parenting alone can be full of pressures and challenges. If you're feeling lonely, lacking in confidence, not getting out enough, swamped by responsibilities or desperate for 'adult conversation' our MIND have Volunteer Befrienders that can help. The Befrienders are non-judgemental, good listeners, empathetic and willing to help and support you by offering encouragement to access your local community, attending activities/groups with you where safe and allowed and telephoning or meeting up for a socially distanced chat. If you feel you would benefit from this support please contact them by email at parents@mindinwestessex.org.uk.



Wednesday Wave

Redbond Care Home is participating in the Wednesday Wave. This is an initiative whereby primary schools and the community can wave to care home residents at 3pm on a Wednesday if they are walking past. It is designed to help combat isolation and loneliness. The initiative started just before half term and continues to 16th December. For more information you can visit [Wednesday Wave](#).

Events

Please find below the event calendar for next week:

Week commencing Monday 16 th November	
ALL WEEK	Assessments
THURSDAY	Y6 Young Shakespeare Company workshops

Yours sincerely
Clare Griffiths