



Wise Owls News

Autumn Term One 22nd October 2021

Welcome to Doddinghurst Infant School Newsletter

Dear Parents, Carers & Friends,

How 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 everyone back from the summer break. The enthusiasm for learning that has been present every time I've gone around the school has been heart-warming.

Our Swift and Woodpecker Reception children have been incredible. I think Mums and Dads found it harder than the children! Once they got into their classes, they enjoyed making new friends and had fun investigating our outside area and the many exciting activities. Teachers and children have been immensely busy, working on our amazing new topic, *'Farm to Fork'* and doing some baseline assessment work in readiness for all the new learning ahead.

As you will have seen with our many Twitter posts we have watched chicks hatch, thanked many companies and especially families for their kind donations, witnessed staff dressed as robbers and build dens in the woods. But I'll leave the class postings to provide more detail

Thank you for the positive feedback given to staff during the recent Parent consultation appointments. Staff and parents were pleased to return back to face to face appointments and for some parents the first visit to the school.

Remember we will be setting the clocks back an hour as summer time ends, so the nights will be drawing in. With Halloween just around the corner, hopefully you will think of different ways to fill those sweet buckets!

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 endeavour to get back to you.

Enjoy your week, have fun, but more importantly take care and keep safe. See you all on the **Monday 1st November**.

Best wishes

Mrs Nicholson



EYFS UPDATES

WOODPECKERS and SWIFTS

Welcome to all our new EYFS parents, we have had such a busy half term.

We started with our journey in EYFS, with the story 'The Farmer's Away ' to focus our listening and attention skills. We went on listening walks around school and played Guess the Farm Animals game. We also dressed up for the farmers party. What fun we had!



We had some special visitors join us in school and the children had to guess 'what could be in the egg'. It was chicks! We learnt some fantastic vocabulary, including 'incubator' and 'predict'. The children were most excited about the whole experience. However, we had some naughty visitors that linked in with our story 'What the Ladybird heard'. The naughty robbers had a 'cunning plan' and stole our class award birds. This went onto the children making missing posters and asking the robbers some very interesting questions.



The children had their first visit to the church to celebrate Harvest; we loved learning the songs and celebrating with the rest of the school. This linked into our next story of 'the Gigantic Turnip'. We had the opportunity to investigate all different vegetables by looking at size, patterns, colours and weight.



The children have been writing shopping lists, and helped prepare vegetables to make our own vegetable soup. We prepped the vegetables by peeling, cutting and chopping. We finished with linking language from the story by pulling, heaving, yanking and tugging on the gymnastics apparatus.



During Black History Month we have been exploring books about Maya Angelou and Muhammed Ali and celebrating their achievements. We have explored

the season of Autumn including getting creative in our outside area.



Thank you for all your hard work to support your child settling into their first term at school.



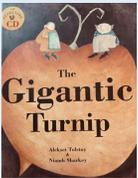
YEAR ONE UPDATES

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!



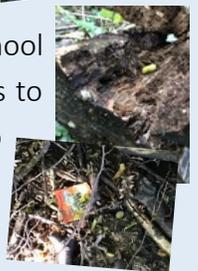
We started the term with thinking about our feelings and what makes us special. It helped us to agree our class rules and the ways we can be good learners in Year One.



Using a story we have enjoyed before, we began our Farm to Fork themed work. ‘The Gigantic Turnip’ by Aleksei Tolstoy is filled with lots of interesting and unusual vocabulary like ‘crooked’, ‘heaved’ and ‘gasping’ which we used in our role-play and retelling of the story.



Working outside was a big part of our learning at the beginning of the term. We identified the features of our school and our village, as well as, collecting and using natural objects to help us with our number work. We also went for a walk to appreciate the beauty of nature but were sad to find rubbish instead. This prompted us to make posters to remind people to pick up their rubbish.



‘Farm to Food Hall’ gave us the opportunity to begin to think about where our food comes from. We followed Amelia on a visit with her grandad to find out about dairy farms. We tasted lots of different types of milk and cheese and then used soya milk to make a smoothie—it was delicious! Remembering which ingredients we had used and how we had made it was important when we wrote our instructions. Here were some of their reactions:



“I enjoyed the cows milk but not the goats milk!” “The goats cheese was my favourite.” “The best bit of the smoothie was the strawberries.”



We finished the term with the brilliant story “The Scarecrows’ Wedding” by Julia Donaldson. We started by designing and making a wedding dress or suit for Betty or Harry, which are on display in the Blue Room. We have enjoyed inferring how characters feel from pictures and from what they say. We have decided that Harry is kind but Reginald is mean. Have a read and see what you think!



YEAR TWO UPDATES

SWANS and KINGFISHERS



What 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.



The children embraced the Farm to Fork topic by becoming farmers and hatching chicks. Fortunately 9 chicks hatched and we cared for them till they joined a local farmers flock. (Photo taken from photography club)



Both classes enjoyed role playing and retelling the story of 'The Enormous Turnip' where we practised using adjectives to make our story more exciting and interesting for the audience. We told our stories using expression; everyone was in awe!

Our Fridays soon became 'Fantastic Fridays' where we were took part in a club and developed our skills in:

photography, gardening, clay modelling, game playing, forest adventurers.

We took part in a 'skipping day' event; we learnt and practised different skipping techniques and this has helped us to be more active during playtimes! We can now spin the ropes for bigger groups of us to skip with!



October is Black History Month and in Year Two we have taken this opportunity to find out more about the culture and people who have made a difference to the UK. We followed Newsround throughout the month, and watched some inspiring videos all about influential people in the UK, such as Marcus Rashford. We loved finding out about how he has worked hard to change many peoples lives for the better. We will continue to learn about diversity and the importance of different cultures throughout the school year.

ATTENDANCE

1st = Woodpeckers - 96.2%

2nd = Robins - 96.1%

3rd = Chaffinches - 95.6%

4th = Kingfishers - 95.6%

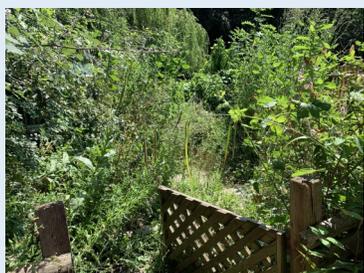
5th = Swans - 95.5%

6th = Swifts - 93.0%

WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE: 95.3%

OUR VERY OWN TITCHMARSH

From this...



A HUGE thank you to our resident Play Therapist, Mrs Lewis and her family who worked wonders over the summer creating the most amazing Sensory garden and allotment for the children. Year Two's have already been busy using the gardens as part of their Farm to Fork topic, sowing seeds and planting out radish plants into the vegetable patch.

to this...



Our new sensory garden area is a calming space for our children to go when their day may become overwhelming. Sophie said *"I just love coming in here, it makes me feel happy"*.

A special thank you goes to various companies who have helped to support this project and all of you who donated from our wish list. Please visit the News and Events page on our website ([click here](#)) for further details. It would be lovely if we can support them too.



UPCOMING DIARY DATES

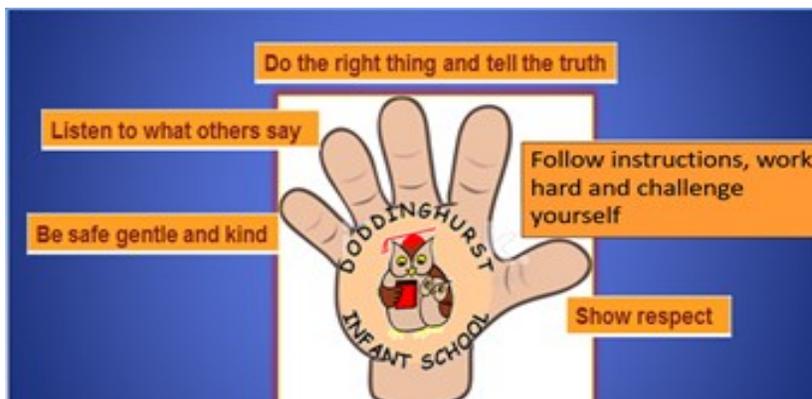
25th October — 29th October inclusive half-term

Pupils return to school on Monday 1st November 2021

W/C 1st November	Clubs commence
4th November	Flu Immunisations
25th November	Whole School trip
26th November	Movie & Munch



OUR SCHOOL PROMISE



COMMENTS, IDEAS OR SUGGESTIONS

22nd October 2021

If you have any comments, ideas or suggestions, please visit the newsletter page on the school website to complete the online form or 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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