



NEWSLETTER

Thursday 4th October 2018

www.dedham.essex.sch.uk

Telephone: 01206 322242

Head talk

This week I have attended my first Governing Body meeting as Headteacher of Dedham Church of England Primary School. The governing body of Dedham works incredibly hard behind the scenes to help make the school a robust, publicly accountable and effective place for your children to attend. I thought it would be useful to briefly explain the role of these people, who they are and some of the things that they get up to.

Governors are unpaid volunteers who have the duty to ensure that the Headteacher and staff are held publicly accountable for the actions and outcomes of the pupils. Each governor has a responsibility to monitor aspects of the school's running. Some of these include:

- Ensuring financial regulations are adhered to, that there is proper budget use and appropriate safety checks on new staff;
- Asking questions about pupil data trends and comparing them to local and national figures to ensure the school is performing well;
- Visiting pupils to ask about the impact and enjoyment of lessons, their safety and happiness in school;
- Regular meetings to explore in depth issues that are hot topics nationally;
- Ensuring the Headteacher is challenged and able to account for all actions.

The governing body meets every half term to discuss teaching and learning and is kept up to date on current initiatives. Governors are also present at events held by the school from sports day to summer and Christmas fayres.

Some governors can be parents, some work for or have roles in the local authority and some are local business people. All governors apply their life skills, experience and business senses to the role and in this way, the school is challenged to be the best it can be from every angle.

Please visit the Governor page on our website for more information.

On another note, I have attached to this week's Newsletter our Online Safety Newsletter for October. Please do take the time to read it as it does provide really useful information for you to help you keep your child safe online.

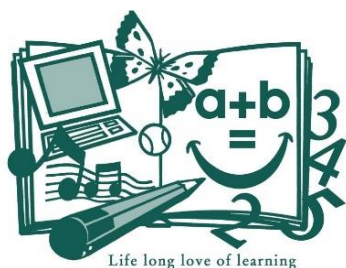
David Larnar

Headteacher

School lunches

LUNCH MENU FOR W/C 8th October is WEEK 3.

Please can all dinner money be handed in on a Monday morning to the class teacher. The money must be in an envelope marked with the days the lunches are required and the child's name. Thank you.



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Macmillan Coffee Morning

Thank you to all those who donated to this wonderful charity. The children thoroughly enjoyed their additional treat! A big thank you to Dedham staff for bringing in so many cakes which enabled the school to raise an amazing £194.51.

Breakfast Club

Recently, we have raised our capacity to 40 children at our ever popular Breakfast Club. These extra places are filling very quickly and there are just a few spaces left for each day. If you are interested in using our Breakfast Club please see Mrs Skelton in the School Office.

No nuts please!

Please note that the school is run as a nut free school and therefore children are not allowed to bring any nuts/any foods containing nuts into school (either in their lunch box or for snacks). We have a child in school with a nut allergy and appreciate your help in keeping the school nut free.

School Photos

School photos will be sent out this week. If you wish to make an order please ensure your proof and payment is with the school office by Wednesday 17th October.

World War 1 – Remembered

On the evening of Sunday 11th November at 5.00p.m. some of our school choir will be singing at a remembrance event at The

Assembly Rooms in Dedham. The programme will include; tea and cakes, poetry and prose readings, our school choir and a singalong with the Cooper's Lane Choristers. The event will culminate in a walk to St Mary's Church, Dedham for the national ringing of Church bells at 7.04p.m.

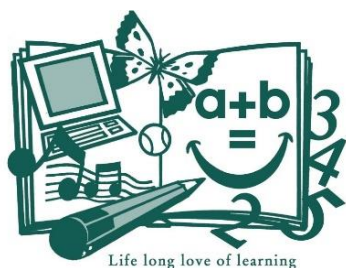
Please come and join with the community of Dedham in this important act of remembrance.

Developing Spelling at Dedham



Thanks to money raised by the Parent Group last year, we have now subscribed to Spelling Shed. The Spelling Shed helps children to practise spelling via a simple game which gives four different degrees of support in the form of difficulty modes; Easy, Medium, Hard and Extreme. Higher levels allow a higher score to be achieved but children can practise as much as they like on lower levels before trying to gain high scores. As well as giving children access to lots of spelling lists, Spelling Shed also allows teachers to allocate their own lists (called 'assignments') to individuals, groups and whole classes. These assignments will often be linked to spelling patterns taught during the week and enable children to consolidate their work in school as part of home learning. In EYFS and KS1, assignments will often be linked to the application of phonics into spelling.

Once your child has their login information, they can access the online game via



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<https://play.spellingshed.com>. There is also a Spelling Shed app for iPads and iPhones (£2.99) but there is NO requirement to purchase the app as our school subscription provides unlimited free access to everything via the website. Adding a website shortcut to the home screen of a device would be my recommendation. The only benefit of purchasing the app as far as I can see is that offline play is possible.

The children in KS2 who have trialled Spelling Shed so far have been extremely enthusiastic about this new resource. As spelling is a key priority on our school development plan, I would appreciate feedback from children and parents about how Spelling Shed is supporting confidence and engagement with spelling at home. Whilst teachers hope that this subscription will provide a valuable tool to parents wishing to encourage more spelling practice, we do understand that more 'screen time' may not suit every family. Suggested spelling rules/lists will continue to be sent home via weekly home learning communications so that spellings can also be practised using other methods.

Miss Valentine

Parent Group – Film Club

The Parent Group are running Film Club on Friday 12th October, 3:15-5:10pm, and the film is Peter Rabbit. The cost is £3 a child.

Booking slips have been sent home in book bags, however please find attached a copy

should you require it (spare copies are also available in the school office).

Enrichment Activities

Attached to this Bulletin are flyers regarding possible enrichment activities. These are organised by external organisations. Whilst Dedham Primary School is happy to share these opportunities with our parents and students we have no responsibility for them.

Mistley Kids Club

Please find attached details regarding the October Half Term activities at Kids Club.

Calendar dates for the autumn term

Date	Event
17 th Oct	Harvest Festival (10.15 at Church)
18 th Oct	Non-uniform day for DEN Site
19 th Oct	Non-pupil day
30 th Oct	Parents' Evening (5pm to 9pm)
31 st Oct	Parents' Evening (3.30pm to 6pm)
11 th Nov	Remembrance Service, St Mary's Church Dedham
11 th Nov	World War 1: Remembered at The Assembly Rooms from 5.00pm
14 th Nov	Parent Forum at 2.15pm
16 th Nov	Flu Immunisation
1 st Dec	Christmas Market
6 th Dec	Nativity performance to parents
12 th Dec	EYFS Nativity
14 th Dec	Christmas Coffee Morning
16 th Dec	Village Carol Service
17 th Dec	KS2 Carol Service
18 th Dec	Non-uniform day (Christmas party day)
	Christmas lunch
	EYFS/KS1 Christmas party
	KS2 disco (3 – 4:30pm)