



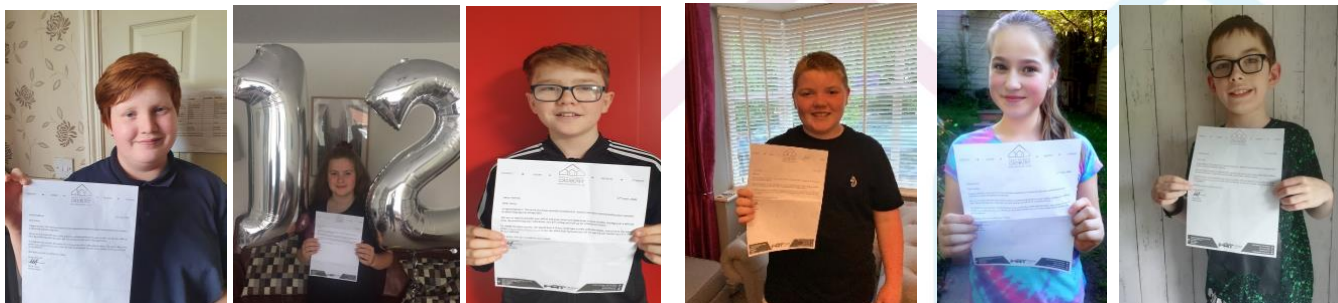
## Home Learning Newsletter - July 2020

To say 2020 has been an unusual year, would be an understatement. As we draw toward the end of this school year, we would like to express our thanks to all our pupils and parents for their support during this difficult period of time. We are extremely grateful of your support and kind expressions of thanks, whilst we have worked to support your learning at home. We hope you enjoy our final Home Learning Newsletter, as we celebrate some of the fantastic work our pupils have completed at whilst at home, and also share some great ideas to keep you entertained during the Summer Holiday.

We look forward to being able to welcome all our pupils back in September. Further information will follow as soon as we have clear guidance from the government.

### A celebration of hard work and dedication...

We have a mantra at DEC that 'Hard work beats talent' and whilst there is 'oodles' of talent amongst this collection of pupils, they have shown superb commitment and dedication to their studies. These pupils have recently received a letter of special recognition from Mr Dunn, for the exceptional work they have submitted to their teachers, with many pupils being nominated multiple times by their teachers.



We couldn't fit everyone's picture here, as there are so many of you - please visit our school Twitter page and follow us <https://twitter.com/followDECTC> to see more lovely photos of our fantastic pupils.

# Summer Pledge Challenge

Although we may not have had the opportunity to complete Pupil Pledge activities whilst at school- there is nothing stopping you from ticking off those Pledge items during the school holidays.

Your teachers have been busy planning 'Pledge' related activities for you to take on and conquer over the summer holidays, to keep you busy!

Some of the activities may involve you getting creative in the kitchen (with supervision,) researching the history of Bournville, watching a theatre performance- online! Running 5k, writing a letter to your future-self, opening a bank account - there are so many exciting things to do and to achieve, despite the difficult year we have all had.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/exercise/couch-to-5k-week-by-week/>

<https://www.londontheatre.co.uk/theatre-news/west-end-features/theatre-streaming-services-west-end-broadway-musicals>

<https://www.cft.org.uk/cft-at-home>

Keep a record of what you have done, whether it be a photo or a piece of work, and your form tutor can record it in school and put your points on in September. We will let you know when to bring your evidence in. In the meantime- we would love to see your photos of your summer activities, and Pledge achievements- if you would like us to see what you have been up to and are happy for us to share on Twitter, please send your pictures into [enquiry@decschool.co.uk](mailto:enquiry@decschool.co.uk) with a brief description of what you have been up to!

Your summer holiday activities and competitions will start during the last week of term, so remember to check the website on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July <https://www.decschool.co.uk/working-at-home/>



## Competition Time!

Why not enter one the competitions below.... We would love to hear how you get on...

- **Black British History School Competition** – deadline 30th September 2020 – Two categories: Under 16 and 16-25 year olds: <https://www.100greatblackbritons.co.uk/competition.html>
- <https://foyleyoungpoets.org/> - deadline 31<sup>st</sup> July- It is completely FREE to enter and you can enter as many poems as you wish. All entrants will receive a certificate for participating in this prestigious competition.
- **Into Film and Puffin** – deadline 3rd August 2020 – 7 - 12 year olds: <https://www.intofilm.org/news-and-views/articles/puffin-big-dreams-on-screencompetition>

## International Day of Friendship - 30<sup>th</sup> July #ENDviolence

Our world faces many challenges, crises and forces of division — such as poverty, violence, and human rights abuses — among many others — that undermine peace, security, development and social harmony among the world's peoples.

To confront those crises and challenges, their root causes must be addressed by promoting and defending a shared spirit of human solidarity that takes many forms — the simplest of which is friendship.

Through friendship — by accumulating bonds of camaraderie and developing strong ties of trust — we can contribute to the fundamental shifts that are urgently needed to achieve lasting stability, weave a safety net that will protect us all, and generate passion for a better world where all are united for the greater good.

#ENDviolence, Spread Kindness

Worldwide, some 150 million students, half of all students 13 to 15 years of age, report having experienced peer-to-peer violence in and around schools. For the observance of International Day of Friendship, UNICEF has released an exclusive BTS video that calls on young people to brighten someone's day with kindness (either in real life or on the internet, and sharing it for others to see), as part of UNICEF's campaign to #ENDviolence in and around schools.

Have a look at the UNICEF website and consider how you can bring more kindness and friendship to those whom you come into contact with.



### Keep calm and carry on reading!

#### Help DEC Win £5,000 of National Book Tokens!

The National Book Tokens prize draw is back! National Book Tokens are giving one lucky school £5,000 of National Book Tokens to spend on books for their library, enough to buy hundreds of books when schools reopen.

Visit [www.nationalbooktokens.com/schools](http://www.nationalbooktokens.com/schools) to nominate DEC - the more nominations we receive, the greater the chance we have of winning! Nominations are open until 31 July 2020.

NATIONAL  
BOOK  
TOKENS



**WIN £5,000**  
of National Book Tokens  
for your school library



## DEC Reading Competition

Why not have a go at reading a book, and writing a review?

Submit your entry to [enquiry@decschool.co.uk](mailto:enquiry@decschool.co.uk) by 1<sup>st</sup> September. Winners will be announced in the new academic year. Not sure how to start? The BookTrust have some easy to follow guidance: <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/tips-and-advice/writing-tips/writing-tips-for-teens/how-to-write-a-book-review/>

To keep you reading during the summer months, we will be updating our reading section of the website with a few different resources, to keep you reading during the summer. It is really, really important to get into good habits with reading- and try to stick to a minimum of 20 minutes reading per day.

- The reading activities available here are a range of short extracts to make them manageable, with some comprehension questions to support reading for meaning.
- Additionally, we are regularly uploading editions on 'First News' which is a national news magazine aimed at young people. There are loads of interesting articles, news facts, as well as light-hearted items, which are great to read and discuss with your family.

If you like the idea of getting into a book whilst you're off school, but not sure where to start or what book to pick take a look at our reading lists on the school website <https://www.decschool.co.uk/reading/>. Reading Rockets and Book Trust also have recommendations based on age and interests <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/bookfinder/>

There are also some great recommendations here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/watch/bp-book-awards?collection=blue-peter-book-awards> for all age groups!

### Continuing learning at home - guidance for pupils and parents:

Teachers will have asked you to complete mini-tests and quizzes on Microsoft Forms, to help them see how you are getting on, so they can better understand what they need to plan for the next round of work. Please try your best to complete these. You can access them via the lesson PowerPoint and are easy to access on a tablet or mobile phone device. This will really help your teachers to see how confident you are on your work prior to September.

If you haven't managed to complete all of your home learning, do not worry. We do understand how difficult it has been, and rest assured we will catch-up when we are all back at school.

If you do want to have a look at the lessons you haven't managed to get to, we will keep the work on our school website, and even if you don't complete the activities, listening to the lessons (which you can do on your phone) may help you to prepare for returning to school.

Your teachers will be setting Pledge challenges and competitions over the summer holidays- you don't have to do all of them, but they are really fun and interesting- and we will be announcing the winners in September!

There are also many website available, that have a range of learning activities if you would like to stay busy during the summer holiday:

- **DfE Approved websites:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-online-education-resources-for-home-education>
- **RE and PSHE resources** with a dyslexia font available for those who need it [www.truetube.com](http://www.truetube.com)
- Mainly primary based resources, but could be useful for younger pupils with SEND needs [www.classroomsecrets.co.uk](http://www.classroomsecrets.co.uk)
- **Careers advice-** never too early to start thinking about your future: [www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/careers](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/careers)
- **Touch typing-** great for anyone, but particularly if you are eligible to use a laptop at school and in examinations [www.typingclub.com](http://www.typingclub.com)

- **The British Dyslexia Association** is running free webinars providing support for pupils with Dyslexia [www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/news.make-the-most-of-being-at-home-with-our-elearning](http://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/news.make-the-most-of-being-at-home-with-our-elearning)
- **Futurelearn** has some excellent short online learning modules from Universities that are completely free. Great for our sixth formers <https://futurelearn.com/>
- **The Brilliant Club** has also launched free web based resources on a range of academic topics, study skills, and independent learning units: [www.thebrilliantclub.org/the-brilliant-club-for-pupils/info-for-pupils](http://www.thebrilliantclub.org/the-brilliant-club-for-pupils/info-for-pupils)

## Further Help and Support during the holidays:

**StarLine**  
Parent Helpline for Home Learning

Home StarLine StarLive StarBlogs About Contact

Open five days a week  
**0330 313 9162**

**StarLine**  
Home learning advice direct from qualified teachers and parenting and education experts

**StarLine is a national home learning helpline offering expert information and advice to parents and carers.**  
Call 0330 313 9162 or send us a message

There are many forms of support available- if you are worried or concerned about your child during the holiday and would like some advice- please see links below for Starline and Kooth, as well as the government guidance. There is also further information available via our school website: <https://www.decschool.co.uk/safeguarding/>

<https://www.starline.org.uk/starblogs/>

[www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com)

<https://www.forwardthinkingbirmingham.org.uk/services/13-pause>

[www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mindmatters/coronavirus-covid-19-staying-at-home-tips/](http://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mindmatters/coronavirus-covid-19-staying-at-home-tips/)

[www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk](http://www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk)

<https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/coronavirus-information-and-support>

<https://www.minded.org.uk/>

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing?utm\\_source=198a9e75-a418-4442-9102-7c714bd37c3c&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm\\_content=immediate](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing?utm_source=198a9e75-a418-4442-9102-7c714bd37c3c&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate)

[7c714bd37c3c&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm\\_content=immediate](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing?utm_source=198a9e75-a418-4442-9102-7c714bd37c3c&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate)

[www.autismwestmidlands.org.uk](http://www.autismwestmidlands.org.uk)

<https://www.anxietyuk.org.uk/get-help/anxiety-information/autism-and-anxiety/>

## Bereavement Helpline

The Bereavement Helpline is available in Birmingham and Solihull five days a week

<https://www.bvsc.org/news/bereavement-helpline-available-birmingham-and-solihull-five-daysweek>

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, we are facing a tragic loss of life, often under very difficult circumstances. Being in 'lockdown' is tough, but for those who have lost a friend or loved one during this time, it can be even harder.

To help support those who feel isolated and are suffering as a result of a loss, a new bereavement helpline is now available to people in Birmingham and Solihull, five days a week.

Dr Angela Brady, Deputy Chief Medical Officer at NHS Birmingham and Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group, said: "Losing a loved one is always difficult, but for those who live alone or are cut off from their usual support network, it can be extremely difficult.

"It is important to remember that taking care of our mental and emotional wellbeing during the pandemic is just as important as our physical health. Being able to talk to someone in a time of need can help alleviate some of the stress and grief that comes with losing a relative or friend."

If you are in need of support, there is help available. Please call 0121 687 8010.

The opening hours for the telephone support are:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 9am-5pm

Tuesday, Thursday: 9am-8pm

Saturday and Sunday: 12pm-5pm (from 1 June 2020)

**Please also follow us on Twitter: @followDECTC for the latest updates and information.**



Have a lovely summer - stay safe, from all staff at Dame Elizabeth Cadbury.