

Dunmow St Mary's Primary School

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Friday 28 April 2023

Dear Parents

Learners of the Week

Congratulations to all our learners of the week:

| | | | |
|--------|------------------------|--------|-----------------------|
| 6BH | Finley Batchelor | 3SC | Zac Chandler-Harkness |
| 6NR | Bobby Beverley Purkiss | 2TP | Ruby Maguire |
| 5LC | Oliver Canham | 2CC | Willow Murphy |
| 5LH/HT | Amelia Keniger | 2BR | David Fowler |
| 4AM | Hollie Want | 1EW | Isla Wry |
| 4LW | Violet Hackshaw | 1RF/GM | Sofia Coutts |
| 3RB | Scarlett Miller | | |

Teacher Strikes

Next Tuesday, 2nd May, is a potential strike day. Unless there are announcements made nationally following negotiations, this day will go ahead. On this day we are offering places for YR and Y6 as well as the critical workers' places.

Coronation celebrations

Next week the children will be participating in a number of activities to celebrate the King's Coronation. Firstly they will be learning a little bit about the history of the King and his Coronation. Then the children will be making crowns from recycled products. This is to reflect the King's passion for the environment. If you have empty boxes, plastic bottles, cardboard tubes etc, or anything your child particularly wishes to decorate their crown with please send these in with your child on Wednesday or Thursday.

On Friday your child is invited to dress in red, white and/or blue for the day. Please ensure their clothes and shoes are appropriate for school and the activities they will be undertaking:

YR and Y1 - Castle fit for a King junk modelling

Y2 and Y3 - planting bee bombs and wildflowers around school

Y4, Y5 and Y6 - to celebrate the community spirit requested by the King the children will be litter picking around the town and school site.

Parental feedback on parents' evenings

Thank you to all the parents who completed our March Parent Evening Feedback form. We had a total of 111 responses. Your feedback is very much appreciated and helps us to inform future decisions. A summary of the results is below:

- 70% of parents said they found the booking system to be easy
- 85% of parents said the information they received on our feedback slips was just the right amount
- 87% of parents voted in support of retaining the new face-to-face format in the hall
- Of the above, 91% said meetings running on time was the biggest positive, followed by 67% citing the location being easy to get to with a more comfortable and spacious waiting area being cited by 52%.
- 64% of parents would be interested in children's work being available to view in the form of books or an exhibition, while 59% of parents would be interested in a second-hand uniform sale being available
- 92% of respondents reported they had a positive parent evening experience, be that virtual or face-to-face.

There were also many positive comments about both virtual and face-to-face meetings. Where there were comments with suggestions for improvements we will explore how we might be able to put these into practice.

Contacting teachers

Please be reminded that all email communications for teachers must be sent to admin@dsmpprimary.essex.sch.uk and not to teachers directly.

Coffee and Connect

Parents and carers are invited to join us for a coffee and cake on Wednesday 3rd May. This is a drop in service from 9am to 11am for anyone requiring some support and advice from the supporting agencies and organisations in school.

Mrs O's newsletter

Please find attached Mrs O's newsletter containing an online safety update, free parent support groups and how children can manage stress, particularly leading up to exams.

Swimming

Unfortunately due to the poor weather conditions we had to cancel our swimming lessons for most of this week. The pool has been struggling to reach the minimum temperature levels and early mornings have seen the outside temperatures too low for us to be able to swim. We hope to be able to restart the lessons as soon as possible and will let parents know when this will be.

Tennis

This morning two teams from Y3 played in a tennis tournament at Stebbing Tennis Club. They were playing against Y4 teams so the competition was tough but they all played with determination and with smiles on their faces which we love to see. Well done to you all.

Before School Sports club

Unfortunately due to the lack of demand the before school sports club will not be taking place.

Parent Assemblies

Below is the schedule for class assemblies this term. Please note these are subject to change so please do check the newsletter for details. Where dates are to be arranged we will let parents know as soon as possible once dates have been settled.

| | | | |
|---|-----|--|---------|
| Wednesday 17 th May 10.40am | 4LW | Wednesday 17 th May 2.55pm | |
| Wednesday 24 th May 10.40am | | Wednesday 24 th May 2.55pm | |
| <i>Half term</i> | | <i>Half term</i> | |
| Wednesday 7 th June 10.40am | 3BI | Wednesday 7 th June 2.55pm | 2TP |
| Wednesday 14 th June 10.40am | 4AM | Wednesday 14 th June 2.55pm | 1RF/GM |
| Wednesday 21 st June 10.40am | 5LC | Wednesday 21 st June 2.55pm | 1EW |
| Wednesday 28 th June 10.40am | 3RB | Wednesday 28 th June 2.55pm | 2BR/2CC |
| Wednesday 5 th July 10.40am | 3SC | Wednesday 5 th July 2.55pm | |
| Y6 School Journey assembly TBA | | | |
| 5LH/HT Rana and Sita assembly TBA | | | |

Events

Please find below the event calendar for next week:

| Week commencing Monday 1 May | |
|------------------------------|--|
| MONDAY | Bank Holiday |
| TUESDAY | Strike Day |
| WEDNESDAY 9-11 | Coffee and Connect |
| FRIDAY | Coronation Celebration Day - children to wear something red, white and/or blue |

Catering vacancies

We have a vacancy for a catering assistant working every lunchtime in the school hall. Please contact the school office for details.

Great Easton Primary has a vacancy for a school cook/catering manager. Please contact them on 01371 870219 or at admin@greateaston.essex.sch.uk if you are interested.

MRFA holiday courses

MRFA are offering all our families a 15% discount on their holiday courses for May half term. Please find further details on this link - <https://mrfa.co.uk/school-holidays/> quoting DSM15 when you book.

Yours sincerely
Clare Charter