

Dunmow St Mary's Primary School

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Friday 21 October 2022

Dear Parents

Learner of the week

Congratulations to the following children who are our learners of the week:

6BH	Georgina Vint	3SC	Andrew Phillips
6NR	Rubie Turner	3BI	Alfie Ramage
5LH/HT	Robin Drew	2BR	Jack Scarfe
5LC	Bobby Daley	2SJ	Gia Rose Macrow
4LW	Logan Smith	2CC	Joshua Sheldon
4AM	Noel Chenery	1RF/GM	Harry Smith
3RB	Wolf Cooper	1EW	Maddie Lish

Lunch on 1 November

As you are aware when the weather turns wet we often have leaks in our roof which can cause issues with our electrics. Over half term we are carrying out some major works to the electrics, particularly in the kitchen area. Going forward we are hopeful that the loss of power to that area due to leaks will cease. However in order to ensure that the works are completed and tested fully we are going to take an extra day to do this and therefore on Tuesday 1 November we will only be providing a school sandwich lunch for our children. All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will have this lunch with a choice of sandwich fillings. Children in Years 3 to 6 may pre-book/ order a sandwich lunch in the usual way again with a choice of fillings to be chosen on the day. There will be no alternative jacket potato option. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause but hope you understand the importance of undertaking and testing these works.

Attendance

At a recent meeting the Governors set an attendance level for this academic year at 96.5%. Please find attached our Attendance Policy by way of a reminder about the rules regarding taking children out of school for holidays and the circumstances under which you may incur a fine.

School Shoes

We have several children wearing trainers at the moment. This causes other children to see and to want to wear their trainers as well. We understand that school shoes may break or may be too small but please can you make every effort to make sure that your child is in school shoes. If this is not possible, please send an email or a note so we don't ask your child about it.

Black History Month

The children invite you to their Black History Month exhibition after school on 8 November. More information will come out after half term but in the meantime please make a note of this date in your diaries as I am sure you will want to see all the amazing work that has been going on in school to celebrate this.

PTA

Bookings are now open for the PTA's wreath making workshop taking place on Friday 30 November - places are limited so please do click on the following link to book your space: [Dunmow St Mary's Primary School PTA \(pta-events.co.uk\)](http://pta-events.co.uk)

Attached is information on their quiz night to be held on Friday 11 November. Teams of up to eight people are invited to participate and sign up via the link on the poster. Also attached is their letter regarding the Christmas Bazaar. If you are clearing out cupboards over half term and want to make way for Christmas presents then please do take a read of the items they require and bring them into the school office. Note that the day of the Bazaar will be a non-uniform day in exchange for a bottle.

Sports roundup

The end of this half term has seen a number of sporting events.

Y4 Dodgeball competition

On Friday 7 October the Y4 dodgeball team competed in the DEEP competition at Felsted Independent school. Out of nine schools we came an impressive 2nd putting us through to the Uttlesford finals on Friday 9th December.

Y5 Boys football competition

On Wednesday 12 October our Y5 boys competed in the Uttlesford Football Competition at Herberts Farm, Saffron Walden. The boys played some closely fought games scoring some tremendous goals and making some off the line saves. Well played to everyone involved.

Y5/6 Girls football competition

During the afternoon of Wednesday 12 October our Y5/6 girls played in the Uttlesford Football Competition at Herbert's Farm. In the first round robin games it was all very close as to who made it through to the finals...we didn't make the cut so ended up coming in 8th place. This didn't reflect the girls level of football but more down to the competition set up.

KS2 Golf competition

On Thursday 13 October, five KS2 boys competed in a round of golf over at the Gt Chesterford course. They all had a good round and enjoyed the afternoon.

KS2 Cross country competition

On Friday 14 October 49 KS2 runners competed in the KS2 Cross Country DEEP competition at Gt Easton Primary School. We had some amazing team and individual results:

Y3 Boys	Y3 Girls	Y4 Boys	Y5 Boys	Y5 Girls	Y6 Boys	Y6 Girls
2nd	Individual runners qualified	2nd	2nd	1st	1st	4th

Individual runners who came in under 10th place:

Y3 Boys	Y3 Girls	Y4 Boys	Y5 Boys	Y5 Girls	Y6 Boys	Y6 Girls
Theo 2 Rhodri 4 Leo 5 Quinn 9 Jacob 10	Abigail 8 Nancy 9	Tristan 6 Euan 8	Jonas 8 Lucia 1	Lucia 1 Darcy 2 Tilly 6	Jake 10	Lola 10

KS2 Boccia and New Age Kurling competition

Last Friday afternoon we took two teams over to Felsted Independent School to compete in the Boccia and New Age Kurling DEEP competition. In the first round robin both teams performed well coming 1st and 2nd in the Boccia and 3rd in the new age kurling competitions. This meant they were then through to the finals in the Boccia competition. It was all very tense with every round counting. In the end, both teams came home with a medal - gold and bronze which was a fantastic result. The winning team are now through to the Essex Boccia finals in January.

Toys wanted

When clearing out cupboards for the PTA if you have any of the following our pastoral team would be really grateful. Please hand them into the school office.

- Lego
- K-nex
- Small cars
- Board games (age 5-10)
- Art and craft items
- Kinetic sand
- Playdoh tools
- Small toy farm animals and/or small dinosaurs
- LOL/Polly Pocket toys

Y6 applications for secondary school places

As you may be aware, the statutory closing date for applications from parents of Year 6 children (for a secondary school place in Year 7 from September 2023) is 31 October 2022. If you have not yet submitted your application please ensure you do so by the deadline day. Applications can be made via the admissions website where you will also find lots of useful information <https://www.essex.gov.uk/apply-for-a-secondary-school-place>.

Live Nativity - Sunday 4 December

We are proud to be a part of the Live Nativity again this year. Children in Years 2 to 6 are invited to participate in the choir procession through the town to St Mary's Church. If you would like your child to take part please contact the school office. However please note that this will be live streamed and there is no opportunity to remove or exclude your child from being filmed or photographed. An adult will also need to accompany the child at all times. If you would like to get further involved please contact Elsie at St Mary's Church via elsie@stmarysgreatdunmow.org.uk.

School app

We have been considering our communication sources with parents and our community and are currently undergoing a redesign of our website. More information on this will follow in due course however we have taken the decision to cease updating and using our school app with immediate effect. If you have downloaded this to your mobile information will no longer be available and you are advised to delete it. Please view the newsletter and other school information from your email or the website.

Events

Please find below the event calendar for the first week back:

Week commencing Monday 31 October	
MONDAY	Non-pupil day
TUESDAY	Start of Autumn 2 - packed lunches
TUESDAY	Y6 heights and weights
TUESDAY	Y5 Victorian Day - costumes to be worn
TUESDAY	Y5 deadline for Young Voices tickets and t-shirt orders
TUESDAY	Deadline for entries for Great Dunmow Christmas Market poster entries
WEDNESDAY 10.40	3BI Class Assembly - parents to arrive at front gate for 10.35
WEDNESDAY 2.55	1RF/GM Class Assembly - parents to arrive at front gate for 2.50
WEDNESDAY 6.30	Reception 2023 parent evening

Dates for your diary

8th November - Black History Month exhibition after school

11th November - PTA quiz night

17th November - Valerie Bloom visit and book sale

30th November - PTA wreath making workshop

4th December - live nativity

6th December - Reception Christmas Assembly

7th/8th December - Y1/Y2 Nativity

8th December - Christmas lunch and Christmas Jumper Day

9th December - PTA Christmas bazaar

16th/19th December - Y3-Y5 Christmas play

20th December - last day of term

Have a lovely half term break. We look forward to seeing you all back on Tuesday 1 November.

Yours sincerely

Clare Charter