



### MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents/carers,

It has been a busy but great term at GDPS, the children have worked hard and enjoyed their projects. There has been lots of exciting things going on such as pancake races, trips, sports fixtures and poetry and choir competitions. I would like to thank all the staff who work so hard, day in day out, to ensure our children have these wonderful experiences. Today we say a temporary goodbye to Miss Filmer (year 5 leader) who starts her maternity leave - we wish her well with the safe arrival of her baby. We look forward to welcoming Vela's new teacher, Miss Gamby after Easter. My Easter will mainly be consisting of pounding the pavements as I finish my preparations for the London Marathon next month - give me a wave if you see me out and about!

We were also very happy to have been awarded the Music Mark for recognition for ambition and quality of music provision at our school!

Have a wonderful easter break and we look forward to seeing the children back on Tuesday 14th April.

Mrs Burgess  
Headteacher



### LETTERS HOME

**Y5/6 Girls Rounders** - select

**Y5/6 Boys Cricket** - select

**Kempston library visit** - select  
Y1&2

**Transition to Y6** - Year 5

**Summer term PE Days** - All

### UPCOMING DIARY DATES

**Tues 14<sup>th</sup> April** - Back to school

**Tues 14<sup>th</sup> April** - Y1 local walk to river

**Weds 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> April** - Y6 Tower of London - *see email for which day your child is going*

**Weds 15<sup>th</sup> April** - Y4 Kew Gardens trip

**Weds 15<sup>th</sup> April** - Y5 Faith Tour

**Mon 20<sup>th</sup> April** - Ex-Curr clubs start

### Dine with Den



Our amazing Reception children enjoying Dine with Den with Mrs Burgess:

Adana, Marcel, Emilia, Anna, Azhaan, Bertie

Huge congratulations to **AQUA** family for winning the family points this term - they can celebrate with a **non uniform day** on **Friday 17th April.**

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## STARS, VALUES & MUSIC AWARDS - MARCH

Our star of the week awards is an opportunity for our teachers to give great praise to the children who show hard work, determination and enthusiasm amongst other things, to the children who really stand out that week. Values awards are also given out each week to children who show us how they live by the Great Denham Primary values. Music awards are given to the children that show excellent participation and musicality in lessons.

	Week 1 - 02.03.26		Week 2 - 09.03.26		Week 3 - 16.03.26		Week 4 - 23.03.26	
	STARS	VALUES	STARS	VALUES	STARS	VALUES	STARS	VALUES
<b>Little Stars</b>	Melvin	Ella	Logan	Joshua	Penelope	Yohan	Athena	Arabella
<b>Tucana</b>	Evie	Marcell	Mila	Rayaan	Awena	Finley	Alya	Jaxon
<b>Columba</b>	Seb E	Clodagh	Columba	Kallum	AJ	Emilia	Henry	Millie
<b>Phoenix</b>		Charlie	Adana	Ire	Evie	EvAN	Lottie	Daniel
<b>Aquila</b>	George	Erin	Eliana	Teddy	Amanda	Orlaith	All of Aquila	Kiaan
<b>Pavo</b>	patrick	Emilia	Harriet	Eesa	Mila	Brody	Ben	Lydia
<b>Cygnus</b>	Charlotte	Carter	Aadhyaswi	Aarnavi	Iqra	Karim	Toby	George
<b>Volans</b>	Carlo	Chester	Nieve	Mya	Eleanor	Aarav	Halle E	Olivia
<b>Delphinus</b>	Ruslan	Fariq	Billie	Jeevan	Adriana	Alice	Max	Flynn
<b>Dorado</b>	Jessica	Zac.P	Charlie	Aleeya	Dorado class	Summer	Spencer	Joshua
<b>Lacerta</b>	Florence	Ace	Bryson	Riaye	Aisha	Theo	Lacerta	Ilinca
<b>Draco</b>	Logan	Max	Michelle		Victor	Chrissy	Austin	Lily
<b>Serpens</b>	Jamie-Lea	Kayra	Zara	Daniel W	Avleen	Daniel Z	Chiara	Hattie
<b>Auriga</b>	Emily	Jack	Mofi	Leo	Leah			
<b>Perseus</b>	Layla	Abyan	Penelope	Sophia	Jude	Emma	Seb	Jessica
<b>Orion</b>	Asher	Sienna	Suliman	Amara	Rudy	Austin	Suliman	Maya
<b>Circinius</b>	Teigan	Lizzy	Catherine	Harleen K	Lionel	Joshua	Alaina	Evie S
<b>Vela</b>	Jack	Musa	Ignacy	Layla	Rose	Dylan	Gustavs	Olivia N
<b>Carina</b>	Soraya	Karla	Taha	Harleen	Alayna	Mia		
<b>Cassio</b>	Jake	Jodie	Curtis	Ayah-Rose	Paloma	John	Skye	Maheer
<b>Cepheus</b>	Marlo	Esmie	Myles	Leo	Austin	SUMMER	Harriet	Zoe
<b>Andromeda</b>	Joanna	Aliza	Dilneet	Alex	Edie	Izabelle	Jacob	Sebi

# SPORTS UPDATE

## Spring term Sports round up

We have had another wonderful half term full of commitment, achievements and outstanding teamwork!

### Hockey

We took three strong teams along to compete in a Quicksticks tournament against many other schools at Bedford hockey centre. The competition was high, but so were the skills on show from Great Denham, thanks to Coach Burgess! Congratulations to all three teams for doing so well.

A team - 1st place - **\*District champions**

B team - 5th place

C team - 7th place

### Netball

We participated in various exciting netball tournaments, where our teams played to a very high standard, developed their play and achieved some impressive results, against very strong opposition. Well done to all three teams!

**Year 6 - Girls 7 a-side team**

8th place

**Year 6 - mixed 5 a-side team**

1st place - **\*District champions**

**Year 5 - Girls 7 a-side team**

5th place

### Girls Football

It was great to attend two new tournaments hosted at Great Ouse. It is the first time our girls teams have played football in an outdoor tournament and they all performed so well.

### Year 5&6

Both our teams finished third in their group matches, playing each other for 5th and 6th place overall, out of twelve teams. Well done to the year 5 team for winning 1-0 against year 6.

Year 5 - 5th place

Year 6 - 6th place

### Year 3&4

Need to add more Thursday evening

A team - 4<sup>th</sup> place

B team - 7<sup>th</sup> place

We look forward to feeling the warmer weather, the sun shining brighter and the summer leagues to start after the Easter break. The girls rounders and boys cricket league starts the first week back!

Thank you as always for your unconditional support from the sidelines. **Team PE**

# SPORTS UPDATE





## Year 5 YEAR GROUP UPDATE

What an out-of-this-world term it has been!

We began with a truly stunning start, taking part in astronaut training to prepare for our mission. We received a special message from Cosmos, the amazing supercomputer, who set us the challenge of sharing our ideas about space and Earth through creating a podcast. To help us accomplish this mission, Cosmos sent us a special visitor, Patris from Spotify, who guided us in learning how to plan and create our own podcasts—definitely a giant leap in our learning!

We then explored significant figures in space exploration, including Neil Armstrong, Katherine Johnson and Mae Jemison. The children learned about their remarkable achievements and the challenges they overcame, showing resilience in their own work.

Our marvellous middle of the project was truly unforgettable, as we were visited by Wonderdome, a mobile planetarium. This immersive experience allowed the children to explore the planets and learn more about our universe.

Our next mission brought us back to Earth as we investigated climate change. We explored how it is affecting our planet and discussed what we can do to make a difference. Inspired by speeches from Greta Thunberg, we wrote their own persuasive speeches, encouraging others to take care of our world.

With Patris bringing in professional recording equipment, the children had the opportunity to record their podcasts like real experts—it was a star performance from everyone involved!

As our journey continued, we travelled back in time to learn about the history of the Space Race, discovering key events that led up to the moon landing. The children also immersed themselves in our key text, even writing their own version of a chapter, showcasing their creativity and imagination.

In our final weeks, we prepared for our much-anticipated 'Launch Party'. We had an amazing time sharing our project books and podcasts with you—it was the perfect way to blast off the end of our topic!

We are incredibly proud of all the children's hard work this term. They have truly reached for the stars and achieved so much.

Thank you for your continued support this term.  
The year 5 team

# Year 5 YEAR GROUP UPDATE



# Year 6

## YEAR GROUP UPDATE

Year 6 had a brilliant start to our new project with an exciting Stunning Start that focused on Texas – the setting for our key text, *Holes*.

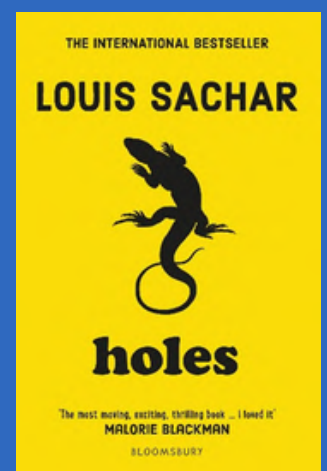
The children learnt about the geography of Texas, where it is in the world, as well as some of the music and culture. Everyone had a brilliant time learning how to line dance (who knew it would be so tricky to dance in a line) as well as enjoying a little taste of Texan food. They also investigated some of the animals and flora found in the Texas region and created fabulous sketches of cacti that the children later used in their own pop artwork based on Andy Warhol.

Once our key text was revealed, the children have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know all about Stanley Yelnats IV, the main character, and put their writing skills to good use writing letters explaining all about life in Camp Green Lake which is not green and has no lake! They are also enjoying writing a non-chronological report in the form of their own survival guide to Camp Green Lake.

After the holidays, the children will be learning more about crime and punishment through time and history and we look forward to our secret trip which brings this to life on April 15th and April 16th.

As we approach the Summer Term, the children have been busy preparing for their SATs in May and have been doing a marvellous job. They are also looking forward to breakfast during SATs week, the celebratory trip to Legoland and their Leavers' Assembly. It is hard to believe that we are entering their final term at Great Denham Primary School and we just want to say how incredibly proud we are of each and every one of them!

Mrs Lee, Mrs Plant, Mrs Dilley and Miss Glover





## HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES FUND

## QUEEN'S PARK ACADEMY

SCHOOL YEARS 2 - 6

31/03 - 02/04 9:00AM - 2:30PM

If you are eligible for HAF, you will receive an E-Voucher code which must be obtained from your YP school. HAF tickets must be booked through the E-vouchers, which is the Bedford Borough Council HAF booking system



**BOOK NOW VIA HAF**

INFO@F4YP.ORG 03001024541



Return your completed Picture to your Teacher by the 22<sup>nd</sup> April

# CALL for VOLUNTEERS

# DENFEST



## to help at our SUMMER Fete

WE WILL HAVE LOTS OF STALLS, GAMES & TOMBOLA ETC THAT WE WOULD LOVE YOUR HELP WITH

SATURDAY  
13th June

12pm to 6pm

PLEASE EMAIL US TO LET US KNOW THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER FOR THE DAY AND WE WILL ADD YOU TO OUR INFO GROUP



12pm to 4pm for Crafts, Games & Selling Stalls  
12pm to 6pm for Food Stalls

[friendsofgreatdenham@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofgreatdenham@gmail.com)



# SPRING BREAK EVENTS

At Great Denham Community Hall

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March

## Children's Disco

First session 13:00 - 14:30

Second session 15:00 - 16:30

Join us for a disco and entertainment either before or after your Egg hunt. Wear an Eggcellent Easer Hat for a chance to win a prize!

Best dancers win a prize too!

**£3.50 per child**

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March

## Easter Egg Hunt

14:00 - 16:00

Collect your map from the Hall, find the clues around Great Denham and solve the puzzle to claim your prize!

**£1.50 per child**

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March

## Spring Crafts

First session 11:00 - 12:00

Second session 12:30 - 13:30

Come and make some super Spring and Easter themed crafts to take home!

**£3.00 per child**



SCAN ME

**OR ALL 3 EVENTS ONLY £7.00!**

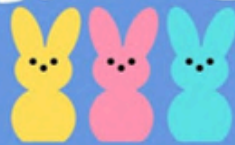
TICKETS ON SALE AT [HTTPS://GREAT-DENHAM-COMMUNITY-HALL.SUMUPSTORE.COM](https://great-denham-community-hall.sumupstore.com)

CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT AT ALL EVENTS

GREAT DENHAM COMMUNITY HALL, 86-88 SAXON WAY, GREAT DENHAM, MK40 46P



# EASTER HOLIDAY



## Swim Crash Course

All Ages & Abilites

DATES:

7<sup>TH</sup>, 8<sup>TH</sup>,

9<sup>TH</sup>, 10<sup>TH</sup>

APRIL

**£12.80**

PER SESSION

OR

**£48.64**

FOR ALL 4 DAYS

TERM TIME  
LESSONS  
AVAILABLE  
TOO!



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LOCATION:  
Pilgrims  
Pre-  
Preparatory  
School

TIMES:  
4PM,  
4.30PM  
OR  
5.30PM

Running for those who face a marathon every day



My name is Charlotte and this is madeleine.

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**TURVEY FC ARE EXPANDING**

**NEW UNDER 10s  
TEAM LAUNCHING!**

Calling all players starting Year 5 in SEPT 2026

- FA-Qualified Coaching
- Fun & Positive Environment
- Focus on Development & Confidence
- League Matches & Tournaments

**WELCOME ALL ABILITIES!**

**TRAINING BEGINS POST-EASTER!**



INTERESTED? CONTACT US! ✉ u10@turveyfc.co.uk

Turvey Recreation Ground, Grove Road, Turvey, Bedfordshire, MK43 8EA



# HOW YOUR HELP WITH FUNDRAISING HAS MADE A DIFFERENCE

THANKS TO YOUR AMAZING SUPPORT THIS YEAR, WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO INVEST IN RESOURCES AND EXPERIENCES THAT ENRICH OUR CHILDREN'S LEARNING AND SCHOOL LIFE:

✦ **£1000 TOWARDS HILLTOP COACHES – HELPING MORE CHILDREN ENJOY THIS FANTASTIC RESIDENTIAL TRIP**

✦ **EARLY YEARS WRITING SHED – A FULLY RESOURCED OUTDOOR SPACE TO INSPIRE WRITING THROUGH PLAY**

✦ **EARLY YEARS READING BOOKS – SUPPORTING OUR YOUNGEST READERS**

✦ **SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT IMPROVEMENTS – PLANTERS AND PAINTS, CREATED WITH OUR SEN NURTURE GROUP**

✦ **ROCKETMAN SPACE PROJECT – FUNDING A BANNER TO SHOWCASE OUR SCHOOL DURING A PODCAST**

✦ **READING FOR BOYS INITIATIVE – BOOKSHOP VISITS, BOOK CHOICES, AND REVIEWS**

✦ **BOYS' READING CLUB – ENCOURAGING A LOVE OF READING**

✦ **EVENTS EQUIPMENT – MOBILE SPEAKER AND MICROPHONES FOR PLAYS AND PERFORMANCES**

✦ **DESIGN TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT – RESTOCKING AND UPDATING RESOURCES FOR HANDS-ON LEARNING.**

✦ **A WORMERY FOR THE EARLY YEARS**

✦ **REWARD SHOP – A FURTHER RE-STOCK FOR MRS BURGESS', REWARD SHOP**

*THANK YOU!*

YOUR SUPPORT TRULY MAKES A DIFFERENCE TO EVERY CHILD IN OUR SCHOOL.





# OUR 2025/2026 FUNDRAISING GOAL

**THIS YEAR'S PROJECT:**  
Funds towards the Resurfacing of the Play Area and New Outdoor Play Equipment

