

Dunmow St Mary's Primary School

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Friday 17 September 2021

Dear Parents

We had made such a great start to the term so were particularly sad this week to have to send our Y6 children home due to the number of Covid cases in that year group. We were planning to implement our school Outbreak Management Plan by keeping the Y6 children in school in their own bubble, not mixing with the other children at breaks, assemblies, lunch etc. However as the numbers testing positive increased Essex County Council directed us to move that year group to remote learning. This was not something we wanted and were trying to avoid it but we must follow their decision. Thank you to the Y6 parents (and their employers) who have been so understanding and accommodating and the children for being so resilient. We can't wait to see you all back in school soon.

Learner of the week

Congratulations to the following children who have received Learner of the Week awards so far this term:

6BH	Isla Short/Harry Wooddisse	3SC	Esme Clayden/Max Latos
6BI	Albie Hamilton/Quinn Wilby	2CC	Rudy Stevens/Scarlett Pinchbeck
5NR	Lyle-Rose Stevens/Molly Gower	2TH	Andrew Phillips/Emma Zogu
5SM	Isabella Dearle/Bobby Austin	2SJ	Scarlett Benstead/Ethan Batchelor
4LH/NT	Oliver Canham/Eleanor Horrix-O'Brien	1BR	Kai Smith/Annabelle Sealey
4LW	Teddy Gaunt/Grace Smith	1RF/GM	Ian Schoeman/Albie Hilton
3RB	Kaiden Dellow/Luke Hardy	1EW	Alfred Stockwell/Ella Lau

Bouncy Fun

Thank you to the PTA and their team of volunteers who managed to run a very successful bouncy fun event yesterday afternoon on such short notice. Whilst the smiles on the children's faces said it all, they also managed to raise a large sum of money for the school. Thank you to everyone for supporting this event.

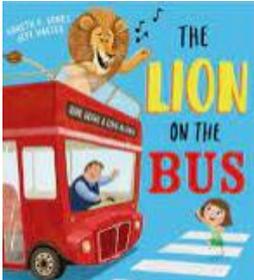
Parents evenings

These will be taking place on Monday 4th October and Wednesday 6th October for all year groups. Appointments are 10 minutes long and will be available from 3.30pm to 5.30pm in the first instance. Later appointments *may* be available if there is demand once other appointments have been filled. Monday appointments will be face to face and Wednesday appointments will be virtual. Please note that we cannot offer separate appointments for split families. Appointments can be booked via your child's online account at www.scopay.com. If you have more than one child it is advisable to leave at least 10 minutes between appointments. Bookings will open from 9am on Monday (20th September). If you have not yet activated your child's account and require another activation code please contact the school office.

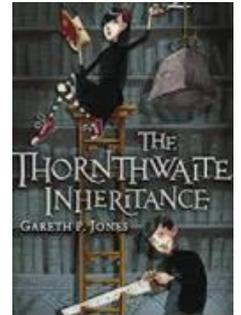
Harvest Festival

This year we will be collecting items for the Braintree area Foodbank and have spoken to the children about this during assemblies this week. Donations can be brought into school from Monday. There will be a collection box in each classroom for the children to place their items in. Please take a moment to read the attached flyer about what items are required and note those that are not required at this time. Thank you.

Author Visit



On Monday 27th September author Gareth P Jones will be in school. All children will be involved in his engaging workshops and there will be a book sale after school run by Harts Bookshop from Saffron Walden. Books will be sold at full price with 20% of these costs coming back to the school. The book sale will be cash only but credit/debit card sales can be arranged following the event. All books are priced £6.99 and the range is suitable for all year groups.



School uniform

Following our uniform supplier review last term we have terminated our connection with School Trends. Their link has been removed from our website and they have assured us all existing parent orders will be fulfilled. We have appointed SpeedStitch as our new suppliers and the links to their website will be on our uniform page next week. SpeedStitch are able to offer local click and collect options as well as delivery to home addresses. Their uniform is good quality at reasonable prices and with quicker turnaround times than School Trends were able to offer. Feedback on our uniform suppliers is always gratefully received.

Y6 School Journey meeting

The Y6 parent meeting to find out about the School Journey will now take place on Monday 18th October at 6pm.

Moth Night at St. Mary's Churchyard & Riverbank Walk - tonight



Friends of Dunmow Open Spaces (FODOS) and Friends of St. Mary's Riverbank are delighted to be organising a Moth Night this evening. Knowledgeable local experts Johnathan Forgham and Graeme Smith, will bring their moth lamps and traps to St Mary's Church for an interesting evening to see what is in the local area. It's a great event for children, so please bring your family and friends/neighbours. The church will be open for tea and hot chocolate. They will be there all evening with the greatest numbers of

moths showing from 9pm. The event is free but if you are planning on coming please contact Catherine Mummery at catherinemummery@highstileprojects.co.uk or call 01371 859767. For more information on the event and about FODOS please email friendsofdunmowopenspaces@gmail.com or see the FODOS website www.fodos.org.uk

Y6 Secondary school applications

The application process for secondary school places is now open. All Y6 parents should apply for their child's secondary school place before 31 October. You must apply via the Essex admissions website at <https://www.essex.gov.uk/apply-for-a-secondary-school-place>. Details of school open events are being featured on the community noticeboard page of our website.

Events

Please find below the event calendar for next week:

Week commencing Monday 20th September	
MONDAY 9.00	Parent evening booking opens
MONDAY 3.30	YR Parent Reading meeting - classrooms
TUESDAY 3.30	Y1 Parent Reading meeting - hall

If you haven't looked at the community noticeboard on our website lately please do check this as there are a number of new flyers for activities and events over the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely
Clare Griffiths