

Weekly Parent/Guardian Newsletter

Week A

18 March 2022



It's Red Nose Day! Where's yours?



Welcome to this week's newsletter. Some important information is repeated for your convenience, but there is also new content to be read.

Updated guidance from the Department for Education

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday 21st February, the Department for Education has issued new advice for schools. The following information is taken directly from the DfE's communication to schools.

Asymptomatic testing

The Government removed the guidance for staff and students in secondary schools to undertake twice-weekly asymptomatic testing.

Self-isolation

On Thursday 24th February, the Government removed the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive Covid-19 test. Adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days, and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days.

Please click the link below for more guidance on what parents and carers need to know:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/step-4-update-what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges>

The school will no longer be providing LFD test kits, they can be obtained from the [gov.uk website](https://www.gov.uk).

If your child is experiencing [symptoms of coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) they should not attend school. They should get a [PCR test](#) and self-isolate until they have the results. If the result is positive they should follow the guidance above. If the result is negative and they are well they should return to school.

Please also see the updated government guidance on [COVID-19: people with COVID-19 and their contacts](#).

Symptomatic COVID-19 Testing

- Home testing using the LFD tests **does not replace testing for those with symptoms**.
- If your son/daughter (or anyone in your household) experiences [symptoms](#) of COVID-19 they must self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow [national guidelines](#). You will need to inform the school if this is the case.
- Once you have the result of the test please inform us as soon as possible. If the result is negative, your son/daughter should return to school if they are well enough. If the result is positive they will need to continue to self-isolate and follow [national guidelines](#).

If you have any queries please contact Carolyn Hobbs, Office Manager.

“The Kent and Medway Immunisation Team is running clinics during Easter holidays for any vaccinations your child may have missed - don't forget to do the [online consent form](#) if you haven't already. Here is the link for the clinic dates and times for you to book direct: [PathEKS Home \(healthit.org.uk\)](#)

Visit www.kentcht.nhs.uk/imms for more information.

You can also phone the team 0300 123 5205, text 07401320923 or use their [web chat](#) if you have any questions about your child's immunisations.”

Water Bottles

Please ensure your son/daughter brings a refillable water bottle to school every day.



Ukraine Appeal

As mentioned in last weeks newsletter, we have volunteered to be a collection point for donations in association with the KAH who is working with The British Red Cross, Invicta Rotary Club and KCC in response to the appalling and tragic situation in Ukraine. We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of donations and please see the pictures below of collection so far. If you would like help our friends in Ukraine and support our appeal but are worried that you may be missed your chance, please don't! We are **still** collecting, and there are a number of ways that you can get involved:

1. Donations of supplies: If you are able to donate any items on the list below, we would be very grateful indeed. We are not asking you necessarily to go out to purchase these items but would ask if you have any of these at home and they are in a good condition and can be spared then they would be gratefully received. Please bring any donations to the main office and, where possible, please package them in boxes and mark on the side what is inside, as this will aid the sorting and distribution process.

2. We need to raise money for fuel for the HGVs that will take these donations to Poland, A Go Fund me page has been set up and we are asking if you can share this far and wide especially with people that have businesses or if they are part of organisations that could support us. The Go Fund Me Page can be found [here](#)

3. We are also asking for volunteers to assist at the collection site which has been set up in Folkestone (Big Jigs in Folkestone- Unit B, Kingsmead, West, Park Farm Industrial Estate, Folkestone CT19 5EU.) If you can share this request across our community via social media sites that you are part of, we would be very grateful. Please can any potential volunteers please contact Dan File at [Elham Primary School](#)

Items for donation

- baby formula (especially hypoallergenic one - huge shortage)
- baby feeding bottles, sterilising equipment (nothing electric - different sockets)
- baby food
- nappies - any sizes
- painkiller medication, especially children's
- charging banks for mobile phones
- warm socks/gloves/warm hats
- camping mats
- sleeping bags
- protein/energy bars
- anti-flu medication (Lemsips etc)
- wound dressings
- first aid kits
- warm blankets
- thermal/base layers
- hot water bottles
- insulated flasks
- female sanitary products
- any clean soft toys/teddy bears
- a letter/card of hope and support from children and families.



Year 11 final speaking exams

Year 11 students have received their final GCSE examination timetables this week, however this does not include their final German/French speaking examination date, as this is examined internally. All year 11 students should be aware that their final speaking exam will be during the week beginning **Mon 25th April**, which is the second week after the Easter break. They will receive individual times from their class teacher in due course. Students should make sure they have all their speaking preparation and materials for every lesson, and be aware of when support sessions are taking place: German support sessions are Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes in L4 at 1.45 and French support sessions are Wednesdays after school in L5.

Thank you for your support.

Mrs Radix and Mrs Green

Important dates for yr11

Please find below some of the key dates relating to Y11 final examinations. As you may know, the GCSE examinations are rather more staggered this year.

Monday 16th May: First GCSE examination. Students will remain in timetabled lessons until **Friday 27th May** (the final day of term 5). After half term (**Monday 6th June onwards**), students will come in only for exams, in school uniform.

Thursday 23rd June: final GCSE examination.

Monday 27th June: Y11 Celebration: red carpet and leavers' assembly.

Wednesday 29th June and Thursday 30th June - Dane Court sixth form induction.

Please be aware that Year 11 intervention for English continues right up until the start of GCSE season. Lots of students are already attending and benefitting from English intervention with Mrs Channing and Mrs Jolley. As the whole school calendar is very busy this term and next, we wanted to set out the concrete dates for intervention until

GCSE season:

Wednesday 09.03.2022

Tuesday 15.03.2022

Wednesday 23.03.2022

Wednesday 30.03.2022

Tuesday 19.04.2022

Tuesday 26.04.2022

Tuesday 03.05.2022

Tuesday 20.05.2022

Please do encourage your student to come where possible.

Mrs Channing

Year 10 parents/guardians

The students will be continuing with their GCSE Statistics next week, and will be working on this until their exams on 14 June and 24 June. Since February half term, each Monday, homework has been set for the students to revise the Statistics topics we covered last year. These homeworks will continue in this manner until half term and can be found on the Statistics Google Classroom. Please encourage the students to be working on these.

Food and Nutrition Ingredients

If your child is in receipt of Pupil Premium, we can supply the ingredients needed for practical lessons if this is a problem. **If you wish for this to be put in place, please email your child's food and nutrition teacher at least 48 hours before the lesson in which the ingredients are required.**

Safeguarding -Online Safety - SNAPCHAT

The Snapchat app lets users send photos, short videos or messages to friends. The pictures and videos, known as 'Snaps' usually appear for a selected number of seconds before disappearing forever. In the UK Snapchat is one of the most popular choices of messaging between teenagers and young adults.

Is Snapchat Safe for children?

Snapchat has an age rating of 13, so if your child is younger than that then they should not be using the app.

Snaps capture a 'moment' as an image, these are not saved to the device's camera roll and disappear forever after a few seconds. If however a user tries to screenshot a snap that has been sent to them, snapchat will notify the sender to help safeguard them. Users have however found workarounds to this which means it is possible to secretly save snaps.

Snapchat is designed to share messages with friends, but there is still the danger that children may connect with people they don't know as it's easy to add users by searching for usernames or through links. It is always wise for younger users to only share content with their real friends and share things only they would be happy to share with their parents or carers.

As with most messaging apps, there are features to block or report users, which can be done as easily as clicking their names and pressing the block/report text.

There is one other dangerous feature on Snapchat called ‘Snap maps.’ This feature shares your physical location data with friends in real time and it is possible to pinpoint friends exact location on the map. If your child leaves the house to go to a shop or to the cinema, then other users could follow them in real life, tracking every step they make.

There are three settings for the ‘snap map’:-

Ghost mode - This does not share the users location, however you can still see everyone else on the map.

Friends - Shares the users location with their friends only

Select friends - Shares the user's location to selected friends only

Please note that once ‘snap map’ is set up, there is no setting to completely disable it.

As with all social communication apps, it is always wise to have a discussion with children and young adults about the risks related to the service, the possibility of cyberbullying and how to use the app safely.

School DIRECT INFORMATION EVENING

Thinking of training to teach in primary or secondary school?

Find out about the School Direct programme with EKLA and how to apply.

Book your place on our online information evening:

Thursday 31st March - 6 to 7 pm

[BOOK NOW](#)

<https://www.ekla.org.uk/itt/school-direct>

Next Duke of Edinburgh News

As previously notified DAY CHANGE to Tuesday 22nd March D10 at 15:30.

This is the last session on route planning and route card completion for the practice expedition 5th-7th May 2022

ALL students MUST be involved in the route planning as DOfE certification is awarded to a team.

Completed route cards and high-lighted routes on maps to be handed in by the leader for each group at our session on Wednesday 20th April at 15:30 and equipment for the expedition will be distributed and signed out at this session.

Support to explain the Invasion of Ukraine at home

I am sure many of you are trying to manage difficult questions at home about the current situation in the Ukraine.

Here are some resources to help adults support children with the issues surrounding the Russian invasion of Ukraine that you might find useful.

How to talk to your teenager about the invasion of Ukraine (BBC Bitesize/Anna Freud Centre)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zbrdjsg>

How To Talk To Your Child About The War In Ukraine (YoungMinds)

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/blog/top-tips-for-talking-to-your-young-person-about-the-events-in-ukraine/>

Worrying about Russia and Ukraine (Childline)

<https://www.childline.org.uk/get-involved/articles/worrying-about-russia-ukraine/>

Best wishes

Anita Ives

Japanese Book Week

To coincide with World Book Day and to celebrate 10 years of Japanese being taught to the sixth form at Dane Court, we will be extending our Japanese Book Week.

There is a display of Japanese books and Manga in the library, and a **voting box** to add ideas for new Japanese and Manga books for the library to buy. Come along and check the books out!

There are also two exciting competitions to enter: a **Japanese book/ Manga review** competition and a **Manga drawing competition**. The closing date for both competitions is March 28th, and there will be prizes for the winners.

There is also a display of book **recommendations** from teachers outside the library. We hope everyone enjoys Japanese Book Week!

Mrs Myers, Miss Jessiman and Mrs Finlay

Term 4 School Clubs

Day	Name of club	When	Where	Year group
Monday				
	Table Tennis	After school	PE - studio	KS3
	Chatter	Lunchtime	Library	All
	Choir	After school	H7	All
Tuesday				
	Junior Book Club	Lunchtime	Library	Yr 7&8
	Trampolining	After school	PE- sports hall	KS3 + GCSE
	Rugby M/F	After school	PE- field	KS3
	Art club	3:20 - 4:30	ART	All years
	Calm club	Lunchtime		all years (INVITE ONLY)
	Orchestra	3.30-4.30	H7	all years
	Jazz Band	4.30-5	H7	all years
	Debating club week A	3:30-4:30	Library	all years
Wednesday				
	Basketball	After school	PE-sports hall	KS4 + KS5
	from 19/01 DOfE			yr 12
	Mindset	Lunchtime		all years (INVITE ONLY)
	Beginner Steel Band	3.30-4.15	H7	All
	Advanced Steel Band	4.15-5	H7	All
	Mathsbombe	After school	S plaza	Year 10 and 11 INVITE ONLY - Starts on 26th Jan
Thursday				
	Climbing	After school	PE- climbing wall	All years (if they did the introduction in the last 2 terms)
	Yoga	Friday 3.30	PE - studio	6th form
	Drama	Thursday 3.30-4.30	H1	7-10
	Senior Book Club	Lunchtime	Library	Yr9 upwards
	Film Club (Wk A)	After school	M4	12/13
	Manga Club	13.45-14.15	L8	All years
	Debating club (week B)	3:30-4:30	Library	
Friday				
	Dungeons & Dragons	3.20-4.20	Library	All years
	Chatter	Lunchtime	Library	7-13
	Yoga	after school	PE studio	KS5

Staff vacancies

Head of Biology – Full-time

Teacher of Chemistry – Full-time

Teacher of German and Spanish – Full-time

Cover Supervisor – Full-time/Part-time

Teacher of Psychology (Maternity Cover) – Full-time/Part-time

For further details regarding these positions please use the link below:

<https://www.kent->

[teach.com/Recruitment/Vacancy/SearchResults.aspx?Keyword=dane%20court%20grammar%20school](https://www.kent-teach.com/Recruitment/Vacancy/SearchResults.aspx?Keyword=dane%20court%20grammar%20school)

Car Boot Fairs!

The Dane Court Grammar School Parents' Association are pleased to announce the dates of our popular boot fairs for this year! There's no need for stallholders to book, just turn up at 6:00am. £8 for cars and £10 for vans. The boot fairs are open to the general public at 6:30am and refreshments are available.

If any parent would like to help on gate duty at any one of these events please contact Gloria Riley at riley@danecourt.kent.sch.uk

This year's events are as follows:

Saturday 14 May 2022

Saturday 11 June 2022

Saturday 9 July 2022

No August Boot Fair

Saturday 10 September 2022

Look forward to seeing some of you there!

The Parents' Association

Second-hand Uniform Shop

We run sessions on the first Tuesday of each month from 3pm-4pm in the school entrance area. We will endeavour to open the shop at as many events as possible when the school is open to parents but unfortunately it won't be available at yr11 parents evening.

Many thanks

Parents Association

Lost Property this week

We have a few unnamed items in our lost property already this term. They include coats, an odd trainer, a jumper, a PE kit, a pencil case, Tupperware, water bottle, a badge, a keyring, scarf and items of jewellery. Please remember to name any items your child brings into school to help us quickly return any lost items. Photos of the easily identified items are set out below. If you recognise any of them, or think that the items of unnamed uniform may belong to your child, please do contact the office on 01843 864941 to arrange collection as soon as possible.

Many thanks, Office Team



Holiday Activities
and Food
Programme
Kent



Helping families to flourish

Fun & food in the school holidays

Families of children aged 4 to 16 years, who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals, can access these opportunities in the **Easter, Summer and Christmas holidays for free.**



Nutritious food and enriching activities

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme in Kent provides healthy, nutritious food and exciting, enriching activities for children and young people during the school holidays.

Families of children aged 4 to 16 years, who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals, can access these opportunities in the Easter, Summer and Christmas holidays for free.

The HAF Programme aims to support the physical and mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in Kent, encouraging them to engage in interactive and fun activities and provide them with access to nutritious food.

This programme is funded by the Department for Education (DfE) to provide support for eligible families in Kent to access these holiday activities for free.



Find out more about the programme and see if you are eligible.

tinyurl.com/HAFKent

THE EDUCATION
PEOPLE

Department
for Education

RECONNECT
Kent Children
and Young People

Kent
County
Council
kent.gov.uk

THE END