**Weekly SchoolComms e-mail – Thursday 5th October 2017**

Dear All,

Please find attached the weekly SchoolComms e-mail. Thank you.

LUNCH MENU FOR W/C 9th October 2017 IS WEEK 3.

A reminder that all dinner money must 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.

**ALL**

**Good news**

Thank you for the donations for the MacMillan juice and cake sale last Friday – £110 was raised. Thank you to all who supported this event.

**Parking**

Please note that the staff car park is for staff only, not parents. Please do not use this car park to drop off/collect children unless you are a blue badge holder. Thank you.

**Harvest Festival Celebration – at school – Tuesday 10th October at 9:15am**

You are invited to join us for our informal Harvest assembly at 9:15am next Tuesday (10.10.17). We will be collecting food donations for Beacon House who help homeless people in the local area. This year Beacon House have suggested some items which they will find very useful – biscuits, fruit squash, tinned vegetables, tinned meat and fish, cook in sauces, white sauces, made up custard, long life milk and skimmed milk powder. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

**Flu Vaccinations – Tuesday 31st October – REMINDER all forms (whether you wish your child to have the flu immunisation or not) to be returned by Wed 11.10.17.**

Please note that Flu Consent Forms were sent out this week to each child. **Please ensure they are completed and returned to the School Office by Wednesday 11th October.**  Unfortunately, if they are not received by this date your child will be unable to have the flu vaccination on the 31st October.

**Parent Consultation Evening/Afternoon**

**Tuesday 31st October (5-9pm) and Wednesday 1st November (3.30pm – 6pm**

Please note that details of the forthcoming Parent Consultation Evening/Afternoon ONLINE Appointment Booking will be sent out under a separate email.

**Book bags / large rucksacks**

More children are coming in to school carrying very large rucksacks. A regular size book bag or small rucksack is all that the children require. The cloakrooms are not very large and we would appreciate your help in keeping them both safe and tidy. Thank you for your understanding.

**Parent Information Session - Online Child Sexual Exploitation & Internet Safety**

The 2 Johns will be visiting school throughout **Wednesday 11th October** in order to spend time with children and staff to talk about being safe on the internet. They will be there to equip children and staff with the skills and knowledge to stay safe online whilst enjoying social media, online game and the "world-wide-web".

Navigating safely online is becoming increasingly difficult, especially as children have growing access to social media and online games through mobile devices, whether they are their own, their friends or a family members. There are numerous sites now including Facebook, SnapChat, Instagram and YouTube that groomers use to target children. This is increasingly for Child Sexual Exploitation and it's more common than we might think. And are we prepared?

What happens when children get carried away with their friends and take selfies? Do they post them online - and if so, where? Do they think about whether they can be identified in their photos - perhaps by their school uniform, where they live, the view outside their bedroom window or where they train for a sports team?

What happens when children are feeling a bit lonely and left out, such as when they move to a new school or are having a difficult time with their friends? Will they start chatting with a 'new' friend online who is being supportive, or may be offering them help? Do they tell anyone about these new online friendships?

How do children set up their social media sites safely? Do they consider how they describe themselves and what profile picture and username will keep them safe? What happens when our children are 'liked' or 'friended' online by a wide audience, such as posts on Instagram or YouTube - have they got the right privacy settings and do they know how to manage these new requests?

Not only are the 2 Johns spending time with children and staff, but they will be at school hosting a session for parents, grandparents and carers in order to share this information and equip us with the skills and knowledge to keep our children safe online. The session will run from 7-9pm in the school hall and refreshments will be provided. We encourage as many of you as possible to join us for this important information session.

Kind regards,

Rachel A. Brown

Parent Governor with responsibility for Safeguarding.

**Parent Group**

Thank you again for all that attended the parent group meeting, it was great to see such a good turnout. The minutes are attached at the end of school comms.

Easy Fundraising:

This has proved to be a very simple and easy way to raise funds for the school. So far it has raised £1358.65, with only 49 members. So imagine what could be raised with more members and Christmas shopping around the corner.

The concept is very simple, you go to their web page/app each time you shop with one of their registered companies and the company donates a percentage of what you spent to the school. There are over 3000 retailers, John lewis, Debenhams, Ebay, Amazon and Sainsburys to name a few. If you follow the link: https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/dceps.

You find and register your cause, Dedham Primary Church of England Primary School, give your email address and then you are ready to go, it really does take a minute. You can even set up a donation reminder and when your shopping on the registered company sites it will pop up. Thank you to those who have already registered and raising money we do receive cheques regularly. It would be great to see an increase in members.

Questionaire: If you could please take a few minutes to fill out the questionnaire, we appreciate and value your ideas on how the parent group should operate and move forward. The link is:

https://www.assess.viewpoint-psychology.com/share/pgs

We wanted to say a big thank you to all that supported, bought and helped sell the cereal bars and mustard after school, every penny counts!.

Many Thanks

Tash, Helen, Fiona, Kate and Jessie

**Christmas Market – Saturday 2nd December, 3-6pm**

Please find attached further details regarding the Christmas Market.

**School office telephone number: 01206 322242**

Please be aware that the school office has two phone lines going out from the office, however, only one is an incoming line. The other line is a fax number. We are able to ring out on the fax number but you will be unable to call us back on that number (redialling back to this number will not work). The only number to contact us on is: 01206 322242. Thank you.

**Old £1 coins**

Please note that Monday (9th October) will be the last day we will accept old £1 coins as a form of payment.

**School photos**

School photos are being sent home this week. If you wish to purchase any of the photos please complete the paperwork and include payment (there is an envelope included with your photos). The deadline for the photo orders to be collected from the school office is Tuesday 17th October at the close of school. Any late orders will need to be sent directly to Prime Portraits Ltd.

PLEASE NOTE THAT PRIME PORTRAITS WILL NO LONGER ACCEPT **OLD** POUND COINS AS A FORM OF PAYMENT.

**OTHER**

**Harvest Curry Supper – Saturday 14th October, 7pm at the Assembly Rooms.**

Harvest Curry Supper – Saturday 14th October, 7pm at the Assembly Rooms, Dedham. Tickets priced at £10 per person available at the Parishes Office or at church on Sunday, proceeds to Mary’s Meals and Colchester Foodbank. Bring your own drinks. A selection of curries will be available, please advise if vegetarian required. The young people of our parishes will be cooking and serving you on the night. Envelopes with correct money can be dropped in to the post box outside the school office and Mr & Mrs Partrick will collect.

**African Families in the UK**

African Families in the UK is inviting the pupils and staff of Dedham Primary School as part of the Black History Month to a very exciting family fun day this October. The event promises to have something for everybody attending which will include performances, workshops, live music, multicultural food and kids activities.

The event list for the day - Sat 14th Oct @ Firstsite

10:30am to 12:10pm

Jungle Book Theatre Performance (£1 for Families)

From 12:30pm a 45min Workshop

Jungle Book Stagecraft (£1 for 10 and 11yrs only)

12pm to 4pm

Free Family fun day open to all

There are other activities and workshops happening simultaneously all day.

There are 2 groups of tickets; performance - £1 and workshop - £1

For further details please see attached poster.

Thank you.