

Weekly Parent/Guardian Newsletter

Week A

08 February 2021

Website: www.danecourt.kent.sch.uk

Email: admin@danecourt.kent.sch.uk

Dear Parent/Guardian
Welcome to the newsletter.

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

Message for parents of year 8 and 9 students

Students who came into school this week were given booklets by the English Department, called 'Step Away from the Screen!' These will be used at least once a fortnight in English lessons, to encourage students to complete activities which do not involve laptops, phones, tablets etc. English teachers will direct students when to use these booklets.

If your son or daughter wasn't able to come into school this week - or didn't receive a copy when they came in - please contact Sally Jellett, Head of English - jellett@danecourt.kent.sch.uk - and we will arrange for a copy of this booklet to be made available for you to collect. Alternatively, we can send you an electronic copy if you are able to print it.

Year 13 Extended Essay

The deadline for year 13 submitting their finished EE to their supervisor was Friday 5th February. Please can you check with your child whether they have completed their essay? If not, they need to work on this as a matter of urgency as they risk failing the diploma if this is not submitted. Once complete, their supervisor will be able to go through the next stages with them to finalise their reflections and get ready to upload everything for assessment.

John Rye, Extended Essay Coordinator

IB update

The IB announced on Thursday that a final decision about whether exams take place this year will be reliant upon the Ofqual consultation outcome on the 22nd February.

Until that date, we have been instructed to continue preparations for exams and to ensure that all coursework deadlines are met as usual.

Thank you

Mr Chris Pleasant Head of Sixth Form.

Information and support for parents and carers of children who are learning at home.

[Click here](#)

to see the latest updates from the Department for Education on guidance for supporting your children's remote education during coronavirus (COVID-19)

Message from the immunisation team

If your Year 7 child missed their Flu Vaccine, you can take your child to the drop session at College Road Clinic, CT9 2RT, on Saturday 6th February between 11.30 - 3pm.

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.

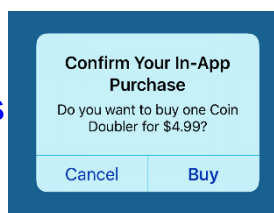
If you are interested please click on the link below:

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

Rachel Rolls

Assistant Head Teacher

Online Safety advice - In App Purchases



An in-app purchase is where a digital company asks for real-world money to buy additional content for games or apps. The boom of users demanding free apps has led to developers having to implement “in-app purchases” to make money. Over recent years this has led to a serious negative impact on users as these micro-transactions have been made addictive and built up over time, which could end up costing users hundreds or even thousands of pounds.

The growth of this business strategy has also led to paid apps offering additional microtransactions within them even if the game or app was bought at full price.

The main issues parents face is with free games that target children into making purchases that they are unaware of. There are many examples of this such as the “My Little Pony app” which offers users the chance to purchase ‘gems’ for a cost of £69.99. This can then be purchased with 1 click of a button if the device is not set up correctly. Some children have spent thousands of pounds in less than a day by clicking these microtransactions and parents may only find out after the bill has been released and the content used. The money spent can then be very hard to recover.

Ways to protect against in app purchases and microtransactions

Change the device settings

Before you let your child use a device, check the purchase settings to prevent them spending money without you knowing. All devices are different, however most offer features such as:

- Disabling all in-app purchases
- Creating a password that is required for every purchase
- Ticking a “Do not link card to account,” or “Do not save card” button

Read app descriptions

Before you or your child download a game or app, check the description to make sure you’re happy for your child to use it. Most apps will tell you if they offer in-app purchases or microtransactions.

If it's too late

Check your bills to see if money has been taken from your account, If this is without your knowledge or consent get in touch with the game developer, online store or platform provider to request further assistance.

For further information please click on the following link - <https://www.riskyby.design/in-game-purchases>

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:

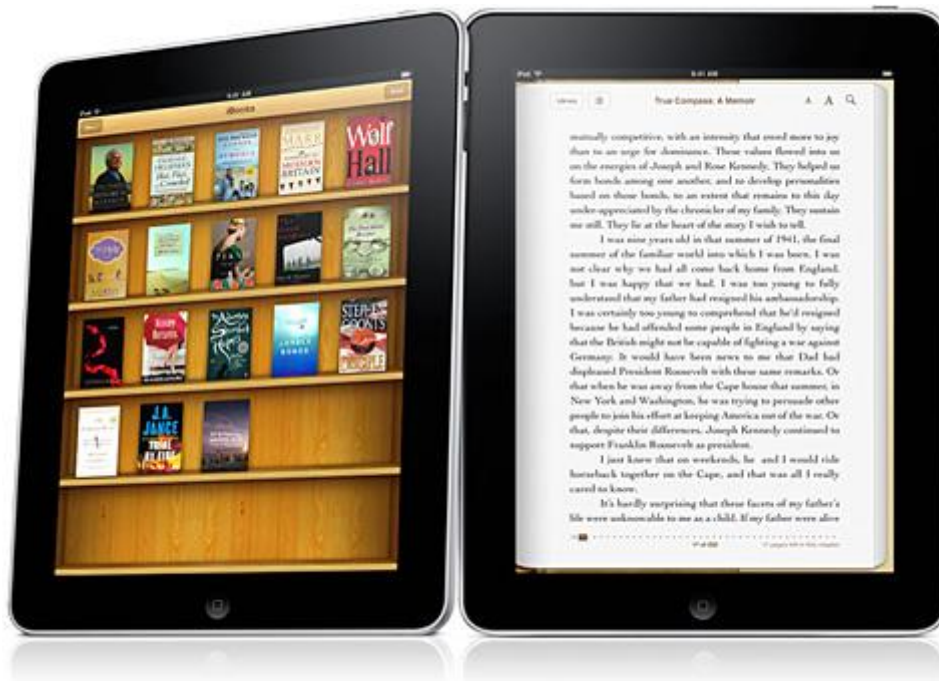
<https://danecourt.eplatform.co/>

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

password: library1

The trial will be until the end of February.

Mrs Finlay, Librarian



Half Term Holiday Monday 15th to Friday 19th February.