

Dunmow St Mary's Primary School

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Thursday 30 September 2021

Dear Parents

School closure - Thursday 30th & Friday 1st October 2021

School will be closed for two days following an electrical fire whilst we work to restore power. Emergency works are ongoing and will continue over the weekend. We will update on progress as soon as we are able to but are aiming to be open for Monday. Please do check your email over the weekend for confirmation of this. There is a possibility that school may open but we may not have access to power in the kitchen which will mean children may need to bring a packed lunch with them. This would include our infant classes, however, we would be able to provide packed lunches for our FSM children. We apologise for the inconvenience but are glad that nobody was hurt following this incident.

Home learning is being made available from 9am on Friday morning but will not include live lessons. We do appreciate that once again parents will be juggling commitments so please do the best you can.

Learner of the week

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

6BH	Tommy Gilder	3SC	Oliver Lomax
6BI	Anne Marie Smith	2TH	Eva Pymm
5NR	Harry Creed	2SJ	Toby Banks
5SM	Liam Twiname	2CC	Isabelle Creed
4LH/HT	Mia Heap	1BR	Rosie Hammond
4LW	Tayla-Jane Macrow	1RF/GM	Mason Middleton
3RB	Zane Ransom	1EW	Halle Ferguson

Author visit

On Monday Gareth Jones visited the children in school. He used his skills as a festival performer to talk and sing to the children about Ninja Meerkats, Steampunk Pirates, Dragon Detectives, murderous twins, Victorian illusionists, dinosaur parties and Death or Ice cream? We are sure you heard all about it from your children. Thank you to our parents for supporting us in the book sale after school. It was lovely to see so many children queuing to have their books signed which in turn helped us raise £140 for our library. You can read more on our website at

<https://dsmprimary.essex.sch.uk/8580-2/>



Sweets on children's birthdays

Several parents have asked us to clarify the policy on handing out sweets on a child's birthday. We do not give out sweets or biscuits or cakes from home during a school day. However, if children wish to give out sweets they can be handed out just before the end of a school day and taken home. Please note that with the introduction of Natasha's Law sweets that are packaged must have the list of ingredients clearly visible.

'Flu Vaccinations

The 'flu vaccinations for our children will be taking place in school on Thursday 7th October. You will have received an email earlier this week asking you to complete a form online to consent to your child having this vaccination. If you have not already completed a form please ensure you do so by no later than Wednesday 6th October. As a reminder our school number is 115299.

Parent consultations

Next Monday and Wednesday we have parent consultations taking place from 3.30pm. The consultations on Monday will be held in your child's classroom. For the virtual consultations on Wednesday we will send out the link to access the meeting during that afternoon. Bookings for these consultations can still be made up until Sunday evening if you haven't already done so, but please bear in mind most teachers are now fully booked.

6BH Class Assembly

Next Wednesday is 6BH's parent assembly. Could all parents attending wear a face covering and take a lateral flow test before they come into school. Parents will be allowed to enter the school five minutes before the start so please do not try to come in before 10.35am.

The following week's class assembly is for 4LW parents.

Car park

Could we please remind all parents that they should not walk through the car park, especially with their children. We have buses turning at both drop off and pick up times as well as staff entering/leaving and deliveries to our kitchen being made by lorries. If you are dropping off/collecting via the front gate for Reception/Y1 you do need to walk through the playground and around.

e-safety

If you missed our recent parent evening with "the 2 Johns" they are holding an event on Tuesday 26th October. Places get booked up quickly so if you want to book a place please see the attached flyer for details.

Water bottles



Whilst we haven't quite reached 10 green bottles sitting on the office counter, we have already accumulated a number of water bottles without names. If your child has lost one of these please ask them to collect it from the office next time they are in school.

Citizens Advice support

We have received information from Citizens Advice to support families struggling with energy companies going bust and high fuel bills. Through funding from the Warm Homes Fund and The Energy Redress Scheme, they now have a team of 12 Energy Advisers and support staff. The team can assist with billing disputes, managing fuel debt, heating controls and can assist with emergency fuel vouchers for those at risk of being disconnected. Your local Citizens Advice office will be able to help you. Our nearest ones are in Saffron Walden, Thaxted and Stansted Mountfichet. The details of these can be found at <http://uttlesford.gov.uk/cab>

If your energy supplier has ceased trading guidance on what to do can be found at <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/energy/energy-supply/problems-with-your-energy-supply/your-energy-supplier-has-gone-bust/>

Events

Please find below the event calendar for next week:

MONDAY 3.30 onwards	YR-Y6 Parent consultations in school
WEDNESDAY 3.30 onwards	YR-Y6 Virtual parent consultations
THURSDAY	YR – Y6 'flu vaccinations

Yours sincerely
Clare Griffiths