



# Wise Owls News

Autumn Second Term 16th December 2022

## Welcome to Doddinghurst Infant School Newsletter

### Dear Parents, Carers & Friends,

We certainly ended the term with lots of Christmas celebrations, parties, a very interactive Panto, our wonderful Nativity play, and finally finishing with 'Break the Rules' day. All of the above truly ushered in the festive yuletide in a sea of colour, sparkle, and polyester. We mustn't forget the extra external stresses of snow, the worries of Strep A and our 2 day Ofsted inspection; all of these additional events certainly added to my anxieties of being a head teacher. End of term was very welcome!

No matter how well we plan, those unexpected events can be very demanding. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all of the staff who have been incredible. They have been flexible in how they have supported each other, through covering staff absence, making Christmas so magical for our children and for proving how resilient and capable they are. It is rewarding to be part of a team that has pulled together so well in support of the children and each other.



Thank you, to all our families for their generous monetary donations at our Nativity collection and Break the Rules day which we will be splitting between the school and NSPCC. This Christmas, Childline is expecting a call from a child every 25 seconds. This will be a tougher Christmas for many and no matter how small our donation, it is support that will be appreciated.

A final thank you to Hi Ho for adding that magical sparkle to our village by organising the wonderful Christmas lights, and our awesome school choir, who helped bring it all alive. I hope over the Christmas period you are able to spend some much needed quality time with your families. Thank you from all the staff and myself for your Christmas greetings, gifts and continuing support; it is very appreciated.

Wishing you a happy holiday filled with warmth and cheerful celebration.

Best wishes, from *Mrs Nicholson*

## EYFS UPDATES

### SWIFTS and WOODPECKERS

When we returned after the half term break, we were very excited to share our news, so we recorded them and used our knowledge of sounds to write labels and simple phrases. Then we were introduced to our new book *Percy and The Storm*; we listened to thunder and lightning sound effects and imagined how the characters were feeling. We began exploring people in the community who help us and discussed what information we would like to find out about them. It was very exciting to go on a walk to visit the local church and meet Rev Ann, she welcomed us into her church and allowed us to handle some of her special objects. We met Rebecca, a nurse from the community who modelled how she cares for her patients and even let us practise



taking care of each other using real bandages and medical supplies. Finally we met Sergeant Bargus - we asked him lots of questions about his role in the community, including the vehicles he drives, the criminals he meets and the equipment he uses daily. We were very excited to handle his handcuffs, try on his hat and step onto his police transporter.

It was lovely to welcome our parents into our classrooms and demonstrate all the maths we have been learning and we want to thank them for taking the time to learn with us.

During Anti-Bullying Week we discussed how we are all different and that different is good. We explored the theme of friendship through the book, *Hello Friend!* In Computing we used our fine motor skills, to control the mouse and created a picture of a poppy. Our poppies were added to a whole school display for Remembrance Sunday. We focussed on the book *Little Glow* and looked at different festivals and celebrations that are celebrated by families from a wide range of cultures and religions. The highlight of our week was working with Leslie Williams and exploring diversity through music and dance. At the end of the week we participated in a workshop linked to *Little Glow* with Natasha from Chicken & Frog Bookshop.



As we got closer to the end of term the weather got colder, we went outside for a frosty walk and observed how our environment changed. We carried out an experiment with water and made predictions about whether it would turn into ice. The following day we discussed if ice could turn back into water and the experiment could be reversed.

During the last couple of weeks we were busy preparing for our first school nativity and enjoyed all the singing and dancing. There was lots of excitement on the last week as we had a huge snowfall, but despite missing our dress rehearsal we put on a fabulous show and our teachers were very proud of us. We had lots of fun over the last few days performing our nativity, watching the Panto, and celebrating our class parties. Everyone is ready for a rest now!



## YEAR ONE UPDATES

### CHAFFINCHES and ROBINS

We have finally reached the end of a very busy but fun term. We are proud of how hard the children have worked on such a variety of activities.



We returned after half-term to a new maths topic—subtraction. The children spent time rehearsing the vocabulary and practising their skills, using a variety of resources, including Numicon, cubes and number lines. We finished with solving word problems by looking for the important information, like the numbers we were using. The children have worked very hard - maybe they could even do some practise during the holidays!

We have continued our 'Into the Woods' theme in our Forest School sessions. It started with using tarps for parachute games and continued with learning to tie knots and building dens. We have also learnt to use tools safely for cutting and whittling. The children have enjoyed free-play too, with rope swings, independent den building, building nests and a range of imaginary play. Our last session was linked to measuring, we gathered sticks and ordered them by size on the floor to create a beautiful Christmas tree that we decorated with natural objects like leaves and cones.



We have made links between our English, History and RE learning this half term, when working hard to learn, remember and write facts about Guy Fawkes and Remembrance Day. We worked on our sentence writing too, trying to remember capital letters at the beginning, finger spaces between words, a full-stop at the end and checking to make sure it makes sense. We also enjoyed joining with the whole school to hold our remembrance service and our visit to the village war memorial.

Our non-fiction work continued with the book 'Little Glow', which gave us the opportunities to learn about other faiths and the way they celebrate. We were especially grateful in Chaffinch class for Nayel's mum, who came to share photos and to tell us about how Ramadan and Eid are celebrated in their family. We also enjoyed our visit from Natasha from 'Chicken and Frog' who talked to us about Hannukah, a Jewish celebration and shared 'Little Glow' with us.



The highlight of this half term was of course the end of term Christmas production 'A Magical Christmas Journey' with the whole school. The children truly wowed us, and Mrs Nicholson, with their ability to learn dances and perform songs. We were so pleased for all the children, that they got the chance to perform together—even without a dress-rehearsal we think they did an amazing job! We hope that you were able to enjoy it too!

We hope that you and the children have an enjoyable Christmas! Thank you for all your support this term.

## YEAR TWO UPDATES

### SWANS and KINGFISHERS

Wow, what a busy (and cold) half term we have had!

When we came back to school after our half term break, we continued reading the book [The Star in the Forest](#) and we read about the adventures of sisters Pip and Maisie as they followed a bright light that had suddenly fallen from the sky into the forest next door to their Grandparents house. We had the chance to write creatively, exploring the use of adjectives in our writing.

Back in November we began learning about the life and times of [Guy Fawkes](#). We travelled back in time and discovered lots of new facts about the Gunpowder Plot. We also looked closely at World War Two and on [Remembrance Day](#) we talked about the importance of the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month. We found out that we wear poppies to remember those that gave their lives to make the world a better place for us. We made our own poppies and wore them for the whole day; Mrs Nicholson lead an assembly where we held a two minutes silence.

Our Year Two [Choir](#) visited All Saints Church on [Remembrance Sunday](#) and performed 'You gave us our Freedom' to the congregation.

We can't talk about this half term without mentioning our adventures in [Forest School](#). We explored the woodland environment and made wooden toys, took part in den building challenges, made a fire and toasted marshmallows, we also enjoyed drinking delicious hot chocolates to keep us warm and cosy.

At the end of November both classes enjoyed a visit from [Lesley Williams](#). She taught us about the importance of showing respect and understanding diversity. We took part in dances and songs that linked to the book we had been sharing in class; 'The Little Glow' and a fun day was had by us all.



A visit to All Saints Church to see Reverend Anne to take part in our annual [Christingle](#) service kicked off our Christmas celebrations this year. We all made our own Christingles and took them over to the church so that we could light them. We know what each part of the Christingle represents, and that this much loved Christmas tradition began in the UK in 1980.

December has been busy for us all and we all took part in our final [Nativity](#) performance. We loved performing to you all and we hope you enjoyed watching us. Our favourite songs included 'Follow the Star' and 'Magical Christmas Journey'. We also had festive class parties, took part in Christmas Crafting challenges and had a visit from Father Christmas during 'Stay and Play' that was very exciting!

We rounded this term off with a [pantomime](#)! On Thursday we enjoyed watching 'Goldilocks'. It was very loud, but we laughed and smiled the whole way through!

We can't wait to see what ADVENTURES lie ahead of us in 2023!!





## ATTENDANCE

1<sup>st</sup> = Swans - 92.6%

2<sup>nd</sup> = Swifts - 90.7%

3<sup>rd</sup> = Robins - 89.7%

4<sup>th</sup> = Kingfishers - 89.0%

5<sup>th</sup> = Chaffinches - 87.6%

6<sup>th</sup> = Woodpeckers - 87.5

**WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE: 89.4%**



# *All Saints' Christmas Services*



**Mon 19 Dec 7.00pm Traditional Carol Service** (with mince pies & mulled wine)

**Sat 24 Dec 4.00pm Christmas Eve Crib Service**

**10.00pm Midnight Mass**

**Sun 25 Dec 10.00am Christmas Day Family Eucharist with Carols**

**Mon 26 Dec 10.00am Holy Communion: Feast of St. Stephen**

**Tues 27 Dec 10.00am Holy Communion: Feast of St John**

**Wed 28 Dec 9.30am Holy Communion: Feast of the Holy Innocents**

*we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Peaceful & Safe New Year*

## UPCOMING DIARY DATES

**19th December — 4th January inclusive XMAS Holidays**

**Pupils return to school on Thursday 5th January 2023**

10th January	9:15am	Parent Workshop - Focus: grammar, punctuation and spelling
12th January	9:15am	As above
19th January	6:30pm	SATs Presentation and Workshop - Year 2 parents only
1st February	3:00pm	Sharing Hour
7th February		Parent Consultations begin—Booking details sent separately



### COMMENTS, IDEAS OR SUGGESTIONS

**16th December 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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