



# Great Denham Primary School

*Inspiring excellence; everyone, everyday*

EXCELLENCE . . . . RESPECT . . . . COURAGE . . . . DETERMINATION . . . . FRIENDSHIP . . . . EQUALITY

Newsletter 9 – Spring Term

12th March 2021

## A message from the head.....

Welcome back! It has been so lovely this week to have all our school community back together! The children have settled in just brilliantly and it feels like they have never been away. I am sure you too have enjoyed some normality this week!



Thank you for your support with the staggered start and finish times, they are working well - the busiest time is 3.15pm when the first group of families leave and the second group of families come in, if you feel it is a little busy at this time please come perhaps 5 minutes later so that it helps with congestion.

The highlight of my week has been starting to have assemblies again after a year! Whilst they still can't be 'normal' assemblies as we are not able to sing and they are year group bubble assemblies, it still is so lovely gathering a bubble together in the hall again - another step towards normality! A particular well done to our amazing Reception children who had their first ever Great Denham assembly with me yesterday!

Hope you have a lovely weekend.  
Denise Burgess

Follow the school on Twitter  @GreatDenhamPS



Please join me in welcoming the children who joined us this week - Evelyn in Year 1 and Olivia in Reception.



This week's letters home –  
look for them on our school  
website under

parents/letters home/2020-21

Vela - Swimming

Y4-6 - iPad new MDM

Virtual Bingo (FOGD)

N & R - Return to school

R-Y6 - Update on assessments

Virtual Coffee & Chat

Y6 Bikeability Course

## REMINDERS

### Uniform

We still have our second hand uniform outside the main entrance and will leave it there until the end of this term - please come and take a look it is good quality and may be of some help!

### Coffee morning

Virtual Coffee & Chat (Zoom)  
with Parent Carer Forum - a group of parents & carers of children and young people with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Disabilities

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March 10-11am.

For zoom link see the leaflet that was emailed to parents yesterday.

## Thank you for your support

Thank you for your support with home learning, I know I have said it before but a huge thank you to each and every one of you for the amazing support you gave to your children during this lockdown- the quality of work and learning that took place was excellent and the teachers are loving seeing the work that has been sent in.

Our EAL (English as an Additional Language) leaders, Mrs Rose and Mrs Allen have been busy working with some of our staff and parents to say thank you in some of the languages spoken at Great Denham. Please take a look at the links below!

Spanish	<a href="https://youtu.be/P5jfvDKFTAg">https://youtu.be/P5jfvDKFTAg</a>
Romanian	<a href="https://youtu.be/PzdLLK7DHM8">https://youtu.be/PzdLLK7DHM8</a>
Polish	<a href="https://youtu.be/-xeC7TMeZ7g">https://youtu.be/-xeC7TMeZ7g</a>
Lithuanian	<a href="https://youtu.be/al2fRE0yPog">https://youtu.be/al2fRE0yPog</a>
Punjabi	<a href="https://youtu.be/ITrZy_M1ITo">https://youtu.be/ITrZy_M1ITo</a>
Urdu	<a href="https://youtu.be/8eclA0bWYoQ">https://youtu.be/8eclA0bWYoQ</a>
Bulgarian	<a href="https://youtu.be/hvxOvd9Hljk">https://youtu.be/hvxOvd9Hljk</a>
Armenian	<a href="https://youtu.be/3OpZtqNYXNg">https://youtu.be/3OpZtqNYXNg</a>
Slovak	<a href="https://youtu.be/3sC7R_zOzog">https://youtu.be/3sC7R_zOzog</a>
Yoruba	<a href="https://youtu.be/DYzevhU1Wn8">https://youtu.be/DYzevhU1Wn8</a>
Turkish	<a href="https://youtu.be/3IDrU7JNqxI">https://youtu.be/3IDrU7JNqxI</a>

If you would like to get in touch with Mrs Rose or Mrs Allen their email address is [eal@gdps.uk](mailto:eal@gdps.uk)

Did you know at Great Denham Primary we speak 39 different languages! You may notice over the coming week posters on your child's classroom door showing the languages that are spoken in each class. The children will be enjoying learning key words and phrases from some of these languages over the coming term!

\*\*\*\*\*

## Clubs for the Summer Term

Bookings for the summer term clubs will open on the following days – Book on [SCOPAY](#). Pay on [SIMS-PAY](#).

Monday 22nd March @ 3.30pm	Breakfast Club
Tuesday 23rd March @ 3.30pm	After School Club
Wednesday 24th March @ 3.30pm	Friday Clubs
Wait for Letter	Extra-Curricular Clubs

### Friday clubs

Care clubs and Homework clubs will be in Year groups. Book on [SCOPAY](#). Care clubs and Homework clubs are free of charge.

### Extra-Curricular clubs

We will be offering a limited selection of Extra-Curricular clubs in Year groups. Book and pay on [SIMS-PAY](#). A letter will follow shortly.

## GRAND OPENING OF THE REWARD SHOP

Mr Nettleship, Mr Moore and Mrs Lulek have been busy during this lockdown helping bring my ideas to reality, helping create my reward shop! The grand opening will be next week. Each class has a time slot between now and Easter to visit the shop and choose a reward depending on the number of stars they have gained so far this year. The shop replaces the bronze, silver and gold badges we have had in previous years.

\*\*\*\*\*

## DIARY DATES

- **Thu 18<sup>th</sup> Mar at 10-11am** - Virtual Coffee & Chat (Zoom) with Parent Carer Forum - a group of parents & carers of children and young people with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Disabilities
- **Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Mar** - Rec - Fab Finish
- **Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Mar** – Vela swimming
- **w/c 22<sup>nd</sup> Mar** - Club bookings open for the Summer Term
- **Fri 26<sup>th</sup> Mar** - School closes at **1.00/1.30pm** to all children. There are no Friday Afternoon or After School Clubs on this day

## EASTER HOLIDAYS

- **Mon 12<sup>th</sup> Apr** - School closed for staff training
- **Tue 13<sup>th</sup> Apr** - Children return to school
- **Thu 15<sup>th</sup> Apr 10-11am** - Virtual Coffee & Chat (Zoom) with Jo Charlton - School Nurse
- **w/c Mon 19<sup>th</sup> Apr** - Parents' Evening (Online) (**Rescheduled from March**)
- **Wed 21<sup>st</sup> Apr** - Y3 Bikeability
- **Thu 22<sup>nd</sup> Apr** - Y4 Bikeability
- **Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> May** - **SCHOOL CLOSED** Bank Holiday
- **Tue 11<sup>th</sup> May 10-10.30am** - Virtual Coffee & Chat (Zoom) with Aneta Wawrentowicz - Educational Psychologist
- **Thu 20<sup>th</sup> May** - Theme day lunch
- **Fri 21<sup>st</sup> May** - Lyra Swimming
- **Mon 24<sup>th</sup> May** - Rec - Vision Screening
- **Tue 15<sup>th</sup> Jun 10-11am** - Virtual Coffee & Chat (Zoom) with Simon Burns - Early Help
- **Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> Jun** - Y1 - Hearing tests
- **Thu 8<sup>th</sup> July 10.30-11am** - Virtual Coffee & Chat (Zoom)

# Educational Psychologist

Our school Educational Psychologist, Aneta Warrentowicz, will be offering 20 minute drop in appointments for both teachers and parents on the 24th March from 9.30am to 12.30pm. All appointments will be virtual and conducted online.

These sessions are an opportunity to discuss issues or concerns you may have which are impacting your child in school or at home and plan some strategies that may help them to move forward.

If you would like to book an appointment please can you email [senco@gdps.uk](mailto:senco@gdps.uk) or call the school office with details of your name, your child's name and class, your email address (for the invitation to the virtual session) and times when you would be available and we will do our best to accommodate you.

## Reminder to parent who have 1 to 1 iPads

Please can you ensure that you have backed up and reset your child's iPad as per the instructions sent out recently. Over the next few weeks our technicians will be gathering all the iPads to check they are correctly enrolled on the new MDM and enrolling any that are not. If your child's device has not been backed up they will lose any data on it when this happens. As per our Acceptable Use Policy, if the iPads are not enrolled on the MDM they cannot be used in school. Over the coming term we will be reviewing the apps that pupils have available to them and the access they have to download their own content but we need to get the system set up in the first instance. Year 6 iPads will be released from the MDM prior to leaving Great Denham.



If you have been loaned a school iPad for use in home learning please can it be returned with its charging cable on Monday as well.

with Jo Morey - Completing free school meal applications

- **Mon 12<sup>th</sup> Jul** - Y6 Bikeability
- **Thu 22<sup>nd</sup> Jul** - School closes at **1.00/1.30pm** to all children. There are no Friday Afternoon or After School Clubs on this day

**SUMMER HOLIDAYS**

## Children centre consultation

Bedford Borough Council has reviewed its current children centre offer and proposes that changes could be made to ensure the services remain relevant and meet the changing demands in the Borough.

[Click here for Proposal](#)

[Complete the children centre consultation survey](#)

The consultation closes on 15 March 2021.

# Sports Update – Miles to Tokyo

## Week 6 on our journey to Tokyo

With all of the children returning to school, we have achieved our furthest distance in one week, an amazing team effort of 940 miles! Well done to everyone - but especially our medal winners this week who are:

## Our top 3 classes this week are

**Gold** Pegasus 130miles, **Silver** Delphinus 125miles, **Bronze** Pavo 90miles

So far we have achieved 2626 miles and have travelled to Belgium, Germany, Poland, Belarus & Russia. We are on our way to Kazakhstan.

## Orienteering

This week the children have all participated in an orienteering course around the school grounds, which has seen them work together beautifully together. The children have shown amazing communication, determination and friendship during this activity and we look forward to seeing this grow even more next week.





# Stars of the week



**Little Stars:** Abyan

## Stars of the Week:

Cassiopeia – Isabella, Tucana – James, Orion – Taha, Aquila – Alex, Pavo – Ashton, Cygnus – Abdul, Volans – Danielle, Delphinus – Asher, Serpens – Seyara, Andromeda – Matthew, Pegasus – Ruqayyah, Perseus – Mije, Auriga – Rowan, Vela – Ophelia, Lyra – Naima, Lacerta – William, Circinus – Swayley, Phoenix – Ayan.

## Values:

Cassiopeia – Layla, Tucana – Pavit, Orion – Jaziel, Aquila – Omar, Pavo – Kaliese, Cygnus – Evelyn, Volans – Anaya, Delphinus – Maaddy, Serpens – Reuben, Andromeda – EJ, Pegasus – Harvey, Perseus – Ava, Auriga – Charlie, Vela – Fathima, Lyra – Surel, Lacerta – Marco, Circinus – Hassan, Phoenix – Amy.

## Sports Stars of the Week:

Reception – Elizabeth, Evelyn & Mia  
Year 1 – Finley, Robert & Madeleine  
Year 2 – Summer, Paige & Sam  
Year 3 – Lulu & Jude  
Year 4 – Eli & Sienna  
Year 5 – Evie & Zuwenia  
Year 6 – Olly, Joshua & Caleb

## Maths and English Monthly prize:

Congratulations to our March prize winners, **Evie and Amy**. These children have continued to show excellence and determination in Maths and English and are the recipients of a £15 cash prize. We are always looking for local businesses to sponsor our cash prizes in return for an advert in our newsletter. If you would like more information about this, please leave a message with the office for Mrs Swanepoel.

## Link to Celebration Assembly

<https://youtu.be/9qsPVGXMXos>

## Link to Challenge Trish & Den

<https://youtu.be/ija0ei3n6kE>



# LOCAL EVENTS & ADVERTS



**Barracudas is open this Easter holiday!**

[Book online](#) or call 01480 467567



To book a place on any of the following courses email [communications@bbpcf.org.uk](mailto:communications@bbpcf.org.uk)

## Our Events March/April 2021

Also, here are the events we are holding over the next couple of months, they are all being held online and are free to join, and you can book your place by clicking the link below...

**Monday 15th March – 10am**

**Virtual Get Together – What is personalisation?**

In this get together we will be discussing what is personalisation which is making sure services work for your child on an individual basis.

**Monday 22nd March – 10am - Virtual Get Together**

**Down's Syndrome (impact from Covid)**

Julian Hallett from the Down's Syndrome Association will be joining us to cover what they have learnt about how COVID-19 affects children and adults with Down's syndrome, issues around being on the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable list, access to vaccines and support for carers from the Down's Syndrome Association

**Thursday 15th April – 10am**

**Health Update and Get Together**

Jo Drew (Designated Clinical Officer SEND Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group) will be joining us to give an update from the 'Health' perspective and take your questions. You are also welcome to join us for a general get together and chat.

**Monday 19th April – 10am**

**Demand Avoidance Training**

Autism Bedfordshire will be delivering this training exclusively for members of the forum.

**Monday 26th April – 10am**

**CAMHS Get Together**

The CAMHS service will be joining us to give a brief update on their service and you will have the opportunity to ask them questions.

**Wednesday 28th April – 6.30pm**

**SIBS Information Session**

This workshop is for parents of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities who want to know more about supporting siblings. It will give parents an insight into siblings' needs and experiences and gives some ideas for giving siblings attention.

**200  
FREE**

**Operation Diversity  
memberships**

We are delighted to announce that we have joined up with 'Operation Diversity' and are funding FREE membership for 200 of our members for the next six months.

They have significant knowledge and support families of neurodivergent children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities online. As a member you will have Instant access to live webinars, Q&As, a huge library of pre-recorded training, resources and professionals.

## What's on offer?

### - Specialist Training Webinars and Support -

Operation Diversity Offer advice and training via a large team of specialist professionals, such as:

- Education and SEND Specialists
- Health Care workers
- Legal professionals
- Autism Specialists
- Occupational Therapists
- Speech and Language Therapists
- Specialist Teachers
- Neurodivergent Parenting Coaches
- Behaviour Intervention Specialists
- SEND Advocates
- ADHD Specialists
- Clinical and Educational Psychologists

### - Emotional and Mental Health Support -

They are also partnered by special arrangement with 'Health Assured' (<https://www.healthassured.org/>), giving their SEND families access to their helpline, with calls answered by experienced in-house counsellors and legal and financial specialists. They also provide opportunities for emotional support via their online community and through virtual meetups and have their own qualified counsellor who delivers regular Mental Health webinars, and online group therapy sessions weekly.

Places will be allocated on a first come first serve basis.

Contact us on [communications@bbpcf.org.uk](mailto:communications@bbpcf.org.uk) to secure your place!

Operation  
**Diversity**<sup>®</sup>  
ACADEMY

**[communications@bbpcf.org.uk](mailto:communications@bbpcf.org.uk)**