

Weekly Parent/Guardian Newsletter

Week B

01 February 2021

Website: www.danecourt.kent.sch.uk

Email: admin@danecourt.kent.sch.uk

Dear Parent/Guardian

Welcome to the newsletter for the first week of February.

Provision for Priority Students During February Half Term Holiday

We would like to give parents and carers advance warning that, as per government guidance, the school will not be open during half term and therefore the provision for priority students will not be available. We will keep you informed regarding what will happen after half term, depending on the national situation.

Mr Steve Sunderland, Assistant Headteacher

COVID-19 Mass Testing in School

We have made a successful start to the programme of COVID-19 lateral flow tests in school. We have managed to initially test students in school twice within 3 days followed by regular weekly testing. We have also embarked on twice weekly testing for staff who are in school. Once school fully re-opens these tests will help to identify asymptomatic cases and limit the spread of Covid-19 within our school community and, along with our other protective measures, will help staff and students stay safe in school.

We are extremely grateful for the offers we have received so far from members of our school community volunteering to become part of the testing workforce. However, the extent of the testing programme we will be able to offer when the students return to school will depend on a number of factors, including staffing and resourcing. For us to achieve the levels of testing suggested by the Government we will need more people to join the workforce. If any parent/carer or member of our community would be willing to volunteer to be part of the testing workforce, please contact the school for more details, by emailing your name, contact details and availability to Carolyn Hobbs, hobbs@danecourt.kent.sch.uk

All volunteers will be trained both online and on-site and we hope to organise this for the two weeks after half term in time for the return of students from 8th March.

Mr M Jones, Headteacher

Free printing service for school work

Oakwood homes are kindly offering a free printing service for school work, to students in our area who do not have access to a printer at home.

If you are interested please click on the link below:

<https://m.facebook.com/OakwoodHomesEstateagents/photos/a.282868205109998/3882535418476574/?type=3>

Rachel Rolls, Assistant Head Teacher

eLibrary

Reading helps build empathy, improve memory and vocabulary, and is a wonderful form of escapism.

We understand that it is difficult to access a library of books right now. so we are doing a trial of **Wheeler's ePlatform for eBooks and audio books.**

Please encourage your children to take a look at it:

The eLibrary can be found here:

<https://danecourt.eplatform.co/>

username: your child's form name, for example 7T

password: library1

The trial will be until the end of February.

Reading helps build empathy, improve memory and vocabulary, and is a wonderful form of escapism.

'Reading gives us someplace to go when we have to stay where we are' - Mason Cooley

Mrs Finlay, Librarian

Online Safety advice - Signal



Signal is a free messaging app for users ages 13+. It has recently had a surge of users due to Elon Musk asking everyone to use Signal over Facebook messenger and WhatsApp.

Signal is known as Edward Snowden's favourite private-messaging app, because it's deemed as the most secure messenger available with the strongest end-to-end encryption. The app doesn't force you to make any kind of account, and gives you the most secure texting available.

The main uses of Signal are the following:-

1. Instant Messaging
2. Video and Voice calls
3. Face blurring and anti-surveillance
4. Disappearing messages
5. Password lock

Is Signal Safe for children?

Signal is the safest messaging app anyone can use, if you care about privacy then it is well worth the switch. However, the downside for parents is that the app can be locked and messages can disappear after a set time from as little as 5 seconds. This makes it virtually impossible to track what children have been sending to each other. If a child wishes to switch to Signal the best advice would be to keep the app unlocked and turn disappearing messages off.

Mr S Lycett Head of Computer studies

