

## Dunmow St Mary's Primary School

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Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Dear Parents

### Learner of the week

Congratulations to the following children who have received Learner of the Week awards:

6BH	Joe Williams	3SC	Eleanor Horrix-O'Brien
6LR	Andrew Oracion	2TH	Hunter Cruci-Butler
5NR	Reuben Whitehead	2SJ	Millie Free
5SM	Alex Prendergast	1BI	Amahra Palmer
4LH/NT	Poppy Jaggard	1RF/GM	Kate du Toit
4LW	Izzy Solvey	1YP	Niamh Solvey
3RB	Melody Adams		

### Reverend Tom

On Wednesday night the new Priest in Charge at St Mary's Church had his licensing service. As part of the service members of the church community present symbols of ministry and Oliver Lockett from Y6 was one of the people chosen to do this important job.

We are looking forward to welcoming Reverend Tom into school.



### Number Day



Next Friday (7<sup>th</sup> May), our children will be taking part in various activities in support of the NSPCC National Number Day with a theme of 'maths through art'. Children are encouraged to bring a charity donation (suggested £1) and can wear an 'art inspired' non-uniform top or socks on this day (otherwise it should be normal uniform). This could be a spotty, stripy, geometric, tartan, checked, or patterned top or a top with a number on it. Children will also be entered into an art competition following their 'maths through art' activities that will be happening in their year groups. We are looking forward to the day and exploring the beauty of maths within artwork.

### Handwriting Competition

Last week children in Y2-Y5 participated in a handwriting competition. Run by Mrs Parkinson, this was based on a poem chosen from the Children's Poetry Archives. Well done to our winners:

Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5
Niamh (2TH)	Savanna (3SC)	Chloe (4LW)	Andre (5NR)
Freya (2SJ)	D'arcy (3RB)	Isla (4LH/NT)	Ruby (5SM)

### **Midday Assistant Required**

We are looking for a friendly and approachable person to join our Midday Assistant Team working initially with children in Y1. The role involves closely supervising the children while on their lunch break; escorting them to and from the dinner hall; engaging with the children to encourage them to have a positive play time and dealing with minor first aid issues. Please see attached advert for further details. The closing date for application is Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May.

### **Reading volunteers needed**

We are really looking forward to being able to welcome back volunteers into school after half-term. Our priority is to use volunteers to listen to readers across the school to build childrens reading skills. Reading is a skill that underpins all the learning that the children do and enables them to access all elements of the curriculum. We are hoping to find a volunteer to support each class every week and are looking for people able to commit a couple of hours a week on a regular basis. We will try and match volunteers to their preferred year group where possible but all our children will benefit hugely from your support. Please email/call the school office if you are interested. Please note that all volunteers will require an up to date DBS which the school will arrange and pay for.

### **Early Years Outdoor classroom**

We plan this year to start a re-vamp of our Early Years Outdoor classroom. We are so fortunate to have this amazing space that all our children use and enjoy when they start at Dunmow St Mary's and we want to make it as engaging and exciting as possible to support the learning of our reception children. With such a big space as you would expect we are constrained to a certain extent by funding and will be looking at ways to fundraise for this. In the meantime, if you are aware of anyone who might be able to volunteer some time for clearance/groundworks or general maintenance then please email our Business Manager at [jess.horrocks@dsdmprimary.essex.sch.uk](mailto:jess.horrocks@dsdmprimary.essex.sch.uk). We would be extremely grateful for any support that can be offered.

### **School Uniform**

From time to time we undertake a review of our uniform suppliers to ensure our parents are receiving good quality clothing and service at the best available prices. This term we are carrying out a review and should be grateful if you would take a few minutes to complete this short questionnaire about your experiences: <https://forms.gle/wCXTqdn17THvLqX47>. Questionnaires should be completed by Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May.

### **Sports Roundup**

Last week we had Lauren Onojaife in from Essex Women's cricket team. She spent the afternoon with Y6 teaching them cricket skills with the aim of encouraging more children to take up this sport. She stayed on to continue this with the Y6 multi skills club members. Everyone had a great time and we send our thanks to Essex Cricket for this.

This week our Sports Ambassadors received the next phase of their training which again was held online.

During the recent lockdown the children from Year 4 and 5 who were in school participated in the Uttlesford Archery Competition. After sending off our scores have now received the final results and congratulations go to the following children:

Y4

Zach – Gold

Sophie - Bronze

Y5

Anne-Marie - Bronze

### **PTA meeting**

The next PTA Meeting is being held on Tuesday evening. This will be a virtual meeting. If you would like to attend please email the PTA on [dunmowstmarysprimarypta@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dunmowstmarysprimarypta@hotmail.co.uk) so they can send you the link.

Look out for information coming very soon from our PTA on DSM lockdown survival hoodies.

### **Google Passwords**

We are using Chromebooks and Google Classroom more frequently in school now and should be grateful if passwords were not changed at home. Passwords should always remain the same as the one the school has set for your child. If you are unsure of this please contact the school office.

### **Swimming**

We are pleased that we will be able to start our swimming lessons in a few weeks. We will be swimming in year group bubbles and will do this intensively over the course of a week. We are delighted that Nicole will return as our swimming instructor and many of you will know her from the Leisure Centre. Please note we will be charging £10 per child for the lessons. Further details will be published in the newsletter next week so please keep an eye out for the dates your child(ren) will swim.

### **Front gate**

Please note that the front gate is locked from 8.55am. Anyone arriving after this time will need to buzz and will be marked as late.

### **Parking**

Redbond Lodge have asked that parents kindly not park in their visitor spaces when collecting their children from school as they are blocking entry for those visiting their loved ones.

### **Events**

Please find below the event calendar for next week:

<b>Week commencing Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May</b>	
MONDAY	BANK HOLIDAY
TUESDAY	PTA Meeting
FRIDAY	Number Day – come to school in an art inspired top or socks in exchange for a donation to the NSPCC

Have a lovely long Bank Holiday weekend.

Yours sincerely  
Clare Griffiths