

Dunmow St Mary's Primary School

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23rd February 2018

Dear Parents

Before School - New Arrangements

For the next two weeks we are trialling new before school arrangements. From 8.45, as children arrive at school, they will go straight into their classrooms as they do on days when it is raining.

Parents of KS2 children can drop their children in the playground and the children should go into school through the outside classroom door or the door under the stairs. Parents of KS1 and YR should take their child to the outside classroom door. This does not mean that school is starting at 8.45 and we are not expecting anyone to change their morning routine. School will start officially at 8.55 as normal. We are hoping that the new arrangements will mean that lessons can start promptly at 8.55 and will ensure a calmer start to the day. The children will do some early morning work in the classrooms e.g. reading, practising spellings etc. Although the gates will still open at 8.40, please make every effort not to arrive at school before 8.45 when the whistle will go for the children to go into class. If you arrive at school after 8.55, you will still need to go to the school office to sign your child in.

Support your School's exciting new 'Science Shack' project

We are so fortunate to have wonderful grounds surrounding our school and we would like to consolidate all the use we already make of these by investing in an outdoor learning area. The benefits of outdoor learning are well documented and include being able to provide children with direct contact with the natural world so that they can develop values and opinions formed by this first-hand experience.

Our initial premise is to create a sheltered area situated on the edge of our field that is usable all year round and enhances our teaching of science as a core subject, as well as supporting our creative curriculum. If we get this right we believe we can create a legacy space for our children and those to come.

We have already received a generous donation of £1,000 towards this project from the Dunmow Round Table and are delighted that our project has been accepted by the Tesco Bags for Help Grant Scheme with customers voting in store from Thursday 1st March to Monday 20th April 2018.

How can you help?

Please ask everyone you know to support us. If every time, every member of our extended school community shopped at Tesco's, they collected a blue token (and sometimes you have to ask the sales assistant) and voted for our Science Shack project then we have a real opportunity of raising up to a further £4,000 in support of this project.

Following Mr Perry's letter regarding funding e-mailed out yesterday we would also be delighted to hear from anyone able to help with practical support as we work towards making our project a reality. Could you help with preparing the ground? Could you provide time or resources to build the structure? Any help or ideas would be gratefully received.

World Book Day

You will have received our e-mail yesterday outlining the events we have planned for next week. The full pack has been sent home this afternoon with your child/ren.

Don't forget that next Thursday is World Book Day and children are welcome to dress up as a book character for the day – no donations are required.

Tag Rugby Club

Please note there is no tag rugby club next Wednesday (28th) due to a Gymnastics Festival.

Sports

Please take a look at all the sporting events that have taken place so far this term by visiting our website page: <http://www.dsmprimary.essex.sch.uk/sporting-activities/>

Class Assemblies

Wednesday 28 th February 10.45am	5NR	Thursday 1 st March 2.45pm	1LB
Wednesday 7 th March 10.45am	4CJ/AC	Thursday 8 th March 2.45pm	1SH
Wednesday 14 th March 10.45am	3SJ		

Monies received at the office

Please note that from Thursday 1st March we will no longer be able to accept the old £10 notes as these cease to be in circulation from that date.

Netball

Great Dunmow Junior Netball Club are looking for some more members. If you are interested please see the attached flyer.

Events

Week commencing Monday 26 th February	
Wednesday	School Photos – all year groups
Wednesday 10.45	5NR Class Assembly – parents to arrive at 10.40
Thursday	World Book Day – dress up as a book character
Thursday 2.55	1BI Class Assembly – parents to arrive at 2.50
Thursday 3.00	Book Fair
Friday 3.00	Book Fair
Week commencing Monday 5 th March	
Monday All day	Author Jeremy Strong in school
Wednesday 10.45	4CJ/AC Class Assembly – parents to arrive at 10.40
Thursday 2.45	1SH Class Assembly – parents to arrive at 2.40
Friday	Y6 School Journey – instalment 6 due

Yours sincerely
Clare Griffiths