



Wise Owls News

Autumn Term One 21st October 2022

Welcome to Doddinghurst Infant School Newsletter

Dear Parents, Carers & Friends,

Whether it is a brand new experience for us or we are seasoned old hands, it is always exciting and nervous in equal measure at the start of a new school year. It seems surreal to be writing a newsletter at the end of a successful first half term, when it only seems five minutes ago I was welcoming the children back from the summer break.

Our Swift and Woodpecker Reception children have been incredible. I think Mums and Dads found it harder than the children did! They have enjoyed making new friends, establishing new routines whilst having some exciting learning experiences. Making imaginative potions was my favourite, especially as I get to walk away before the big clean up begins!

The multi-sensory Forest School has been amazing and a great addition to our children's learning. It is helping them to develop themselves through healthy engagement, risk problem-solving and self discovery within a natural environment. It has helped the children to improve their concentration and motivation to learn. They are gaining more independence and self-confidence which has helped some reduce their anxieties and build more resilience.

It was lovely to chat with our families during Parent consultation appointments and see how proud they are of their children and the progress they have made from where they started.



The School Council and Eco Warriors have been busy gaining ideas and views from their peers in deciding what to focus on this year. Equipment for playtime and incentives for good attendance have been discussed, we ended this term's meeting with a nice piece of cake.



We understand that events in the news with rising utility bills and the cost of living increases is causing additional worry for us all. With that in mind we are looking to host a weekly get together called 'Triple T' - 'Tea, Toast and Talk', inspired by a group of people wanting to support their community. The sessions will run weekly and there is no set agenda, they can be about any subject or support our families may need. We want to do what we can to support our community in these challenging times. Which in turn supports our children. Let us know your thoughts and if its something you would be interested in.

We will continue to be available should you need help or support during the half term break. Just send a message on our Admin email and we will endeavor to get back to you.

We have lots of exciting things coming up in the new term so enjoy your half term, have fun, but more importantly take care and keep safe. See you all on Monday 31st October. ~ Mrs Nicholson

EYFS UPDATES

SWIFTS and WOODPECKERS

All staff were very proud of how well we settled into our new routines. We demonstrated we could organise ourselves, self-register and follow the class timetable participating in a range of different activities.

At the start of the term we learnt new rhymes and songs linked to the days of the week and Maths. The following week we were very puzzled when we received a basket full of woodland creatures and were very excited when we found out our new class book was *The Gruffalo*. We used our fine motor cutting skills to



create a huge Gruffalo for our classroom display. At the end of the week we couldn't believe our eyes when we saw owls and birds of prey flying through our hall. What a magical sight! This experience influenced our next class book *Owl Babies*, our learning environment was filled with autumnal objects to allow us to immerse ourselves into the story and retell key events. We learnt new vocabulary such as 'nocturnal' and 'owlets' which we

added to our class journal. After listening to the story and woodland environmental sounds, we used our imagination to create an illustration from the story. Our hearts were broken when we lost our Owl Mummy so we used our drawing skills to make a lost poster, luckily Mrs Walker read our posters and found her!

To celebrate Harvest we joined the rest of the school at church and sang songs together.

Our next class story was *The Gigantic Turnip* and we used our fine motor skills again to peel and chop the vegetables to add to our soup. At the end of the week we wrote a story map detailing the main events from the story and using our phonics skills we tried to label some of the animals from the story.



The following week a huge wind swept through EYFS leaving behind *Leafman*; this inspired us to create our own leaf person. Later in the week we stirred ingredients together, kneaded and rolled salt dough to cut out our own leaf decoration.

We ended the half term with 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'! We used gross motor skills to practically retell the story. In Gymnastics we moved our bodies on and around the equipment to match positional language from the story.



In Maths we have been looking at measurement and comparing weights and heights, ordering ourselves into height order in class. We have been exploring patterns using available resources in the classroom.



Throughout the half term we have been attending Forest School, linking our new skills to our class stories, such as when we made a nest for our owl babies using natural materials we gathered from the woods.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and wish you all a restful half term break.

YEAR ONE UPDATES CHAFFINCHES and ROBINS

What a brilliant return to school and a brilliant start to Year One! We have been busy settling into our new classrooms and our new routines, and that’s just the teachers!



We started the term with thinking about our feelings and what makes us special. It helped us to agree our class rules and the ways we can be good learners in Year One.



Using a story we have enjoyed before, Little Red Riding Hood, we began our Into the Woods themed work. ‘Little Red’ by Bethan Woollvin, is filled with lots of interesting and unusual vocabulary like ‘growled’, ‘peeped’ and ‘disguised’, which we used in our role-play and retelling of the story.



Working outside has been a big part of our learning this half term, especially as we have been enjoying ‘Forest Schools’ with Mrs Withers every week. So far we have made nests to keep an egg safe, bird feeders, used a bow saw to cut wood and cooked marshmallows over a fire. We have also been collecting and using natural objects to help us with our number work.



We were lucky to have a visit from ‘Eden Falconry’ who brought along a range of falcons and owls for us to learn about. The children really enjoyed the visit and asked lots of interesting questions like “How long

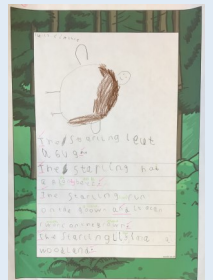


does it take for a feather to grow?” Here were some of their reactions:

“I liked when the owl flew over our heads!” “I enjoyed holding the barn owl, it was quite heavy.”



We finished the term with the brilliant story “The Last Wolf” by Mini Grey. We started by role-playing how Little Red felt about ‘going to catch a wolf.’ We focused on more interesting vocabulary and even went to the woods to practise how Little Red stalked, lurked, crept, slithered and pounced on her hunt for the wolf. We have learnt that in the story there was the last wolf, the last lynx and the last bear in the lands. This has led us to learn about endangered animals in the UK. Robins found out about the adder, and Chaffinches found out about the starling. We all enjoyed the ending which made us think—what can we do to help our planet? Have a read and see what you think!



YEAR TWO UPDATES

SWANS and KINGFISHERS

We have had an exciting start to our time in Year Two. We settled in and investigated our feelings, emotions and thoughts on being back to school. We used *'The Colour Monster'* book to help us explore our worries and hopes for the year ahead. Using natural materials and autumnal treasures we created our very own 3D feelings monsters.

This half term the children embraced our *'Into The Woods'* topic. In Science we visited the forest and investigated animal habitats, we found badger setts, fox dens, spider webs, rabbit burrows and many more, we also investigated how woodland animals obtain food from their environments.

Forest Schools has been a huge hit, the children have spent Thursday mornings building dens, making woodland toys and interacting with nature. Forest Schools has encouraged the children to develop their confidence, social skills and communication. Next half term they will have the chance to make a fire with a flint and stone!

Both classes enjoyed reading the story of *'The Star in the Forest'*. The story is about two young sisters who go on an adventure deep inside a magical forest and discover a fallen star. The book provided the children with lots of creative writing and role play opportunities. Matilda said *'My favourite part of the story was when Pip and Masie discover the star because the author used some brilliant adjectives to describe the star.'*

A highlight in this half term has been the visit from *Eden Falconry*. We were lucky enough to have a flight demonstration in our school hall; the children were taught lots of facts about Barn Owls, Tawny Owls, Peregrine Falcons and Hawks. Brady and Ava said *'We loved holding the owls, they were very strong the feathers were soft and fluffy.'*



We have been busy Mathematicians this half term and have been learning about Place Value. The children have worked independently and within groups to investigate tens and ones within two digit numbers; their learning has been supported with the use of the dienes resource.

October is *Black History Month* and in Year Two we have taken this opportunity to find out more about people who have made a difference to the world and helped to change things for the better. We have been reading the books *'Little People Big Dreams'* and enjoyed learning about *Harriet Tubman* and *Muhammed Ali*. We will continue to learn about diversity and the importance of different cultures throughout the school year.

ATTENDANCE

1st = Woodpeckers - 98.5%

2nd = Goldfishes - 98.3%

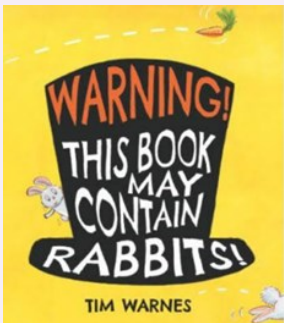
3rd = Robins - 98.1%

4th = Swans - 97.5%

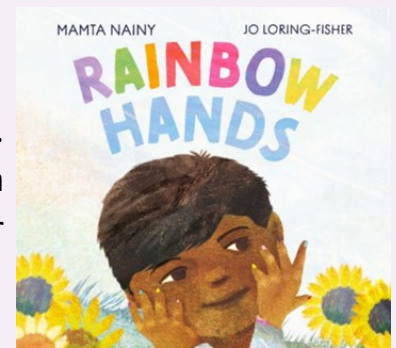
5th = Swifts - 97.2%

6th = Kingfishers - 95.0%

WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE: 97.4%



For our youngest bookworms: 'Warning! This Book May Contain Rabbits!' by Tim Warnes. Sublimely silly, with surprisingly excellent vocabulary for youngsters, and worth an out-loud chuckle or two.



'Rainbow Hands' by Mamta Nainy is a poetic, endearing story. More importantly, it presents acceptance and self expression in a thoroughly accessible way. It's one to read together, and together again.



'Just Ask'; an illustrated and open portrayal of inclusion. It is penned by Sonia Sotomayor, who takes occasional breaks from her work as a children's author to devote time to her other job as an Associate Justice on the US Supreme Court.

UPCOMING DIARY DATES

24th October — 28th October inclusive half-term

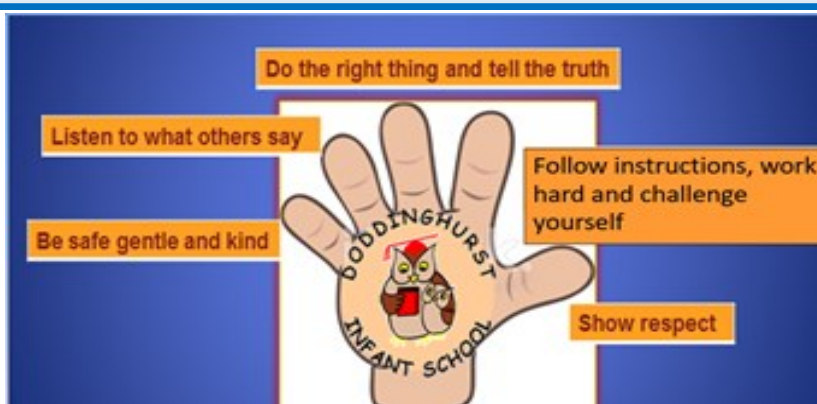
Pupils return to school on Monday 31st October 2022

7th November	9:15am	Parent Workshop - Focus Maths
8th November	9:30am	New Parent Showround - booking required
8th November	1:30pm	New Parent Showround - booking required
9th November	9:15am	Parent Workshop—Focus Maths

Please refer to the website for more diary dates commencing 16th Nov onwards



OUR SCHOOL PROMISE



COMMENTS, IDEAS OR SUGGESTIONS

21st October 2022

If you have any comments, ideas or suggestions, please write in separately. 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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