



Bennet Canfield, Little Canfield, Dunmow, Essex, CM6 1YE

'Learning, achieving and enjoying together'

Autumn Term 1 : Update 2

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians,

Please find updates on the following :-

- Parent Consultation Evening Reminder
- Class DoJo!
- And Finally....

Parent Consultation Evening reminder

Please remember to book your appointment with your child's class teacher as soon as possible if you have not already done so. Letters went out electronically last week. If you require another copy please contact the school office. Meetings all take place in the school hall with you child where possible. A strict 10 minute centrally timed slot is followed to ensure the evening runs smoothly and all teachers keep to time! The key themes for the opening consultations this year are:

- a) See how well your child has settled in
- b) To share key learning targets for the remainder of this half-term. This includes an "Individual Assessment Summary" report for years 1 to 6 that include a reminder of attainment at the end of last academic year (not for Year 1 as it is their first year of the national curriculum) along with key objective (s) for reading, writing and mathematics under the heading "Things we are working on".
- c) Reception parents will get a resource pack from their teachers to help support learning at home.
- d) A "home-school" agreement also requires signing; an annual requirement.
- e) An opportunity to look at some of your child's learning to date in their books is also available after the meeting. Teachers will pass over the books towards the end of your meeting. Space is available in the small hall for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes, Lime Class (Mr Hitchin) is available for Year 3 and 4, with year 5 and 6 in Cherry Class (Miss Wotton).

"Class DoJo!"

"Class DoJo!" is an online tool that is being rolled out across Year 1 to 6 this half-term following successful trials last year. It is with great thanks to Miss Wotton and Mr Hitchin who have been leading the way in Year 5. In essence "Class DoJo" is reward system, that replaces our house point system. Teachers use 'Class DoJo' to capture positive behaviours and attitudes to support learning and to develop a "growth mind-set" in all. (Please see the school website www.takeley-pri.essex.sch.uk/children/growth-mindset to find out more.)

T: 01279 870 541 F: 01279 870 541

Email: admin@takeley-pri.essex.sch.uk

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Teachers capture and recognise a range of learning behaviours such as being on task as "DoJo Diligent", being ready to learn as "DoJo Tenacity!" and for teamwork "DoJo Collaborate" to name but a few. Certificates are awarded to those who score the most points each week in the various categories along with a "DoJo Sensai" award for those that get the most DoJo points each week. These certificates will eventually take over from the current 'Learning' and 'Behaviour' certificates that we currently use. This system is a more personalised reward system and one that can be better communicated to parents.

Many of you have already received your invitation with how to download the "Class DoJo" app along with how to log in and set up your account should you wish. For those that haven't yet, all teachers have been set a deadline of October half-term to have completed this by.

In addition to receiving notifications as to how well your child is doing you will also, as the term progresses, have private access to your child's "DoJo portfolio" in which children can choose to share with you work that they feel proud of. Only you, your child and class teacher can view this so ensuring safeguarding and data protection requirements. Another feature that will also develop is that of a "Class Story" where teachers may share images and information about various learning journeys that the class is on. The "Class Story" is only available to parents and children from that class. It is not available to the broader world wide web as our school website is. However if there are any images or articles that you are not happy with please let the class teacher know as they are easily edited. In both of the "Portfolio" and "Class Story" you are able to leave comments. We respectfully ask that these are kept positive as they are read by the children and can add great value to their "growth mind-set". Unfortunately teachers will not be able to reply to all comments due to the potential workload detracting from their key purpose in ensuring children make good progress in lessons.

And finally.....

We continue to work on –

- Developing a new exciting and stimulating curriculum across all subjects.
- Developing new resources to raise standards in the school; significant investment in new reading books, mathematic resources, new laptops and ICT network, along with a new Key Stage 2 adventure playground. A total spend in excess of £100,000.00; with great thanks to our governors.
- Investing in training courses for staff to develop required skills in targeted areas of subject leadership, reading, science, phonics, first aid and safeguarding.
- Embedding use of new assessment, planning, appraisal and financial systems.

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- The school ethos is now significantly more positive, children's behaviour overall is good. We now have the platform from which to build high quality teaching and learning so that all children can make good progress within lessons across all subjects. Our journey continues

As ever, thank you for your continued support and trust in us.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Andy Cosslett (Headteacher)

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