



Wise Owls News

Spring Term One 11th February 2022

Welcome to Doddinghurst Infant School Newsletter

Dear Parents, Carers & Friends,

As I write this newsletter I realise that we have reached a notable milestone; we are, as of now, halfway through the academic year. Our children, staff and families have much to be proud of, as this half term has been particularly challenging, in terms of children and staff being absent. Thankfully, we have managed to cover all classes with the continued support of my amazing team, who have been brilliant at stepping up and covering the gaps so school life has continued as normal with no interruptions to the children's learning.

The enthusiasm for learning in each classroom continues to be inspirational and this is reflective in the pages below, where I hope you will enjoy finding out about the different activities the children have enjoyed. As you know, this week is Children's Mental Health Week, something we ensure we focus on every day of every week. This year's theme is Growing Together; the website 'place2be.org.uk', offers advice and resources for parents and carers to help support their child's wellbeing.

Using stories and book talk in reception and Key Stage 1 is crucial to helping build children's' imagination, their vocabulary and their love of reading. To help prompt this love of reading we have introduced a new section to our newsletter 'Recommend reads'. For EYFS we have been focusing on Poetry using the '**Great Big Cuddle**' written by two of the biggest names in children's publishing, Michael Rosen and Chris Riddell, who have come together to write a new poetry collection. It has helped support our children in understanding a child's world with all its details and feelings, captured in the most remarkable way. For KS1, the acclaimed author Zadie Smith turns her hand to children's literature with '**Weirdo**'. It's a story of the quiet power of being different and includes fabulous illustrations of a guinea pig in judo attire. For our adults Adam Kay's '**This is Going to Hurt**'. A former doctor and current comedian, the chances are you've seen (or heard) Kay's work in recent years and more recently a TV series on BBC One. He is, for lack of a more articulate description, very funny. He also has a knack for creating bleakly real, visceral imagery of some of the less funny parts of his former career, and it's perhaps this latter talent that makes this book so readable.

To all our families, from Doddinghurst Infant School: 祝你牛年吉祥 to one and all. We welcome in the year of the Tiger and bid farewell and happy memories to the outgoing year of the Ox'.

I hope that you are all looking forward to a week of family time, filled with restful, restorative and (most importantly) fun activities. Stay safe over half term, enjoy the family time together, and don't forget to read. Thank you for your continued support, Mrs Nicholson

EYFS UPDATES

SWIFTS and WOODPECKERS

When we returned in the New Year, Jack Frost had visited us. We focused on the season Winter and investigated what would happen to water in different temperatures. Looking at the front cover we made predictions about what we thought might happen in the story. We went on a winter walk to the Junior field where we took photos to show signs of winter.



Using our listening skills, we discussed what sounds the frost made under our feet. Focusing on the vocabulary from the story we created a role play and used actions to reflect the words we heard.



One morning we arrived at school and were surprised to find Jack Frost had left us a gift. Dinosaurs appeared in our classroom frozen in ice. Using our physical skills we explored how we could break the ice to help the dinosaurs escape. We learnt new words to describe dinosaurs and the foods they ate. It was very exciting to take part in a fossil workshop and looking at the dinosaurs' teeth and claws. Working collaboratively we made a class dinosaur, using a range of materials. The following week we applied these skills independently, to make our own dinosaur, demonstrating that we could cut, join and ask for what resources we needed.

During this half term we have been working hard on our phonics, segmenting and blending sounds, writing CVC words, captions and reading phrases. We have also applied these skills in our independent writing and some of us wrote Mrs Daly a shopping list for our fruit kebabs because she's so forgetful.



In Maths, we explored capacity and weight, using new vocabulary such as empty and full to describe liquids. Some of us were isolating at home but we still participated in the learning and shared our work on Seesaw. Then we moved onto addition, making two amounts and using our 1:1 counting correspondence to find the total. Some of us began recording this as a number sentence, including numbers and symbols. Mrs Gutteridge was very impressed with our work and put it up on her Maths display board.



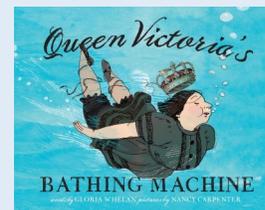
To celebrate Children's Well-being Week we had a visit from Lesley Williams. We listened to a story linked to our school value about being 'safe, gentle and kind'. To finish off the week we had to 'Dress to Express' which concluded a fantastic week focusing on the children's well-being.



YEAR ONE UPDATES CHAFFINCHES and ROBINS

It is hard to believe that Chaffinches and Robins are midway through their Year One journey. Our topic this term is called Life Long Ago and we have been learning about The Victorian Era. We started by finding out about where the Victorian Era fitted on the classroom timelines. Then we found out facts about Queen Victoria — the children should be able to tell you lots of facts, try asking them!

Our book this half term was 'Queen Victoria's Bathing Machine', based on the true story of how Queen Victoria's beloved husband Albert designed and made a machine that allowed his wife to enter the sea without anyone seeing her in her bathing suit. The children have designed their own inventions ranging from slides from the castle into the sea, to boats that submerge under the water allowing the queen to swim into the sea. On 'Make-it Monday' the children used Lego, Duplo or Meccano to build their designs. We are looking forward to making our own modern version of a bathing machine next half term, so please save any cardboard boxes (cereal, shoe box size), thank you.



Our Art inspiration this term has been William Morris. He is a Victorian artist who designed beautiful wallpaper using large printing machines. His designs used lots of inspiration from the natural world, like plants and birds and so we collected some images before we drew our own individual tile design. We then traced these designs onto polystyrene tiles. Next we will be moving on to creating our own wallpaper by printing with our etched tiles.



One of our favourite weeks this term has been Dinosaur week when we learnt about the Tyrannosaurus Rex and the Triceratops to name a few. We were amazed to learn that a Tyrannosaurus Rex's teeth were 8 inches long and a Brachiosaurus was 3 fridge freezers tall! We were also visited by



'Education Group' who came in and talked to us about fossils. The children used delicate brushes to unearth several different fossils and find out from which dinosaur they originated. We finished the week by designing and making our own dinosaurs. We had to think about all the features that we had learned about, like long necks, sharp claws and armoured plates.



In Maths the children have been learning to count in 2's, 5's and 10's with numicon, their feet, their hands and songs. Maybe they can demonstrate what they have learnt and perhaps test you also.



YEAR TWO UPDATES

SWANS and KINGFISHERS

We all returned to school in the new year ready to learn, and continued our Year Two learning journey by setting ourselves some [dreams and goals](#) for the year ahead.

We were introduced to our new topic '[Life Long Ago](#)' and focused on learning about [The Great Fire of London](#). We compared London in the past to the present, discovered where and how the Great Fire began, enjoyed taking part in role play activities, conducted an archaeological dig, investigated artefacts and wrote diary entries in the style of Samuel Pepys. We will continue to learn more about The Great Fire of London after half term.

In Maths we have been learning to [subtract](#) using dienes and [multiply](#) using arrays. One of our favourite Maths activities was creating arrays using edible resources to show our calculations—of course we got to eat our work once we had completed it...YUM!



We have enjoyed our new [PE](#) unit this half term and have been busy creating sequences of movements in [Gymnastics](#). We have been using the apparatus to roll, balance and stretch as well as using the springboard to vault.



At the start of February we welcomed in [The Lunar New Year](#). We celebrated with food tasting workshops, making lion masks and we also had the opportunity to learn some Mandarin words and phrases, as well as writing our names using the Mandarin alphabet. We really enjoyed ourselves and found out some interesting facts about Asian cultures and Traditions.



As a year group we took part in [Fossil Workshops](#) where we went back in time to the Jurassic period. This exciting and action-packed workshop brought out the hidden Paleontologists amongst us. It gave us a chance to get hands-on with a vast collection of scale model dinosaur bones and real fossils. We also spent some time learning about the life and times of Mary Anning, and wrote some interesting facts about her life.

[Lesley Williams](#) paid us another visit this half term; she taught us about the origins of fire and its links with Greek mythology. We explored the character of the Greek God [Prometheus](#) through drama, role play and dance.

As the first half of the Spring has been so busy and exciting, we can't wait to see what the next half term has in store for us all!



ECO WARRIORS



GIVE A PENNY to Spend a Penny'

Our newly appointed Eco Warriors met Reverend Ann to discuss us taking part in the Toilet Twinning Project as part of Water Aid. The church has already raised funds for 3 toilets, and £20 towards another (so far). The charity intent is:

By donating £60 to twin your toilet, you help fund a project in a poor community that will enable families to build a basic toilet, have access to clean water and learn about hygiene – a vital combination that saves lives.

When you twin, we'll send you a certificate to hang in your loo – showing a photograph of your overseas toilet twin and GPS co-ordinates so you can look up your twin's location on Google Maps.

So during the first week back after half term, the Eco Warriors will photograph their toilets, and **we will be asking for any loose change** that our school family can donate to help people across the world to safely 'spend a penny'. The Eco Warriors would like to say thank you for your support on their first big project, we intend to look after our world and make it a better place to live for all!

SCHOOL COUNCIL

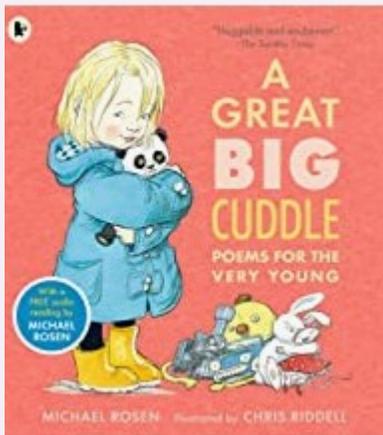
This term we have given the children new responsibilities, linked to our School Values. We have elected to have a school council who have worked hard this term to ensure our children have a voice. They have written to Mr Davies, requested new basket ball nets and are currently looking at re-vamping our Bug Hotel. We have a new School Council next term and we are looking forward to what they feel, we as a school do well, and things we could do better!

We celebrated our previous School Council members with a certificate, Chocolate milk with Mrs Nicholson and a small bag of goodies. Please visit our School Councils minutes on the Website.

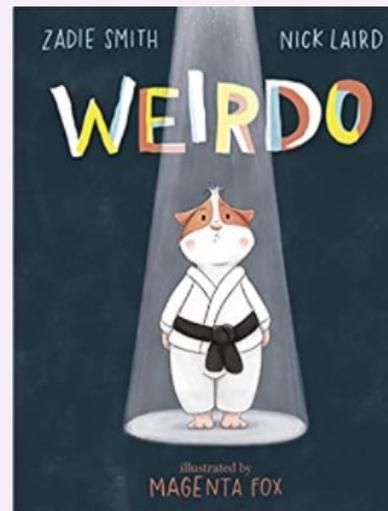


Recommended READS

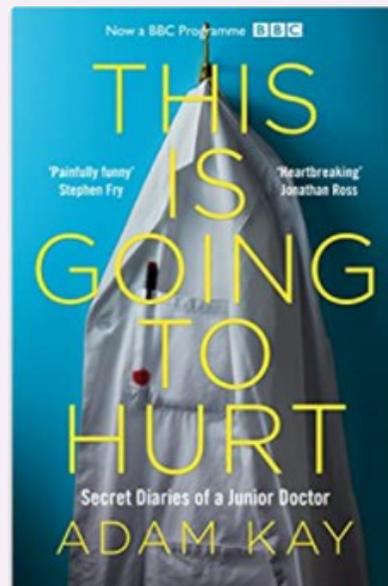
EYFS



Key Stage 1



For Adults



MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

What is Mental Health?

We all have mental health. Mental health is about our feelings, our thinking, our emotions and our moods. Looking after our mental health is important. We all have small feelings every day; these can sometimes feel strong and overwhelming, whether happy or sad, but they go away before too long. Sometimes we experience big feelings; these feel strong and overwhelming for a long time. They stop us doing what we want to in our lives.

Tips for talking to your child about their Mental Health

1. Make conversations about mental health a normal part of life: Anywhere is a good place to talk; in the car, walking the dog or cooking together. Model everyday talk about feelings such as by talking about a TV character's feelings.
2. Give your full attention: We all know it's horrible to be half listened to. Keep eye contact, focus on the child and ignore distractions.
3. Check your body language: Try to keep it open and relaxed and make sure you come down to the child's level.
4. Take it seriously: Don't downplay what the child is saying or tell them they're "just being silly". Resist the urge to reassure them that everything is fine.
5. Ask open questions: Such as "How did your day go today?" This will help to extend the conversation.
6. Calmly stay with the feelings that arise: It can be our automatic reaction to steer away from difficult emotions.
7. Offer empathy rather than solutions: Show that you accept what they are telling you but don't try to solve the problem.
8. Remember we are all different: Respect and value the child's feelings, even though they may be different to yours.
9. Look for clues about feelings: Listen to the child's words, tone of voice and body language.
10. Some ways to start a conversation about feelings might be: "How are you feeling at the moment?" "You don't seem your usual self. Do you want to talk about it?" "Do you fancy a chat?" "I'm happy to listen"

Communicate any concerns with school

If you have any worries or concerns about your child's emotional behaviour or wellbeing, then please let school know. There will be things that we can do to help and support you.

HOW TO

Stay Safe Online

INTERNET SAFETY 2022

*All fun and games
Exploring respect and relationships online*

We approached this using our school values of showing kindness, responsibility and respect. Reading a range of books linked about keeping safe on the internet. We used a range of resources which were used as discussion prompts.

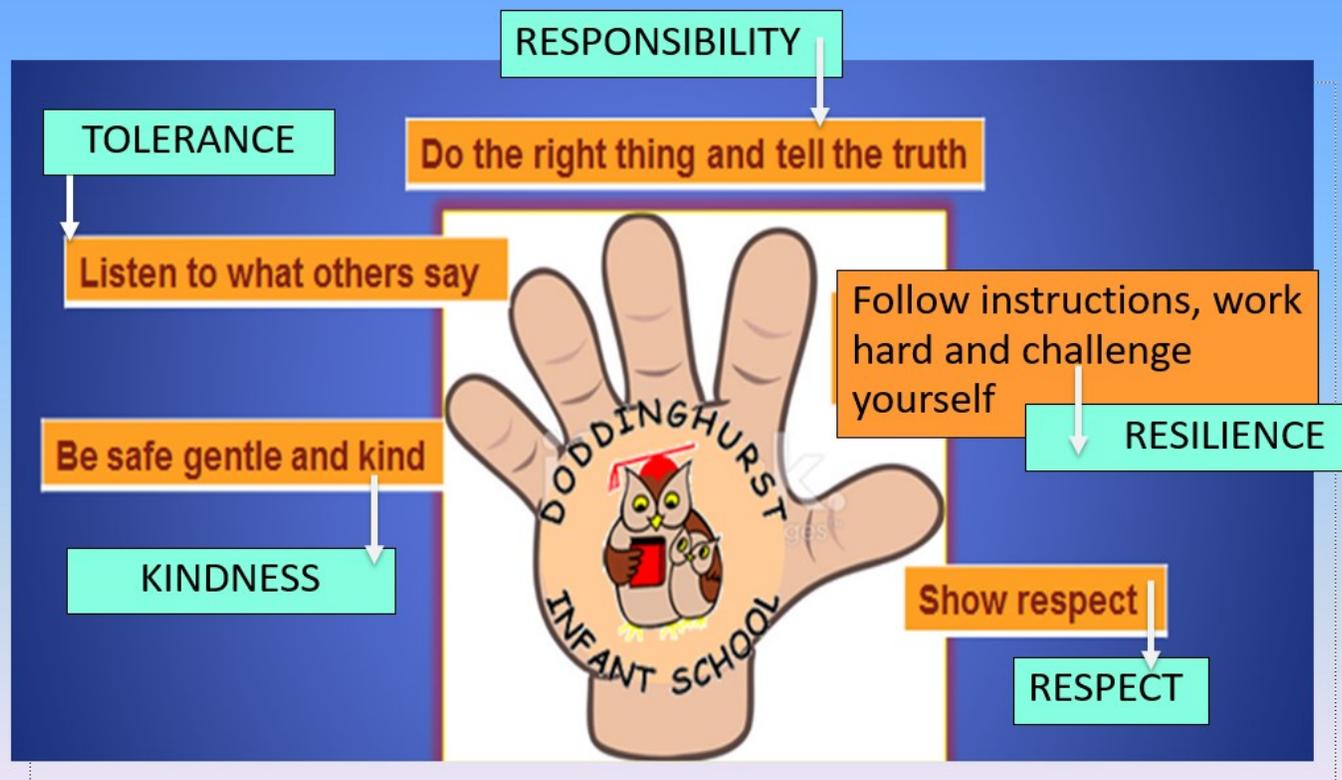
LEGO Build and Talk LEGO® have created Build and Talk to help you chat to your child about digital safety and wellbeing. Firstly, you pick an activity to do and then you read a story, which includes questions and conversation prompts, whilst they build with their LEGO®. This is a great way to start talking about online safety with your child!

Click on the pictures below to view the links to a LEGO® and a E-Safety Parental Controls Guide



OUR PROMISE AND VALUES

Our School Promise and school Values



COMMENTS, IDEAS OR SUGGESTIONS

11th February 2022

If you have any comments, ideas or suggestions, please drop us an email, write in separately or add a comment to our webpage. We welcome your comments.



Do you have a worry about one of our Children?

Please telephone or visit the school and ask to speak to Mrs Nicholson or in her absence

Mrs Gutteridge.

01277 822721



DODDINGHURST INFANT SCHOOL

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