DANEHILL CE PRIMARY SCHOOL
MIDWEEK MISSIVE

5th November 2026

Dear Families and Staff,

Welcome back to the start of a new term. Whilst the weather has turned cold and damp outside, a warm feeling pervades throughout Danehill and it has been lovely to be back in school this week. As we start the new term, each class will be starting a new topic, class newsletters will be sent out at the end of this week. We have a busy term looming so please keep a look out in the Missive for dates and other important information.

Message from Stephen – Chair of Governors

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you had a good half term with your children and managed to keep dry on some of the very wet and windy days we have had. At the end of the first term (or old money, halfway through the term), it was pleasing to see the children settling well into their learning. It was good to see leaders and staff rising to the challenge they have been set. I am sure you will have enjoyed seeing what they have been up to, both on your visits to school and as shown in the weekly 'missive'. For the school, this is all part of a process of recovery, but the positive start shows what can be achieved.

With new initiatives being introduced, alongside a focus on some very basic things like establishing good routines for behaviour, pupils, parents and staff are bound to have a range of views about it all. To that end, we as your governors are continuing to talk to all three groups on our regular visits, and in the case of parents, at the 'governor teas'. Unsurprisingly, at the last one of those, as I said in the notes that came out afterwards, parents were very interested to know about leadership at the school after Christmas. As you can imagine, this is also a high priority for the IEB. We are working closely with the local authority as they make the necessary arrangements. It is important to note that as a maintained school, they take the lead on this. We will let you know in good time what the arrangements are.

I hope you and your children have a great Term 2. The IEB will be checking carefully the progress the children make, and as I said above, making sure we have the right leadership to keep the school moving forward.

Best wishes
Stephen

PTA

This week the PTA held their AGM. Many thanks to Marie and Lucy for stepping in earlier this year when we lost our Chair and treasurer. They have done a great job of getting the PTA ready to hand over to a new committee. At the meeting, Bea was elected as Chairperson, Andi as treasurer and Jess as secretary. As parents, you are all automatically members of the PTA and we would encourage everyone to get involved. Every penny raised by the PTA is ploughed back into school to directly support the children. From September 2027 we will be looking for a new Chairperson as Bea's daughter will be moving on from Danehill. Please consider if this is something you are interested in or would consider a co-chair with someone else. Please speak to Bea or Caroline if you would like to know more or what the role involves.

Lateness and attendance

As you may be aware attendance has been an ongoing issue at Danehill. Since covid many schools saw a decline in their attendance and whilst many are starting to recover and improve, good attendance is something that we still need to work on. It was picked up as an issue in our last OFSTED report and is still a cause for concern. Good attendance means not only coming to school everyday but also arriving before the start of the day at 8.45am.

We are therefore asking for your support with this. Firstly, thank you for embracing the new morning routine, this has greatly helped not only by giving the pupils a soft start to the day but also ensuring that we start the day on time. However, we are still getting a number of pupils who are late after the gate has closed. During the last week of term 1, there were 37 pupils who arrived after 8.45am, which is still too high. Please can we ask that you arrive before the gate closes and official start to the school day which is 8.45am.

Our current whole school attendance is 88.7%, compared to the national average of 95.4%. At parents evening next week, the teachers will be sharing your child's attendance certificate with you. If you have any concerns about getting your child to school, your first point of contact should be with the class teacher, so that they can work with you.
Please speak with them at next week's meetings.

Please can I ask that if you are late and sign in at the office, that you give the reason for lateness, and not just put late. The reason or lack of reason is recorded on the registers, so it can help us understand if there is a particular barrier to you arriving on time.

Thank you for your support with this. We will continue to monitor and report back. It would be lovely to report some improvement.

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Parents' evening

Next week is parents' evening. Details of the days and how to book have already been sent home. Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 meetings will take place in classrooms. Reception and Year 1/2 meetings will take place in the Reception (Meghan's) classroom. Please come to the doors on the playground which will be open.

Poppies

Please remember poppies will be available in school until 10th November. Year 6 will be going to each class with poppies at the beginning of every day and children may bring in a donation if they would like a poppy. All funds raised will be going to the Royal British Legion.

News from the PTA

Christmas Fair - 5th December: 12midday-3pm

One month to go! The Christmas fair elves are busy preparing for the event. We love how the whole school gets behind this yearly event, including parents/guardians, grandparents and staff.

Next week the PTA will share the rota for the stall/activities for the day, for all the willing volunteers to sign up for a slot or two. For those new to the school, volunteers for the stalls can be anyone willing to help, we've had parents, grandparents, older siblings, family friends all help in the past, it's a real community event! It's a joy to be part of something that the children really enjoy and we get to help raise much needed funds for our beloved school.

For anyone super keen to help with the behind-the-scenes prep, please do join the WhatsApp group in our community or speak to Bea.

Christmas Raffle; Look out for raffle ticket booklets coming home with children soon for parents to buy and sell to the wider community. There are some great prizes to win!

Father Christmas Grotto; this special part of the fair needs a special elf to pull the grotto space together. Please get in touch with Bea if you have a flare for decorating and design and could help create a magical grotto.

The Christmas Fair is open to all, please spread the word.

Donations for the fair:

- 17th November - Bottles and Bears Non-Uniform Day

Children will come into school in non-uniform in exchange for a bottle of wine (for the water and wine stall) and/or a teddy/soft toy (for the much-loved teddy tombola).

- 1st December - Socks for Chocs

For the chocolate tombola stall, let your children wear their favourite, fun socks, even better if they are wintery/Christmasy, in exchange for a box of chocs (or two - one for each foot!). This is a very popular stall, so the more donations the merrier!

- 4th/5th December - cakes and treats for the Christmas Cafe.

Please bring in homemade or shop bought contributions for the cafe.

Dates

W/C 9th November – Parent Evenings
9th November – Girls Football tournament at Chailey
16th November – Kestrels school trip to London
17th November - Bottles and Bears Non-Uniform Day
23rd November – Yr3/4 Mixed Football tournament at Chailey
24th November – Open Morning for new reception children
1st December - Socks for Chocs
4th/5th December - cakes and treats for the Christmas Cafe.
5th December – School Christmas Fair 11am-3pm
9th December – Christmas Shopping Morning and Christmas Lunch
16th December – Hedgehogs and Foxes Nativity to Parents – AM – Details to follow

With best wishes,

Caroline Powell

Interim Headteacher

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