



The

DAUBENEY

Diary

Welcome Message

In this section of the last 'Daubeney Diary', mention was made of the numerous exciting events which had recently taken place at the school at that time. Since then there has been a continuing series of events, aimed at enriching your child's school experience.

We do appreciate that providing these opportunities sometimes involves asking parents to contribute towards costs. Naturally, we are aware that these are difficult times, financially, for many people and we shall endeavour to keep costs down as far as possible.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the support that you continue to give. There is so much more to learning than classroom lessons, and it is very often these special events that pupils can recall many years later.

Trust Status

Another twelve Year 8 students are due to benefit from the Aim Higher programme run by the University of Bedfordshire. They have already attended the road show at the university and now have an 'ambassador' mentoring them once a week. The aim of the scheme is to raise the student's awareness of the benefits of higher education.

The transfer of data from middle school to upper school has been comprehensive for several years, but the Trust is aiming to streamline this even further. Daubeney, Robert Bruce and Hastingsbury schools have agreed to move towards a common assessment recording, monitoring and reporting model for all three years of KS3. This should make the process of tracking students even easier.



Illness

If your child is unable to attend school please make sure that you ring the school in the morning to report the absence. On your child's return please send a note to the form teacher.

Also if your child has a hospital/dentist appointment can you please inform the school office the day before by letter. Can you also make sure that your child knows what time you will be collecting them so that they can be in the school's reception area on time, as it is not the responsibility of the school office staff to remind or collect your child for you.

SATs

All parents want their children to be as successful as they can be at school and want to support them in this.

However, many parents are unsure about the best way to go about it. We often have parents comment on the fact that the Maths their child does at school is different to the Maths they were taught, for example.

A frequently asked question concerns the amount of time that a parent should spend helping their child at home. Many people lead very busy lives and want to know if there are relatively simple things that they can do to help, and everyone wants to know which kind of help is likely to be the most effective.

Parents of Year 6 pupils will have already received a letter inviting you to attend a SATs evening. This will be held in the Drama Hall, on Thursday 11th February 2010, starting at 7pm.

There will be a short presentation from the English and Maths Co-ordinators, outlining both what is expected of pupils when taking the tests and how parents can offer the most effective support. The evening will include opportunities for you to ask any questions you may have.

Groupcall Text Messenger service to parents

During the recent inclement weather conditions, we sent out messages via the Groupcall service at 7am to inform parents/carers that the school was closed, however a lot of parents did not receive their messages until much later in the day.

Groupcall have advised us that they experienced a myriad of unforeseen problems such as a delay with the mobile phone network, 48 hour internet outage, staff travel difficulties and the sheer extent of the extreme weather which collectively meant that their service was severely hampered.

They have advised us that they have re-developed the remote website which allows us to send messages regarding school closure. They are also putting in new software and processes so that they can provide a much faster delivery of text messages to parents/carers.

PTA

Thank you to those parents who attended our first PTA meeting in November.

If you are interested in joining then please come along. If you are unable to attend meetings or commit to being on the committee but want to help and can give up a few hours please let Mrs Isted have your contact details. If you would like to be added to the list please e-mail eisted@bfx.md.e2bn.net.

We are hoping to hold a pub quiz in a local pub to properly launch the PTA in March, so if you would like to help, please get in touch.



Inclusion Quality Mark



‘The principle of caring for and supporting one another is deeply embedded in the life and work of the school, so much so that it passes almost unremarked.’ (Nov 2009)

Three years ago the school gained the Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM) which is valid for three years. In November 2009 the school was reassessed for this award. The assessment included a very detailed audit, covering 10 elements of school life including Pupil Progress, Pupil Attitudes and Personal Development, Leadership and Management, Teaching and Learning, ICT, Parents and Carers, Governors and the Community. Penny Campbell, an IQM assessor, spent two days in the school observing lessons, talking to pupils, governors, parents and teachers.

We were very pleased to be awarded the Inclusion Quality Mark following the assessment.

The following is extracts from the summary. The full report is available at school for parents to read.

Summary

Daubeney Middle School provides a historically well-embedded, inclusive education for its pupils. Those within the school community, pupils and adults alike, have a good understanding of inclusion issues.

Staff members are alert to the importance of identifying individual needs and of planning to meet them in systematic ways, including the needs of those who are identified as having particular gifts and talents. They draw on the expertise of colleagues, within the school and elsewhere, to do so, and are particularly well supported by the SEN Team, including the SENCo, EAL co-ordinator, Pastoral Officer and a team of capable Teaching Assistants.

Pupils are provided with a learning context in which they feel safe and well cared for. Their personal development and well-being is promoted and their emotional and social needs well met. Their progress, achievements and good behaviour are recognised and celebrated.

Pupils’ views about the school are actively sought, both formally and informally. They are able to express their ideas clearly and are provided with opportunities to take responsibility for bringing about the improvements they want to see.

Every effort is made to involve parents in the life and work of the school. They are encouraged, not least through the school’s learning platform, to get involved in their children’s learning, and they are offered a range of opportunities intended to support them in doing so.

Relationships within the school community are friendly, trusting and supportive. They are characterised by respect and a desire to ensure that everyone’s needs are met, and this helps to create a positive learning ethos. There is a strong emphasis on working together within the school, reflected in all aspects of school life. This approach is valued by staff and parents and contributes to the school’s success.

There is a maturity apparent within the organisation. This reflects the stability of the staff, the effective and long-standing working partnership between the joint headteachers, and the highly supportive nature of the professional relationships within the school. As a consequence, the school is a committed and usually vibrant professional community.

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| <p style="text-align: center;">School Organisation Review</p> | <p>Statutory notices for the closure of Daubeney Middle school were published on 14th February 2010.</p> <p>Any comments or objections on the proposals should be submitted to Michael Gough at the Borough Council by 25th February 2010.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Internet safety</p> | <p>Parental/Carer Reminder Can we remind you/make you aware that children under 13 should not be in possession of facebook accounts, bebo, myspace and similar.</p> <p>We asked children whether they had one of these accounts and found that children as young as ones in Year 5 have one or more of these.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Playground Friends</p>  | <p>Playground Friends Are Go!</p> <p>The playground friends are now currently working to a full timetable covering break and lunchtimes on the Year 5 and 6 playgrounds.</p> <p>The pupils will be out there in their high-vis jackets at all times. Their main responsibility is giving out and collecting the new playground equipment, but on Tuesdays and Wednesdays they will also be in charge of organised games on the top playground, so come and join in and learn some new games – so far we have had a go at Bulldog, Stuck-in-the-mud, Hospital Tag, Cars and Hands-in-a-tangle.</p> |
|   | <p>Our Year 7 and 8 squads performed well at the Bunyan centre, during the Basketball tournaments which ran from November 2009 to January this year. There were notable performances from our Year 8's who won 3 matches -including the third place play off against Newnham school, beating Woodside and Margaret Beaufort on the way. The Year 8's were commended by tournament referees and opposing coaches for the quality of their basketball and their improvement from the start of the tournament. It is a real shame we couldn't field our strongest squad in earlier rounds! Notable contributions came from Olivier Nahiminara (our man of the tournament), Tyla Thompson, Zach Robinson, Kingsley Lambert, Connor Steels, and from Year 7's Lee Johnson, Kishan Nahar, Zach Wilson and Toby White.</p> <p>Year 7/8 squads took part in a Dodgeball tournament arranged by the Kempston School Sports Co-ordinators, at the Bunyan centre in January. The squads narrowly missed out on a place in the finals.</p> <p><u>Year 5/6 Girls Football Team Win the Indoor Trophy again</u></p> <p>It is extremely pleasing to note the fantastic performance of the Year 5 and 6 girls just before Christmas. With performances improving with every match the girls ended up winners of their league. This put them through to the semi-finals where they had a re-match against the team we beat 2-1 in</p> |

P.E



last year's final, Goldington Middle school.

This year the Daubeney team have improved even further and defeated Goldington comfortably 4-1. This put us through to the final against Marston Vale. The Daubeney girls dominated from the start and won an exciting final 5-0!! An excellent performance all round!

Alice Wins Gold at the County Gym Finals

We are very proud to report that Alice Taylor, Year 7, performed extremely well in the Girls Trios recently at the County Championships. Despite some very good opposition the girls won a very well deserved gold medal – well done Alice! This puts Alice through to the regional championships.

The Cross Country season is here

Once again a large number of Daubeney pupils have represented the cross country teams with pride. The district championship came first with over two thirds of the students improving on their place last year. Notable performances came from Meghan Dimmond, Harrison Dowling, Morgan Dimmond, Jayliegh Dynes, Morgan Gordan, Laura Kirkup and Charlie Field.

Daubeney's best teams were Year 6/6 girls who finished a fantastic 7th out of 20 teams and the Year 8 boys. Overall Daubeney finished a very good 8th out of 20 teams.

A week later we took 4 teams to the partnership championships at Biddenham Upper school. These form the qualifiers for the county championships with the top 16 from each race forming the North Bedfordshire team. We are proud to announce that Meghan Dimmock finished an excellent 12th in the Year 6/7 race to qualify for the counties. This event took place on 3rd February 2010 with Meghan finishing a very good 32nd in the county. Well done Meghan.

It is also fantastic to note the performance of ex-pupil, Alanah Harris who won the Partnership Championships and then the county's. The postponed Lincroft Championships have been re-arranged for 8th March 2010.

Partnership Events

A groups of Year 5 students recently represented Daubeney with pride in the indoor athletics, netball and football championships. The pupils performed superbly to finish a very good 2nd in both the netball and athletics and a creditable 3rd in the football. Well done to all those who took part in some cases for the first time in Daubeney colours.

Well done to all pupils who have represented the school since we came back in September 2009.



Community

Board



As previously reported we have an external notice board on the wall outside the Drama Hall. As a school we are using it to advertise our activities.

However, if any community group wants to advertise their activity then we will be happy to put your poster up on the community board.

Please bring your posters into reception and advise staff that you would like it to go up on the board.



Carol Service

A very big WELL DONE and thank you to all our performers who helped to make the Carol service so enjoyable. Some notable contributions came from Reece Hinson who had his debut solo performance on guitar and all the Ukulele group players; in particular Lucien Pickford, Georgia Watkins and Danielle Boyden who all managed to smile while playing! Thanks also must go to Sam Fattorusso and Arran Watt who tirelessly heaved and manoeuvred the timps and all the other percussion instruments to and from the church without grumbling (they also played pretty well!).

Thank you to our readers, Christie Redfern, Nathan Baird, Poppy Morris and Sam Fattorusso for adding their personal touches and of course to Miss Ives. Choir and Harmonise both sang beautifully and the whole evening really put us in the mood for Christmas.

It was really lovely to see several of our old players come back from Upper Schools to perform with us too. In all we had 93 Daubeney children involved in the event and we hope a good time was had by all. Kempston East Methodist Church contacted the school early in the New Year to say that the collection raised £134 for local charities. Thank you to everyone.

Musical notes



Wow It was COLD!!

Well done to all 46 singers who bravely braved the freezing cold to sing at the Kempston Christmas Lights Event. Thank you to Mrs Evans and Mr Sansom who came to support and to the many parents who shivered and kept everyone happy during the wait to perform. We sang extremely well and with great enthusiasm – we're sure the residents of Bedford Town could hear us and were merrily singing along too (It's funny how singers always speed up when they're cold though!!).

From Elvis to Black Eyed Peas

On Wednesday 20th January the county Rock/Pop group came to perform and present a workshop to all our Year 5 and 6 pupils. Wow... what an event!! The performance covered songs by Chuck Berry, Elvis, The Beatles, Nirvana, Guns'n'Roses, Bob Marley, Oasis, Michael Jackson and Black Eyed Peas. It was really great for our pupils to see two of their own tutors Mr Ben Garraway and Mr Kevin Simpson performing. Loud but great fun! Rock On!



New Group

Keyboard Club: Thursday lunchtime 12.50pm

Three of our enterprising music monitors, Olivia Clarke, Stefan Thorman,



Parents, you can help us to earn green leaves and improve your own energy efficiency by visiting www.generationgreen.co.uk

School Clubs

Apart from the music and sports clubs the school currently runs the following clubs:

- Monday, Wednesday, Friday - Social Club-Room 10 Lunchtime – by invitation only
- Monday - Jarman Club – Room 11 12.30pm -1pm -Jarman House members
- Thursday - Step Up 2 – Sportshall 12.55pm to1.15pm - Breakdance/HipHop
- Drama Club – Drama Hall 3.40pm- 4.30pm - All years
- Friday - Dance Club – Drama Hall 3.40pm – 4.30pm - Modern/Jazz
- Cards Club – Room 7 12.55pm – 1.30pm talk to Miss Lusby first



FREE MEMBERSHIP FOR LISTENING BOOKS

This is an online postal library with a huge selection of audio books available to anyone who struggles to read in the usual way due to an illness, disability or learning difficulty.

Please contact Mrs Bonar if you would like to join.



Healthy Schools

School Meals and Healthy Schools

We are continually looking at ways of educating our students to make healthier choices as regards the food that they eat. Carol Leverkus, a dietician attached to Bedford Hospital has delivered an assembly to Year 5 and 6 about Healthy Eating, and this was followed up by a day workshop for Year 5. During the day the pupils looked at the fat and sugar content of some foods and healthier alternatives.

Year 5 pupils will soon be bringing home a booklet outlining different foods that could be used in packed lunches.

The school is supporting Bedfordshire Healthy School Meals Heart Week 8th – 12th February and a new menu has been devised especially for the week. Eden Foodservice has sent out forms in order to conduct a survey with the students and this should help determine how to improve their service. They will provide the school with feedback from the questionnaire, so it would be good if we get as many returns as possible.

Any family who thinks that they may be eligible for free school meals are able to contact the school office for further advice.

The following websites might be useful and informative for parents and pupils:

- www.nutrition.org.uk
- www.5aday.nhs.uk
- www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk

The Healthy Schools website is always a useful place for information on choices for packed lunches etc:

<http://www.healthy-schools.co.uk/>

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| <p>Daubeney's Learning Platform</p> | <p>All pupils can access Daubeney's Learning Platform at home by typing the following address into their browser: http://login.mp.e2bn.net/</p> <p>We would suggest that this address is added to your favourites or bookmarks.</p> |
| <p>Enterprise Group</p> | <p>A big thank you to everyone who bought raffle tickets, and paid their £1, for the non-uniform day to support our Year 8 Enterprise group raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support. Their £10 Challenge ends very soon, and they have raised nearly £800 at the last count. We would also like to thank MK Dons, Bedford Blues, Luton Town FC, and all people who donated raffle prizes.</p> |
|  | <p>The Connexions Careers Library is in Room 8 (Mrs Isted's room) and will be open for pupils to visit during Tuesday and Friday lunchtimes. The library contains information about all sorts of career pathways and alternative ways into work. There will also be information on the new options available to pupils when they reach Year 9, including the new diplomas.</p> <p>For more information on careers, jobs and qualifications pupils and parents can also visit www.connexions-direct.com</p> |
| <p>Home to School transport</p> | <p>The Education and Inspections Act 2006 makes new provisions for free home to school transport which came into effect in September 2008. Those eligible will now include families entitled to free school meals or in receipt of the maximum level of Working Tax Credit depending on the dates of birth of their children and distances from their school. If any parents would like an application form and guidance notes please <u>do not</u> ring into the school office but send your child in with a <u>note</u> to the school requesting these.</p> |
| <p>Domestic Abuse Information Line</p> | <p>Domestic abuse affects men, women and children from all walks of life. Domestic abuse is often thought about as just physical violence, but the reality has a much larger impact.</p> <p>The information line is available to parents, carers, guardians, students and staff and can be accessed for advice on the support services available in Bedfordshire, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with a freephone number. It's free to call and all calls are treated confidentially.</p> <p>FREEPHONE NUMBER – 0808 202 1796</p> |
| <p>Bedfordshire Parent Partnership Service</p> | <p>Parent Partnership representatives take forward your questions and work with the Local Authority to improve provision for children with additional educational needs. It provides a free, confidential and impartial service for parents of children with special educational needs. Parent Partnership have set up two services, one for Bedford Borough on 01234 316353, and one for Central Bedfordshire on 0330 300 8088, with both services still based at Westfield Middle school.</p> <p>Would you like to join a small group of parents that meets regularly with the Local Authority to pass on parents' comments, questions and concerns? Then please contact them on one of the two telephone numbers above.</p> <p>www.bedfordshireparentpartnership.co.uk, or you can email them on parent.partnership@bedford.gov.uk (Bedford area) and parent.partnership@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk (Central Bedfordshire).</p> |



Kempston Library, Halsey Road, Kempston, Bedford

For opening hours and further information please ring: 01234 276453
Or go to: www.bedfordshire.gov.uk and click on "libraries".

The library also runs a homework centre on Tuesdays and Thursdays during term time between 3.30pm and 5.30pm. The sessions are free and there are two people to help direct children when they are looking for information for their homework. The children can have access to a computer and printing is free for homework items.

Project 229

Project 229, at 229 Bedford Road, Kempston which is managed by Spurgeon's Child Care, is an open access meeting place for the people of Kempston, and a base for activities and services provided by community groups and organizations. To see more information visit their website at: www.project229.org

Fun for Young People

DANCE SHOWCASE at Bedford Modern School
March 19th at 7pm – Tickets £1 (sorry no refunds)
Anyone on free school meals or in hardship comes free of charge.
Coach leaves from Hillgrounds Road 6.20pm
PLEASE PHONE 824514 for entry form – 1st come, 1st served
Entry forms will also be available shortly from Daubeney reception

ROCK MUSIC – Sorry the new course is FULLY BOOKED
*** We have a new beginners course starting this summer***

The **ROCK MUSIC** group will be performing in a concert for Kempston Youth Musical Groups on Friday 16th April 2010 at Hastingsbury Upper School – ALL FAMILIES and FRIENDS WELCOME. Concert starts at 6pm.

3 DAY ARTS/SPORTS COURSE starts Tuesday 13th April 2010 at Robert Bruce Middle School. 13th, 14th, 15th April – full details to follow. This will include a chance for our art group to visit the famous Ashmolean Museum in Oxford.

Contact Ann Hadfield on 01234 824514 or Carol Macfarlane on 01234 824575, or email annhadfield@onetel.com.

Kempston Hammers Rugby Union FC

Do you want to play Rugby? Boys and girls aged 7 to 13 years are welcome. Training is every Thursday from 6.30pm and Sunday mornings from 10am at Kempston Hammers Sports Ground. The coaches are qualified and CRB checked.

Membership is £20 a season – September to April. Every child will have the opportunity to take part in matches and mini tournaments throughout the season along with fitness and rugby training.

Contact 07831 547406 or 07552 437141 if you are interested.

| Date | Event | Time |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Thursday 11 th February | SATs evening for Year 6 parents | |
| Friday 12 th February | Break up for half term holiday | 3.30pm |
| <u>Monday 22nd February</u> | <u>Pupils Back to school</u> | <u>8.45am</u> <u>Registration</u> |
| Thursday 25 th February | Year 5/6 Oliver Twist performance | p.m at school |
| Thursday 4 th March | Year 6 Parents evening | 4.30pm to 6.30pm |
| Tuesday 9 th March | Year 6 Parents evening | 4.30pm to 6.30pm |
| Thursday 11 th March | Year 5 Parents evening | 4.30pm to 6.30pm |
| Friday 12 th March | 'Drop Down' day | |
| Tuesday 16 th March | Year 5 Parents evening | 4.30pm to 6.30pm |
| Tuesday 16 th March | Drug Awareness talk at Springfield School all parents welcome | 7pm |
| Wednesday 31 st March | Spring Showcase in the Drama Hall | 7pm |
| Thursday 1 st April | Year 5 trip to Hazard Alley | |
| Thursday 1 st April | Break up for Easter Holidays | 3.30pm |
| <u>Tuesday 20th April</u> | <u>Pupils Back to school</u> | <u>8.45am</u> <u>Registration</u> |

TERM DATES 2009 - 2010

AUTUMN TERM 2009

Autumn Term: Friday 4 September – Friday 18 December 2009

Half Term: Week beginning Monday 26 October 2009 for one week

SPRING TERM 2010

Spring Term: Tuesday 5 January – Thursday 1 April 2010

Half Term: Week beginning Monday 15 February 2010 for one week

SUMMER TERM 2010

Summer Term: Tuesday 20 April – Wednesday 21 July 2010

May Day: Monday 3 May 2010

Half Term: Week beginning Monday 31 May 2010 for one week

Teacher Training days = School closed:

Wednesday 2nd September 2009

Thursday 3rd September 2009

Monday 4th January 2010

Monday 19th April 2010

Friday 2nd July 2010