



**Dane Court Grammar School
Parent/Guardian Newsletter**



11 January 2021

Week A

Dear Parent/Guardian, please find below all the relevant events and notices for the upcoming week.

Christmas Hampers

Message from Mrs Baker:

Thank you for all the generous donations of food and toys for the Christmas hampers and toy stockings.

Please see letter below from Margaret McCloskey (On behalf of the SVP Broadstairs):

On behalf of the St. Vincent De Paul Society I wish to thank the school and its pupils for the enormous contribution and help and effort they gave in providing hampers for families in need at Christmas.

Thirty-four hampers were distributed to the families and several bags of food were given to food banks.

It was a disappointment that circumstances would not allow us to meet with the pupils so that we could share in the packing and the joy it provides as we work together as a team.

*Well done Dane Court and its pupils.
Our best wishes to all of you for 2021.*

Regards

*Margaret McCloskey
(On behalf of the SVP Broadstairs)*

UCAS Deadline

UCAS deadline for applications to university is has been extended to **29th January**. If your son or daughter has not received an email from UCAS Track their application is not complete yet. They should contact **Mrs Linton** immediately to complete their application.

Year 12 and 13 Vocational Students

Huge congratulations are in order for our Year 12 and Year 13 vocational students who have begun to sit their exams and continue to do so for the next couple of weeks. The challenges they have faced are clear yet they have done themselves and all of us proud with their determined effort and I am sure, great success. Well done to them all and thank you for your continued support in their studies.

Mr C. Pleasant.

Key Stage 3 Art Students.

For students to study art at home this term they will need the following materials:

A pencil, sharpener and eraser, scissors, glue (pva or pritt stick) and some plain paper at least A4 in size.

Students in some classes may also be asked to raid the recycling for bits of scrap paper, card and packaging.

If there are any issues with students accessing these materials please let me know at Brooks2@danecourt.kent.sch.uk.

Term 2 Merit Prize Draw Winners

- 1st Prize Amelia Stapylton 7B (£20 Gift Card)
- 2nd Prize Amy Driscoll 8B (Tub of Heroes Chocolates)
- 3rd Prize Emily Cherry 11D (Cadbury Selection Box)

Well done to all the entrants who received merits from their teachers in Term 2!

Remember these were **bonus** prizes. All your merits are still on your account waiting to be spent when you have collected enough to use the shop.

There is also still plenty of opportunity to receive merits during lockdown!

This term if you get a merit for some outstanding home learning work rather than get a sticker, your teacher will give your name to me and I will add a merit to your account.

So keep checking your mystickers account this term to see if you receive any!

Good luck everyone!

Miss Loveday

Access to remote learning

Please contact Ms R Rolls if you:

- do not have fixed broadband at home
- cannot afford additional data for your devices
- are experiencing disruption to their face-to-face education

Children with access to a mobile phone on one of the following networks might be able to benefit:

- Three
- Smarty
- Virgin Mobile
- EE
- Tesco Mobile
- Sky Mobile

Other providers may join the scheme at a later stage.

rolls@danecourt.kent.sch.uk

Please also contact me if you don't have sufficient access to IT equipment as we have some facilities to help with this.

We are using google classroom to teach remotely. If you are unsure of how to access google classroom as a parent/guardian, please see below.

Students log in to Google Classroom using their school email address and password.

Parents/Guardians only receive an email summary of work that has been assigned/due.

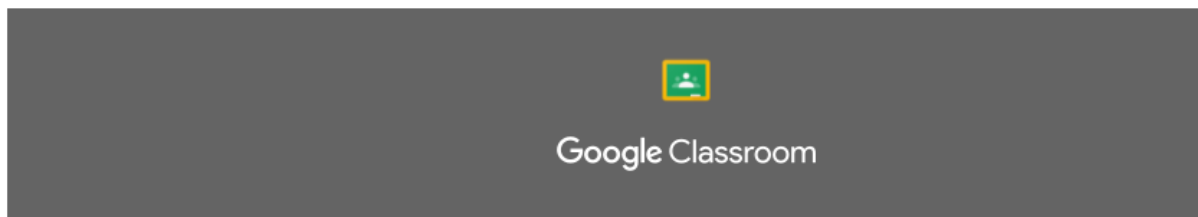
Those summary emails are sent from the email account called **Salamader ADSync**.

An example of the original invitation email sent to Parents/Guardians is below. There's a blue button you need to click to complete the process and you are asked to choose whether you want to receive daily or weekly summaries.

Salamander ADSync (Classroom) <no-reply+fee4cc68@classroom.google.com>

07:17 (10 hours ago)

to me ▾



Salamander ADSync invited you as a guardian in Google Classroom

You'll get a weekly summary of George's progress with missing and upcoming work, as well as new teacher posts.

Please note, only the primary contact email addresses we hold for students are used and this process is automated. If you have not received the invitation from **Salamader ADSync** or have accepted and are not receiving email summaries then please let us know and we can try sending a new invitation: itservices@danecourt.kent.sch.uk

If your child is finding it difficult to upload work on the google classroom, or you would like clarity on this process, please see the link below:

<https://support.google.com/edu/classroom/answer/6020285?co=GENIE.Platform%3DDesktop&hl=en&oco=1>

Remote Learning

We have been very impressed with the level of engagement shown by students this week. To promote further engagement, teachers will now take a register at the beginning of each timetabled lesson. Students should therefore join the Google Meeting through the link on the Google Classroom page at the beginning of each of their timetabled lessons. For safeguarding reasons, students will only be able to click the link when the teacher is already in the meeting, so they may have to click it a few times if they are slightly early. We think that this change will be extremely helpful for children in establishing a predictable routine for their learning during this period.

The only exception to this change is non-GCSE PE, where a register will not be taken. Instead, the PE department will continue to send round recommended exercise programmes at the start of each week. Your child's PE lessons are therefore a very good opportunity for them to get away from their screens for an hour and get some exercise or fresh air.

Finally, we would appreciate your views on the first week of remote learning. If you are able to, please complete this two minute survey on our provision for your child so far. If you have more than one child at our school, please do complete the form more than once if their experiences have differed.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdMs0_pl3gqE_EDtTePI2oZ3iVNXy2ZmZUMiQ_f127xbpu9FQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

Ben Forward
Assistant Head Teacher

Safeguarding Information During School Closure

If you have any safeguarding concerns please contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead (Mr S Sunderland) and/or the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (Mrs A Ives and Ms R Rolls) during normal school hours (8:30am - 3:30pm) by calling the main school telephone number (01843 864941). Outside of these times, if you are concerned that a child is at risk, please contact Integrated Children's Services on 03000 411111 (office hours) or 03000 419191 (out of office hours). If a child is in immediate danger, you should call 999.

At the moment it is possible that students will be spending more time online than they might usually. For some useful advice and guidance regarding supporting your child and family to be safe online, please visit our homepage and click on the 'Online Safety' button at the top, in the yellow banner.

<http://danecourt.kent.sch.uk/parents8/news6/latest-news/1014-learning-from-home-and-on-line-safety>

Best wishes and stay safe.
The Safeguarding Team.

Online Safety – TikTok

TikTok is a social network for sharing videos, mostly of people dancing or lip-synching to popular songs. You can also browse and interact with other users' content, which cover a wide range of topics.

How safe is TikTok

When you sign up for TikTok, your account is public by default, so anyone can see your videos, send you direct messages, and use your location information. Parents should make sure to turn on all privacy settings for accounts that children are using. This means only people you know can interact with your videos or message you on the app. You can also change specific settings for comments, duets, reactions, and messages. These features can also be turned off completely.

Age restriction and appropriateness

TikTok requires that users be at least 13 years old to use the full TikTok experience and anyone under the age of 18 must have approval of a parent or guardian.

Many videos on TikTok include swearing and sexual lyrics from popular songs, so it may not be age-appropriate for children to use it on their own. It's also easy to find people wearing revealing clothing and dancing suggestively. If you supervise your children and stick to songs you already know from the radio, TikTok can be a child friendly experience.

Parental Controls

TikTok allows parents to set time limits, filter mature content, and disable direct messaging for child accounts. To do this go to your child's account and tap the three dots at the top right of the user profile, select "Digital Wellbeing". From there you can select the features you want to enable or disable. These are as follows:

Screen Time Management - This setting limits users to a maximum of two hours on the app per day, but you can limit it to 40 minutes. If you're enabling this on your child's mobile phone, choose to passcode lock this setting.

Restricted Mode - Blocks mature content, but even with the filter on, children using the app on their own might come across age-inappropriate videos. This setting can also be locked with a passcode.

Family Pairing - Family pairing allows you to manage the above settings, plus disable direct messaging. To do this first download TikTok onto your phone and create an account. Then, make sure you have your child's phone and their TikTok login details ready.

On both phones, tap the three dots next to the user profile, tap Family Pairing and sync your account to your child's via the QR code.

Please keep in mind that children can always re-download TikTok and create a new account using a different phone number or email address, so any controls you enable are never foolproof.