



# NEWSLETTER

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020

www.dedham.essex.sch.uk

Telephone: 01206 322242

## Head Talk

Dear families of Dedham CE Primary School,

As I reflect on the past three and a half months since the full opening of schools in September I feel enormous pride and gratitude for what has been achieved at Dedham. The overriding strength of our community, family even, has enabled the school to continue moving forwards even during such challenging times.

I am grateful to parents for supporting the school in implementing protective measures including seeking a test when necessary and following self-isolation guidance. Over 60 children at our school have been required to self-isolate awaiting test results or due to contact with a positive case of Covid19. Almost in its entirety, this has been initiated by parents taking responsibility for keeping their family and everybody safe.

I am so grateful to the children for their hard work, resilience and willingness to work together to follow the rules that have contributed to keeping us all safe. They have been amazing!

To all of our wonderful staff, it is hard to express in words the gratitude I feel towards them. They could not have given more to your children and each other this term. There have been so many new and different ways of working for everyone to adapt to.

Of course, all of this has been done against the backdrop of a global pandemic where none of us have been immune from the tremendous impact on ourselves and our families.

This year, more than any other I have known, we all deserve a restful break and an opportunity to focus on our families. In whatever you choose to do this Christmas, and

everyone's decision is their own, I wish you and your family the most joyful festive period and look forward to seeing you all in 2021.

My very best wishes to you all,

Mr David Larner  
Headteacher

## Non-pupil day on the 4<sup>th</sup> January

Please remember the first day for children is Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

## New School Uniform now available with our logo



We have now sourced a supplier for school uniform where the items above are available with our new logo. We have a dedicated page on their website which can be accessed via the link below;

<https://www.pbuniform-online.co.uk/dedham>

My aim is for the whole school to transition to our new uniform with Dedham logo by



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September 2022. I have decided on a longer period for transition as I fully appreciate that this uniform is more expensive than plain alternatives. I feel privileged to be part of such a strong school community and believe that we should wear our school name with pride.

A bi-monthly delivery to school is free or items can be delivered directly to your home for a small charge.

## Contact tracing during the Christmas break

Following our newsletter last week about arrangements for the end of term and for contact tracing over the Christmas break, please note the following:

- The last day of term is Friday 18th December—school finishes at the normal time on this day.
- If your child develops symptoms of Covid-19 within 48 hours of being in school (before Monday 21 December) please contact the school by email to let us know and seek a test for your child. Your household must isolate at home until the test result is returned. If the test result is positive for Covid-19, you must let us know so that we can identify any other individuals within the school community who are impacted by this. If the test result is negative, please let us know but you do not need to take any further action.
- If your child has no symptoms but has a positive Covid-19 test within 48 hours of being school (before Monday 21 December) please let us know by email so that we can identify any other individuals within the school community who have been a close contact of your child.

- If your child develops symptoms of Covid-19 more than 48 hours after their last day in school (from Monday 21 December onwards) you must seek a test for your child and the household must isolate at home until the test result is returned. If the test result is positive for Covid-19 the contact tracing will be done by the NHS and not by the school. This means that you must contact NHS Test and Trace and follow the advice given by them: [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/)

- The school reopens to pupils on Tuesday 5th January.

If your child is going to be absent on that day due to being unwell or self-isolating, please contact us to let us know. If you need to contact us during the holidays to share information about Covid symptoms or tests, please do so by email at [office@dedham.essex.sch.uk](mailto:office@dedham.essex.sch.uk).

This will be monitored between 9am and 1pm until Thursday 24th December. Emails sent after this date and non-urgent emails sent to this address during the holidays will be replied to when the school reopens in January.

To book a Covid-19 test, go to [https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test\\_or\\_phone\\_119](https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test_or_phone_119).

**LUNCH MENU FOR W/C 5<sup>th</sup> January IS WEEK 1** (reminder that we return to school on a TUESDAY).

There is a new menu (05.01.2021 – 26.03.2021) – please see copy attached. This is also available to view on the school website. The cost for lunches for the half-term is: £66.70 (05.01.2021-12.02.2021 = 29 days x £2.30 a day = £66.70 (cheques made payable to Essex County Council).



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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.

## School lunch refunds

If your child is in credit for school lunches this credit will be returned to you, via your child's book bag, tomorrow.

## Free school meals - Have your circumstances changed?

If you believe your circumstances have changed during the period of lockdown and you could be eligible for free school meals then you can find the criteria and application process by following the link below;

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/free-school-meals>

## Primary School Applications for September 2021 – Reminder for new Year R Parents

The opening date for applications from parents for a primary school place in Year R from September 2021 was 9th November 2020. **The closing date for applications is 15th January 2021. Please ensure your application is submitted on time.**

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

## News from St Mary's Church, Dedham

We now have a dedicated page on our website where you can find out more about upcoming

services and events at St Mary's Church, Dedham. It can be found at the link below;

<https://www.dedham.essex.sch.uk/news-from-st-marys-church-dedham>

