**Weekly SchoolComms e-mail – Thursday 12th October 2017**

Dear All,

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

LUNCH MENU FOR W/C 16th October 2017 IS WEEK 1 .

**ALL**

**Celebration Assembly Birthdays**

Tomorrow's assembly (Friday 13th October) will be the last celebration of the half term so we will be celebrating all birthdays since last week and any up to Sunday 22nd October.  Any birthdays that take place over half term will be included in the first celebration assembly of November.

A little bit of advance notice for anyone playing the birthday game tomorrow - due to everyone being so clever, we are switching back to the animal name game before we run out of money for soft toys!  We have a gorgeous cuddly sloth ready to be won and all you have to do is guess its name which begins with an S.  Good luck everyone.

**Thursday 19th October 2017 - Non Uniform Day in Aid of the DEN Site - £1 Donation**

Please note that on Thursday 19th October 2017 there will be a non-uniform day in aid of the DEN Site. Your kind donations help to continue to make the outdoor space available to us.

**Non-pupil day – Friday 20.10.17**

Just a reminder that there is a NON PUPIL DAY on FRIDAY 20TH OCTOBER.

**Parent Consultation Evening/Afternoon - Tuesday 31st October (5-9pm) and Wednesday 1st November (3.30pm – 6pm)**

REMINDER: Online Appointment Booking available until Sunday 15th October at 11pm.

**E-Safety Day**

I thought I'd take this opportunity to briefly summarise some of the key points from yesterday's sessions with the 2 Johns.  The overwhelming message was that if we punish children for things that happen online (e.g. by deleting Apps or confiscating devices) then we are actually doing more harm than good.  Children will still find ways of accessing what is popular so it is better to share and embrace your child's online activity and work WITH them to help them use the internet safely and support them when they get into difficulty or awkward situations.  This will help them develop habits that will keep them safe as they grow older and become more independent.

Another message I took away was that children are aware of the popular Apps much earlier than I realised, e.g. 'Roblox' and 'Musically' and that whilst these Apps may seem innocent, there are dangers from other users if they are not used safely and openly with parental supervision.  Finally, it was made clear that we need to be aware of the content of games our children are playing and music videos they are viewing.  Grand Theft Auto 5 was used as an example of the graphic and explicit content that children in primary aged year groups are being exposed to and if anyone is ever unsure of suitability, Youtube is a great way of quickly finding out.  To stay up to date with current information, follow the 2 Johns via facebook (EST E Safety Training) using the following link:

<https://en-gb.facebook.com/The2johns/>

**Salvation Army Christmas Present Appeal**

This year, instead of Operation Christmas Child, we have decided to support a cause a little closer to home by donating new unwrapped toys and gifts for children who might not otherwise receive a Christmas present. If you would like to donate a gift, please bring it in to school by Wednesday 6th December and we will take all donations together to our nearest centre. Suggestions for gifts include:

0-3 years: dolls, teddy bears, cot mobiles, baby clothes, bath toys, CDs of suitable music and nursery rhymes, puzzles

3-5: dolls and action figures, cars, lorries, DVDs and CDs (music and nursery rhymes), colouring sets, pencils, crayons, books, puzzles

5-9: educational games & toys, stationery (colouring sets, pencils, crayons, school sets), CDs & family friendly DVDs, books, puzzles, wordsearch, crosswords

9-12: games and toys, stationery, CDs, DVDs, books, T-Shirts, hair accessories, gloves, scarves, hats

13-16: CDs, DVDs, books, make-up and toiletries (please try to ensure non-allergic ingredients if possible), gloves, scarves, hats, T-Shirts, hair accessories

**Term Dates for 2018-2019**

Please find attached details of the school term dates for 2018-2019. Thank you.

**Parent Group**

**PARENT GROUP SURVEY**

Please find below a brief summary of the feedback received through the Parent Group Survey. Our thanks to those who completed the survey and shared their views. We will discuss the suggestions, along with those from the children, at the next meeting with the Class reps in November.

**Parent Group Survey Results: October 2017**

What works well

* Christmas and Summer Fairs
* Film club immediately after school

Suggestions for different/ additional events

* ‘Grown up’ event e.g. quiz, wine tasting, black tie event, promise auction
* Family event that could be based at DEN site e.g. pumpkin hunt, Easter egg hunt, camp-out, ‘party in the park’
* Bonfire night
* Pre-loved clothing sale

Questions to consider

* How do we differentiate the summer fair from the mass of other school and pre-school summer fairs locally?
* Should the summer fair move to a weekend to allow working parents to take a greater role and encourage more participation from the local community?
* Are there more creative ways that we could encourage involvement from parents?

**FILM CLUB - BOSS BABY**

We had another successful afternoon with a record number of pupils attending. We made a fantastic **£249.95** from this event!

The Parent Group and Carole would like to thank all the ladies who came along and helped with the event to make it possible. Thank you too to those who offered their help.

The next Film Club is planned for 15th December 2017 but the film is yet to be decided.

Thank you all again.

**DEDHAM RUN - REFRESHMENT STALL**

We are thrilled that we made approximately **£450**from the refreshment stall and subsequent sales of mustard and cereal bars. Our thanks once again to those who baked, contributed to the cake fund and helped out on the day.

We look forward to hearing the overall total raised through this year's run.

**CLASS REP MEETING**

We are provisionally looking to hold the next class rep meeting on the evening of **Wednesday 15th November**. Confirmation and more details to follow.

Carole, Jessie, Kate, Natasha, Helen & Fiona

**DEN Site**

**What is it?**

At Dedham Primary School we are lucky to have access to some land where the children can enjoy a multitude of activities. We have a large open site on the corner of Crown Street and East Lane, and a wooded area to the right of Crown Street as you leave the village. Both are owned by the Munnings Museum (the Castle House Trust) and activities are organised by the DEN Group.

**Who are we?**

The DEN group are a sub group of the School Parent Group and we plan activities held on the site. Interest and ideas are always welcome – please contact Jen or the Parent Group Committee to find out more!

**What do we do?**

We hold school activities at the DEN site such as Class R’s Forest School, an after school club on a Wednesday, class activities through-out the year and whole school events such as an outdoor assembly held in the summer term for all pupils and families. In previous years, Class 6 have held a leavers festival on the site and we have organised nature trail days.

**How can you help?**

We appreciate any help that parents can give to help us run and maintain this site. Three times a year the school holds non uniform days in aid of the DEN site – we ask for a £1 donation from pupils which contributes to maintaining and insuring the site as well as the cost of activities. Donations of time are always welcome, occasionally we need people power to do things such as put up a shed, pull ragwort or strim some nettles.

**How do you find out more?**

Come along to our after school club on Wednesday afternoons, or speak to Miss Manser in Class R, or Jen (mum of Toby in Class 3, Rowan in Class 2 and Ralph in Class R) on 07736 679 887.

**DEN - no DEN after school club Wed 18th Oct**

Please note that there will be NO DEN after school club on Wednesday 18th October.

**Secondary School Applications for September 2018 – Reminder for Year 6 Parents**

Just a reminder that the statutory closing date for applications from parents of Year 6 children (for a secondary school place in Year 7 from September 2018) is 31st October 2017.

If you have not yet submitted an application, you must do so by 31st October 2017.

Applications can be made via Essex County Council website [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions)

**OTHER**

**Essex Wildlife Trust**

Please find attached a poster for the October Half term Forest School sessions at Tiptree Heath Nature Reserve and Abbotts Hall Farm, Colchester.

To book please phone 01621 862960.

Information about Outdoor Learning and Forest School with Essex Wildlife Trust can be found at <http://www.essexwt.org.uk/discover-learn/forest-school>

and on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/EWTForestSchool>

**Mistley Kids Club**

Please find attached details regarding Mistley Kids Club.

**Flu Immunisation – 31st October**

The Flu Immunisation Team have received a number of queries from parents regarding the age of children who are eligible for flu vaccine as part of the routine childhood flu programme. All children in Essex in reception to year 6 are eligible to receive a flu vaccine through the national childhood flu programme as Essex is a former pilot site.

**Immunisation Catch up Clinic**

Please find attached available clinic dates for the Flu Immunisations .

Thank you.