

## Dunmow St Mary's Primary School

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2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018

Dear Parents

### Class Assemblies

Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> March 10.45am	4CJ/AC	Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2.45pm	1SH
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> March 10.45am	3SJ		

5NR assembly was cancelled due to snow. This will be rescheduled for Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March

### Learner of the Week

The following children received the 'Learner of the Week' awards this week

6TH	Daniel Adams	3SJ	George Lattimore
6BH	Amelia Collins-Klimcke	3LW	Noah Hasler
5LO	Sadie France	2BR	Sam Pittuck
5NR	Adam Conway	2NT	Isabella Evans-Barlow
4RB	Arthur Runacres	1BI	Jacob Haughey
4CJ/AC	Millie Yarwood	1SH	Bethany Hilder

### Before school drop off at the front of school

This week I have spent a couple of mornings out on the road at the front of school. The vast majority of our parents drive and park sensibly and responsibly and put the safety of the children first. However, several people are still driving recklessly, either too fast or overtaking cars that are waiting for oncoming traffic or doing three point turns outside school. There are also cars stopping and letting children out on yellow lines or zig zags. People are parking on yellow lines, on the pavement and over residents' driveways. Please allow enough time for your journey so that you can find time to park safely and legally. It would be terrible if I had to write with news of an injured child on the road outside school.

### Result of Parent Governor Election

We are pleased to inform you that Linda Todd has been elected as our new parent governor. We wish to thank both Linda and Ruth Essex for showing their commitment to the school by standing as candidates. Governors are responsible for the strategic direction of the school; for safeguarding, staff appointments and financial decision making. You will find more information about the governors on our school website. If you wish to contact one of the governors, please e-mail Val White (Clerk to the Governors) [val.white@dsmpprimary.essex.sch.uk](mailto:val.white@dsmpprimary.essex.sch.uk). Our Chair of Governors is Jane Eacott who can be contacted at [chair@dsmpprimary.essex.sch.uk](mailto:chair@dsmpprimary.essex.sch.uk).

### PTA Quiz Night

The next Quiz Night will be held on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at a cost of only £5 per head. This is always a really popular and well supported event. You can enter a team of up to 8 people. Attached is the entry form and further details. We look forward to seeing you there.

### Online safety

Earlier this week I heard the 2Johns speak once again on keeping our children safe on the internet. The main message that was coming through loud and clear was make sure that you know what your child is accessing on line and make sure that you create an environment where your child feels able to tell you about any problems they encounter on line. Over the last few months they have spoken to hundreds of school children aged between Y1 and Y9 and the consistent message was that children wouldn't tell their parents about problems because they were worried that

- a) their device would be taken away
- b) the app would be deleted
- c) the parent would be angry

The advice is to either watch the game sometimes or to play alongside the child and to create an atmosphere where you promise to support your child through issues and show them how to deal with them. This fosters trust and you are more likely to hear about problems that arise.

### World Book Day

Despite the freezing weather all our children and staff made a fantastic effort for World Book Day. The pleasure the children take in wearing and talking about their characters, books and costumes makes all the hard work worthwhile. We appreciate that sometimes it's hard to see the impact these events have when you are not in school and hope that by looking at the photos of the children on our website sharing stories together will give you some idea of how much the children enjoyed the day (<http://www.dsmprimary.essex.sch.uk/sharing-stories-world-book-day/>). They love listening to different stories, being read to and reading to older/younger pupils and learning about the stories behind the costumes. They learnt in assembly how reading can 'nourish the mind' and shared their own thoughts on why sharing stories is so important. *"Reading is a place where you can escape reality and go into a whole new world where anything is possible"* - Year 6. *"I love books. I like the sound of the pages turning and the feel of the paper as I read"* - Year 3.

The staff have also been thinking about their favourite children's books which now they would like to share with you! We hope that you find some books on the attached list which are new to you and that you and your families will enjoy them as much as we do! All of the books are currently in print so find them in your local library or order them in a local bookshop!

Thank you for sending in all your lovely photos of the children sharing their books with others. These will be on display in our school shortly. Don't forget to send in your entries by Monday for the prize draw to win a signed book by Jeremy Strong!

### Photographs

These have been rescheduled for Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

#### Yr3 and 4 Tag rugby tournament

Red Team



Yellow Team



We hosted the tag rugby tournament at our school on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February. The weather conditions were freezing however that didn't stop 6 schools and 8 teams enjoying the event, DSM entered 2 teams. They were drawn in separate pools, the red team won 2 matches and lost 1 and the yellow team won 1, drew 1 and lost 1. This meant the yellow team were in the play offs for 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> place and the red team were in the semi-finals against Gt Easton. Both teams won their games so for the final game the yellows were playing for 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> place and the reds was in the final against Thaxted. Both games consisted of end to end action with both teams scoring many hard fought tries. Unfortunately, both teams lost their last games in the seconds of the game to leave them in 6<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall. Well done to all pupils that played in really raw conditions but with such spirit.

### **Swimming Sessions**

We are really pleased to confirm that our swimming sessions will start again after Easter for all year groups. As many of you are aware the school is in a fortunate position of being able to offer an enhanced programme of swimming provision due to having our own pool on site.

The swimming sessions for each year group run for 6 weeks with children receiving two lessons per week. We are delighted that Nicole Clarkson our experienced and qualified swimming instructor is joining us once again as she already knows many of the children well and is able to assist them in making real progress through these lessons.

Years 1, 3, 4 and 5 will swim after Easter  
Years R, 2 & 6 will swim after the May half-term

Children will of course need a swimming costume (for girls this needs to be a one piece and for boys fitted swimming trunks), a towel and a hat must be worn for hygiene reasons. Hats can be purchased from the school office for £2.50. Please note that earrings have to be taken out for swimming lessons so any recently pierced ears will preclude your child from lessons.

As you are aware swimming is heavily subsidised by the school and the parental contribution is key to our ability to provide this opportunity which is so popular with our children. We have really appreciated the strong support shown by parents in recent years and would ask that you continue to demonstrate this by paying the contribution for your child/ren this year as soon as possible.

### *Swimming Timetable for after Easter*

Monday afternoon Y1

Tuesday morning Y5

Wednesday morning Y1

Thursday morning Y4

Friday morning Y3

Tuesday afternoon Y4

Wednesday afternoon Y3

Thursday afternoon Y5

### **Science Shack – use your Tesco tokens!**

As detailed in last week's newsletter we are trying to raise money to build a new science shack within the school grounds. You can help us raise funds by asking everyone you know to support us. If every time, every member of our extended school community shopped at Tescos, 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 £4,000 in support of this. Together with the £1,000 we have already received from the Dunmow Round Table you could help us provide wonderful opportunities for the children now and in the years to come.

### Air Ambulance

Support the local Air Ambulance by collecting stamps. All you need to do is cut or carefully tear the stamped corner from any envelope or packet that you receive in the post and start a collection. Details are attached including where to send them.

### Colchester United

Colchester United FC will be hosting an open trial for children in Years 1 to 6 on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April (during our Easter holidays). Please see the flyer attached which contains all the necessary information.

### Salad Days

We are no longer distributing copies of the Salad Days magazine. If you would like to pick up a copy we have a supply in the school office. Alternatively you can read the magazine online at [www.saladdaysmag.uk](http://www.saladdaysmag.uk).

### Events

Week commencing Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> 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
Thursday All day	Y4 Music and Arts Extravaganza
Friday	Y6 School Journey – instalment 6 due

Yours sincerely

Clare Griffiths

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### Swimming Y1, 3, 4 and 5

I give permission for my child \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_

to take part in swimming lessons starting week beginning 16<sup>th</sup> April

I enclose £20 towards the cost of the 12 lessons

I am unable to contribute £20 towards the cost of the lessons

Signed \_\_\_\_\_