

## **An update from Mrs White (Executive Headteacher), Miss Lawrence (Head of School) and Mrs Hickinbottom (Deputy)...**

We had our Trust Peer Review and have been looking forward to share the findings with you ever since, here are some examples of the feedback in bold font.

***'The children are consistently well behaved across the school. Lunchtimes and break-times were calm and the children are well supported by staff and play leaders from year six; this has really given lunchtimes a sense of purpose.'***

We have worked hard this term to ensure that lunchtimes have been greatly improved. So, thank you to our children who always show respect and good conduct in school. Thank you to our Year Six children who give up their lunchtimes to help others. Thank you to our lunchtime supervisors who work tirelessly to make lunchtime fun!

***'The school council children could clearly and precisely articulate themselves and thoroughly understood the systems across the school which they shared with a great sense of pride.'***

The review team stated that they have never interviewed such a dedicated school council. We are so proud of them and the way they could clearly articulate their vision for making the school a better place for all children and have such persuasive skills that I was even persuaded to buy new gym mats for lunchtimes! :-)

***'The work of the ELSA is a major strength of the school.'***

Thank you to our families who have engaged so well with our pastoral work providing such positive change to the lives of our children and, of course, thank you to Mrs Watson for her dedication and hard work.

***'There are high levels of expectations in Maths and English books'***

Thank you to our fantastic children who work so hard on a daily basis and show pride and great care in their work.

***'Parents stated that they knew how their children are doing – parent's evenings were praised and most parents could say what their child was doing well and what targets they needed to work on.'***

***'Parents questioned were overwhelmingly positive and complementary about the school. The school's open culture welcomed over two-hundred parents to a Remembrance Service and all parental engagement workshops and events are very well attended.'***

Thank you for your support and willingness to talk openly to our visitors and for your positive engagement with the school.

***'Continuous provision across the EYFS unit is a key strength as all areas of the curriculum are covered and there is wide range of purposeful activities for the children to access. Opportunities were readily available for children to apply their learning with very positive adult interaction. The children's behaviour and social skills are also a key strength within the setting where the children are active and independent.'***

The team were incredibly positive about the EYFS setting and we are confident that the children at Danemill have the best start in their education.

***'The Senior Leadership team are a strength of the school. This is a rapidly improving school. The collective vision of the senior leadership team for a relentless drive for improvement is a key strength of the school.'***

We have so much to celebrate at Danemill and we are constantly demonstrating to the children how proud we are of them. To continue to move forward we will be sending out a parent questionnaire next term where we are keen to hear your opinions on what could improve your child's experience at Danemill and how we can work better as a team to support this. ***'Only the best is good enough.'*** P.T.O for more Danemill News...



On 5th December our Year 6 football team battled against St Peters Whetstone, despite putting in a great effort they lost 1-0. On the same day, Izzy Webb went to compete in the Wilton Baking Challenge final. I won't ruin the outcome for you as she's written a piece further on in the newsletter.

Our Pre-School performed their sing-a-long on 7th December starting the beginning of our Christmas festivities. They looked fantastic and knew all of the words! Well done Pre-School. On the same day, our Year 5s went to play against St Peters Whetstone. There were two goals from Zak and one from Kieron...we won 3-1! Well done all.

We welcomed over 200 families to our annual Decorations day. We had very positive comments and most of all, the children loved having you here. We are still trying to get glitter out of the carpet and I'm sure it will still be there for some time to come. We also had our Christmas Fair which the FEDS worked so hard to organise. We raised £1500 which is incredible! Thank you for your support and thanks to the FEDS for their continued hard work.

We then embarked on our nativity season. The snow tried to halt play but the children continued...EYFS performed their fabulous version of 'The Nativity' and KS1 treated us to 'Baubles'. The singing was incredible, the props were creative and the children had us laughing at their one-liners. Thank you to all of the parents and carers for attending but most of all thank you to the children for putting on such amazing shows.

Our KS2 children walked down to the Church to have their own Carol Concert. Jerry (the Vicar) gave such a lovely service and the children were impeccably behaved. The same afternoon we said thank you to all of our volunteers who were invited into a special assembly to say thank you for helping us all year. We really couldn't provide such an incredible education for our children without their support on trips and activities that require many adults.

Christmas dinner was served amongst the booming Christmas songs and cracker pulling! The children loved being served by the staff and the food was lovely. Thank you to our kitchen staff who do such an incredible job all year round. Thank you to our FEDS who provided the crackers and paid for all of KS2 to have a dinner! On the same day we had our annual Christmas sing-a-long led by Mrs Higham. The children always love this within our school year and it is a highlight for many.

Also on Tuesday 4HW treated us to their class assembly. They gave us a repeat performance of their Remembrance Day song as well as shared the learning from their theme week. Thank you for joining us. Parents attendance at all of our assemblies has been amazing, so thank you very much.

On the final day of this long Autumn Term the children watched the panto 'Aladdin'. Thank you for your donations and thank you to the FEDS for providing funding for this event too. The children also had their Christmas parties which they thoroughly enjoyed. Mrs Hickinbottom and Mrs Cherry also went to collect the £1000 we received from Blaby District Council to fund the resourcing of our new Forest School area which starts up when we start back next term.

Before we finish we would like to say our goodbyes and welcome to staff:

**Goodbye to:**

Mrs Todd who will be leaving us to embark on a new challenge. Keep in touch. We will miss you. Mrs Harris who will be leaving us to spend more time with her family. Thank you both for all of your hard work and dedication to Danemill. Miss Hills will be leaving us to start a new challenge at the Space Centre in Leicester! Thank you for supporting our children; Mrs Smith who will be leaving us to start a new challenge at a school in the City working with children with special educational needs and Mrs Rossiter (supply Teacher) who has been teaching our Year Two children.

**Hello to:**

Miss Smith who has joined our Office team and Mrs Stone who will be taking over in Year 2 (2JS) as our new Key Stage 1 coordinator. A warm Danemill welcome to all.

So, as you can see it has been a very busy term. We would like to take this opportunity to say:

**Merry Christmas to you all, enjoy your family time and make some final memories for 2017. We look forward to welcoming you back on Tuesday 9th January and making 2018 the best year yet.**

## FEDS dates...

**27th April**— Spring Disco— EYFS, Years 1 and 2—4.30—5.30 p.m. Years 3—6 5.45—6.45 p.m.

Food will be available for all years on pre-order.

**6th July**— Summer Fair— 3.30—7 p.m.

Thanks again to all those that give up their time to help us to raise money to enrich the children's education but also to those that attend these events and give up their hard earned money.



**Artsmark  
Silver Award**  
Awarded by Arts  
Council England

We're pleased to be able to tell you that we have passed the required standard and have been awarded our Artsmark Silver Award. A huge well done to Miss Stokes for collating all of the evidence.

## Good attendance means...

being in school at least 95% of the time or 180 to 190 days



We work incredibly hard to improve attendance at Danemill. We have reduced our persistent absentees by 3%. We appreciate that illnesses can't be avoided so, as well as 100% attendance we are also celebrating most improved compared the previous term. Well done those children who received their 100% attendance and also to the following who had the 'most improved' attendance:

Aiden Gee	Marissa Dean	Lysand Sinfield
Avi Chana	Isla Latkowski	Paris Rogers
William Randall	Alfie Monk	Gideon Moger

Mexi Wildey—Jacobs

## Children sent to Senior Leaders for fantastic efforts:

Izzy Webb	Aiden Gee	Charlie Payne	Lara-Hope Knight	Ruby Guiney
Lacie Lucas Potter	Paris Rogers	Freya Hirons	Zoe Fridlington	Jaimee Burchell
Evie Spadaccini	Elise Shackleton	Mia Taylor	Kenzie Clarke	

## Newsletter Dates...

02/02/18

02/03/18

23/03/18

## Wilton Baking Challenge...



The Wilton Baking Challenge was a wonderful experience. We learnt so many things and met some amazing people. We learnt to pipe and use resources. There were three winners for individual talents. I won for taste with both my chocolate and orange cupcakes and my vanilla, cranberry and white chocolate cupcakes with mascarpone cheese frosting. Oh wonderful Wilton!

By Izzy Webb 6KE/HOC

# Updated Spring Term Dates 2018

Date	Event	Other
11/01/18	Beaumanor Hall meeting to parents 5 – 5.45 p.m.	This will be for Year 4 parents
15/01/18	4SJ Class Assembly From 2.50 p.m.	Parents from 4SJ will be invited.
16/01/18	Coffee Morning From 9 – 10 a.m.	Come and meet other parents as well as our Senior Leaders for tea, coffee and cake.
16/01/18	Open Morning – Maths From 10 – 11.15 a.m.	Come and see how we teach these subjects in the classroom.
16/01/18	Be The Change – Careers Event (PM)	For Year 5 only
19/01/18	Storytime session	From 9 – 9.30 a.m. All years
22/01/18	EYFS and Y6 Weighing and Measuring	
29/01/18	Warning Zone	Year 6 only
30/01/18	Assessment Workshop for Parents	All years from 5 – 5.45 p.m.
05/02/18	3LB Class Assembly From 2.50 p.m.	Parents from 3LB will be invited.
06/02/18	E-Safety Day	
07/02/18	E-Safety Workshop for Parents	All years from 3.30 – 4.30 p.m. Led by Leicestershire Police
08/02/18	More Able Workshop for KS1 Parents	For KS1 parents of children identified as More Able.
20/02/18	More Able Workshop for KS2 Parents	For KS2 parents of children identified as More Able.
22/02/18	World Thinking Day	All children can wear their uniforms from other organisations e.g. Brownies, Scouts etc.
26/02/18	3DN Class Assembly From 2.50 p.m.	Parents from 3DN will be invited.
01/03/18	World Book Day	All children will be invited to dress up.
01/03/18	Reading Parent Workshop From 5 – 5.45	All parents are invited.
07/03/18	Parents Evening 3.45 – 6.30 p.m.	By appointment only.
08/03/18	Parents Evening 3.45 – 6.30 p.m.	By appointment only.
14/03/18	Class Photos	All children from EYFS – Y6
19/03/18	2ET Class Assembly From 2.50 p.m.	Parents from 2ET will be invited.
21/03/18	Easter Bonnet Competition	All children will be invited to make an easter bonnet.
22/03/18	SATS evening From 5 – 5.45 p.m.	All parents and children from Y6 will be invited to a SATS evening.
23/03/18	Red Nose Day	All children will be invited to take part in fundraising events.