



Wise Owls News

Spring Term Easter 1st April 2022

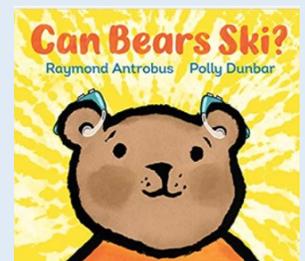
Welcome to Doddinghurst Infant School Newsletter

Dear Families,

It's been another amazing end to our Spring term, with a packed week of learning, sporting events, and celebrating all of our wonderful mums. It was particularly nice to be able to hold our Mother's Day assemblies in person where our families could see all the hard work our children had put in to show their mum just how special they are. However, we couldn't end the term without saying a big thank you to our dads, in particular, Mr Evans and Mr White who helped our Year 2 boys reach the final of the football tournament; a nail biting game where every child made us proud, demonstrating all of our school values. Mr Luxon was our plumbing super star and Mr Watson-Finch our electrician extraordinaire. Thank you all for your hard work and continued support, it is much appreciated. If only Mr Nicholson shared the same talents! Also, a huge shout out to Callie Morton's mum who provided Easter Eggs for all our children, as well as filling our school plant pots with lovely flowers - Thank you!

As always, a big thank you to my brilliant staff who have worked tirelessly to help the children reach their potential. We appreciate the positive comments made during Parent consultation appointments.

In recommended reads this week, we begin with our youngest readers. For our youngest readers, a book from the Spark Book Awards shortlist: 'The Pirate Mums' by Jodie Lancet-Grant. For fans of adventure, parrots, and the inexplicable sea shanty craze of 2021, this is a lovely story about family love and unity. In addition, the excellent 'Can Bears Ski?' by Raymond



Antrobus. Those looking to explore slalom skills and to discover the important theme of deafness.



For our adults our recommendation is 'The Master and Margarita', by Mikhail Bulgakov. It is a comment on totalitarian regimes, a portrayal of love and the face of evil, and some hilarious characters. It is very fun to read, and a unique piece of writing.

Enjoy the Easter break and family time, filled with restful, restorative and (most importantly) fun activities. Stay safe over the break and don't forget to read.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs Nicholson

EYFS UPDATES

SWIFTS and WOODPECKERS

When we returned after the half term break we talked about our own families and compared them to the character, Anna Hibiscus. We discussed the setting of the book and looked at the continent of Africa and the wide range of countries within it. During the week we explored food from the story and looked closely at a sweet potato, discussing the similarities and differences to a yam. We listened to traditional African music and investigated which instruments were used in the music.



The following week we had a very important job to do, we had to help Mr Wolf write a shopping list. Using our knowledge of our sounds we independently wrote the list of ingredients he would need to buy from the shops to make pancakes. We set up our role play area as a shop and used real money to purchase the items we needed, demonstrating our understanding of numbers and how to make 5. Later in the week we made pancakes, measuring and stirring the ingredients, before cooking them. At the end of the week we had a special visit from Mr Wolf and made him feel better because the other characters were not helpful.



We celebrated World Book Day coming to school dressed in our PJs and shared our love of books with our friends. We were very excited to welcome our parents into school for our Phonics workshop, we demonstrated how we read, spell and write. It was fun to share our learning with them. To celebrate Science Week we participated in a wide range of experiments across the school. In Year 1 we added different substances to cabbage water and observed the differences in colour. When we visited Year 2 we took part in the egg drop challenge, exploring different materials and investigated which ones would protect the egg best. Throughout the week we looked at the natural world around us and began our weekly Spring walks.



Preparing for our Mother's Day Assembly we used our creative skills to paint portraits of our Mummies, sang songs and danced. We worked extremely hard and all our teachers were very proud of our performance. We were so happy that we got to share this special experience with the important women in our families.

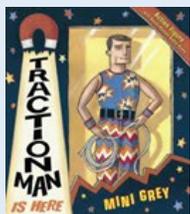


To finish off our very busy term we visited the church, where we were greeted by Rev Ann and were lucky to have a fun easter hunt on the grounds. During cooking we melted chocolate and crushed cereal to create our own Easter nest cakes, using key vocabulary during the activity. On the last day we had another egg hunt and our teachers were very proud when we received our reading awards in assembly. What an exciting end to our Spring term!

YEAR ONE UPDATES

CHAFFINCHES and ROBINS

Only one more term left until the children become Year 2's, and they are starting to show us that they are getting ready for that important move.



Having finished our work on 'Queen Victoria's Bathing Machine', we embarked on some adventures with Traction Man. This gave us some opportunities to look at toys from the past so that we could compare the different types of toys children played with in the past as well as the differences in the materials that toys are made from now. Lots of the children enjoyed talking to their grown-ups at home about their toys when they were younger— we think they were surprised that you had many of the same types of toys! We're not sure how old they think you are?!



We finished our display on 'Life Long Ago' by writing down the facts we knew about the Victorian Era. Many of the children remembered the dates that were important and some of the facts about life at home. We also completed our William Morris art prints, which turned out beautifully!



We hope that the mums appreciated the prints on the fronts of their Mothers Day cards.



We were so happy to be able to have all our mummies into school, to show them how much we love them. The children worked hard on all sorts of treats, including portraits, cards and songs. We hope that you were able to cross off lots of things from the Mothers' Day Bingo Board too, when the children did lots of nice things for you!



In math's the children have been learning lots of new skills—multiplication, division,



fractions and money. They have done a good job of applying lots of the number skills we learnt in the Autumn to help them solve problems this half term. They all understand that sharing and fractions should be fair—everyone should have the same sized piece of pancake!



Science week was also great fun and it gave us opportunities to work with other teachers in school. The children showed good prediction skills, and were often surprised by the results of their investigations. They all thought that Mrs Palmer was magic when she was able to turn purple cabbage water into 2 different colours, and then back to purple again!



The children have had a busy term and we hope that you all have a good rest and lots of chocolate over Easter, ready for the push towards entering year 2.

YEAR TWO UPDATES

SWANS and KINGFISHERS

There is only one more term until Swans and Kingfishers fly off to Junior School and the next stage of their learning journey begins. We are going to make the most of the time we have left together and are looking forward to our Summer Term topic '[What a Wonderful World](#)'.

This half term has been packed full of fun; we completed our '[Great Fire of London](#)' topic with an independent extended piece of writing, and everyone was impressed with how much we had learned.

World Book Day was a BLAST and we all came to school dressed in our cosy pyjamas. Throughout the day we took part in lots of different activities. Swans class read the classic English children's novel '[Alice in Wonderland](#)' by Lewis Carroll and Kingfishers class read the tale of '[Wind in the Willows](#)' by Kenneth Grahame. They escaped to the English countryside with woodland friends Ratty, Mole, Toad and Badger.



During [Science Week](#) we took part in lots of Science investigations, the '[Egg Drop Challenge](#)' was a particular favourite of ours, although some of our eggs did not survive '[The Drop](#)' and ended up all over our playground floor! In [English](#) we have been improving our reading and writing skills. We have written facts, diary entries, simile poems and researched the history of our local church. [Reverend Ann](#) came to visit us and we loved asking her questions and speaking about her role as a Vicar. We finished the term making [story maps](#) and writing the [Easter Story](#). Our [Design and Technology Week](#) saw us designing and making a tent. We followed a design brief and our product had to be a moveable shelter, supported by a frame, covered with a material and secured by cords or loops. Once we had made our tents we had to evaluate how successful they were, Emilia said that she would make some changes to her design '*Next time I would use wood to cover my roof rather than a non-waterproof material*'.



This half term in [Maths](#) we have focussed on division, problem solving and fractions. We took part in lots of practical Maths activities as well as solving [Pancake Day](#) themed word problems. We had to show our working out and explain how we managed to find our answers.

We really hope all of our Year Two Mums enjoyed our [Mothers Day Assembly](#)! We loved performing our songs, dances, poems and playing musical instruments for you. We made some memories that we will cherish forever.



As a school we are so proud of our [Year Two football team](#). They took part in the Shenfield Schools Partnership football tournament on Tuesday, and made it all the way to the final! They narrowly missed out on victory in the final by one goal. Well done to all the boys that took part... we are so proud of you all, you promoted our school values and proved that we always show respect to others, work hard and never give up. Dylan said '*I was so impressed with myself because I was our goalkeeper and I only let one goal in, our Dad coaches were great too!*'



EASTER AT ALL SAINTS

We were very lucky to have Reverend Ann in school this week, delivering a wonderful interactive assembly on the Easter Story. The children love these assemblies; they get dressed up, involved and really get to understand the messages she delivers.

The following will be happening during the Easter break as well as other activities that can be found on the [All Saints website](#):

Holy Week and Easter at All Saints

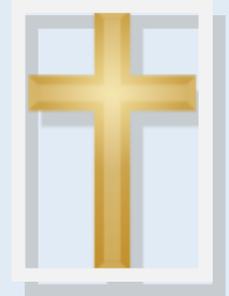
Services especially for children and families!

All welcome!

Palm Sunday, 10th April - 10:00am - Eucharist with blessing and distribution of Palms

Good Friday, 15th April - 10:30am - Family service with stations of the cross followed by Hot Cross Buns and making the Easter Garden

Easter Sunday, 17th April - 10:00am - Festival Eucharist followed by Easter Egg Hunt



COMMENTS, IDEAS OR SUGGESTIONS

1st April 2022

If you have any comments, ideas or suggestions, please drop us an email 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.

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DODDINGHURST INFANT SCHOOL

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