



Wise Owls News

Spring Term One 10th February 2023

Welcome to Doddinghurst Infant School Newsletter

Dear Parents, Carers & Friends,

This week marks the end of the first half term of 2023 and we are now half way through the school academic year. I am sure, like us, you are all ready for this well-deserved break. As February wears on, and with the return of the cold weather, winter can sometimes seem never ending. However as we begin to see the first signs of **Spring** and know that brighter days and warmer weather are on the way, it gives us all a boost.

This week we have been focusing on **Children's Mental Health**. The theme for this year has been 'Let's Connect'. The staff have created an amazing display celebrating how we as a school make meaningful connections. People thrive in communities, and this connection is vital for our wellbeing. When we have healthy connections – to family, friends and others – this can support our mental health and our sense of wellbeing. We hope you will complete the template sent home and join in connecting with us to show how we as a school family come together. One question to ask your child is; if we had a tray of Lego, would it be useful just by itself? What would we need to do to build something with it? How can we connect the pieces together to make something and why is it helpful working together? This just helps young children visualise what we are trying to explain and the importance of working with someone or a group to make something amazing.

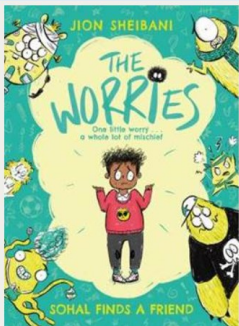


Tuesday was **Safer Internet Day**, based around; 'Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online'. Our Computing Curriculum ensures we are constantly talking about the issues surrounding safe use of devices when we are online. To support the message of online safety, we have, together with our Junior school, organised for the '2 John's', including an evening event for Parents, to talk to the children about the importance of staying safe. They are both qualified Police Trainers who offer EST E-Safety Training for children and their families. They seek to change everyone's approach to Online Child Exploitation to better enable us to deal with the very real modern-day risks. For parents they will open your eyes to a world we, as adults, didn't grow up in. Please save the date to attend this crucial parent support event; **Wednesday, 8th March 20:00—21:30**. Zoom links will be sent out near the time.

I hope that you all have a restful and enjoyable half term break, have fun, but more importantly take care and keep safe. Look forward to seeing you all back in school on **Monday 20th February**. ~Mrs Nicholson

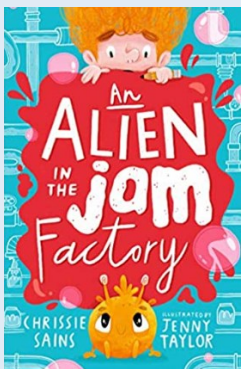


For the children



The Worries

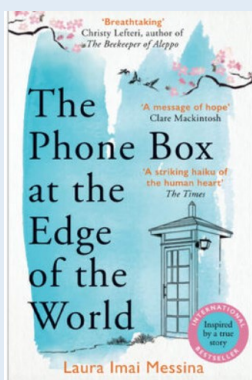
This light-hearted tale tackles a serious subject in an accessible manner and provides children with an opportunity to discuss their own anxieties. The key message is that worries must be acknowledged and managed, rather than suppressed and ignored, or they will grow and become much harder to deal with. The book also suggests that everyone is anxious about something, which should encourage children to develop feelings of compassion and empathy.



An Alien in the jam factory

Scooter McLay's cerebral palsy affects how quickly he can move his body, but his hyper-creative brain is a constant fizz of brilliant ideas. He spends every day inventing top secret recipes and machines for his family's jam factory. There's just one thing missing ... a pet, to share it all with. Or better still, a friend. When a tiny alien named Fizzbee crashes through the factory window, she might just be the answer. Now it's all hands on deck, as they team up to save the factory from dastardly neighbour Daffy Dodgy.

For the Adults



The Phone Box at the Edge of the World

We all have something to tell those we have lost . . . On a windy hill in Japan, in a garden overlooking the sea stands a disused phone box. For years, people have travelled to visit the phone box, to pick up the receiver and speak into the wind: to pass their messages to loved ones no longer with us. When Yui loses her mother and daughter in the tsunami, she is plunged into despair and wonders how she will ever carry on. One day she hears of the phone box, and decides to make her own pilgrimage there, to speak once more to the people she loved the most. But when you have lost everything, the right words can be the hardest thing to find . . .

Maths Challenge



Something new—Math's challenges. Make sure to show your school values of 'resilience' to help you complete the challenges.

Question 1

My Coat has three different buttons. Sometimes I do them up starting with the top button sometimes, I start somewhere else:



How many ways can you find to do up my coat?

How will you remember them?

Do you think there are any more? How do you know?

Question 2

In Sam and Jill's garden there are two sorts of ladybirds. There are red Seven-Spot ladybirds with 7 black spots and shiny black Four-Spot ladybirds with 4 red spots. Sam and Jill looked at a leaf with three ladybirds on it.

"One Seven-Spot ladybird," said Sam, "and two Four-Spot ones." "That's 15 spots altogether!" laughed Jill. "I wonder if we could find ladybirds whose spots add to other numbers. I know how to do 16." "And 14 is easy too," added Sam.



How would you make 16 and 14 spots with the Seven-Spot and Four-Spot ladybirds?

What other numbers can you make with adding 4s and 7s?

Can you get lots of numbers from say 4 to 35?

Are there some numbers you can't get?

EYFS UPDATES

SWIFTS and WOODPECKERS

What a start to 2023 we have had in EYFS! Our new topic 'Ice' fit very well with the weather we had when we returned to school. The children proudly displayed their ice sculptures in an outdoor gallery and their designs were out of this world. We explored how different temperatures impact materials and observed how our sculptures changed in the sun. One morning, we were shocked to find our classrooms filled with snowflakes and the children had received a letter from a mysterious visitor called Jack Frost!



During dance we were influenced by our topic ice and used our bodies to reflect the new vocabulary we had learnt. We worked collaboratively in groups at the Lego workshop to make snow flakes using different 3-D shapes while in Maths we have been adding two amounts together, making numbers such as six and seven, and challenging ourselves to write a number sentence.

We explored different environments linking into our new book *The Blue Penguin* inspiring us to create a background scene using a range of different materials. In Computing we used 2simple paint to draw our own penguin, thinking about the relevant colours and shapes. We even wrote our own non-fiction book about penguins and applied our knowledge of phase 2 and 3 sounds including digraphs and newly introduced tricky words to spell words. This linked in with our parent spelling workshop, utilising available resources such as sound mats.



In Forest School we have focussed on our gross motor skills, by swinging on the vine, rope swing, walking across a tight rope and building dens.



As part of Creative Arts week we focussed on a significant artist from the past called David Bowie. Throughout the week we learnt about his life and how he enjoyed expressing himself through music and fashion. At the end of the week we were excited to welcome a visitor who taught us more about him and participated in a whole school assembly, joining together with singing and dancing.

We finished the half term with Children's Mental Health week. We focused on Make it Monday, Technology Tuesday – being safe online, Well-Being Wednesday, Thoughtful Thursday and Fitness Friday. On Friday we celebrated with a fun filled and energetic fitness workshop and demonstrated our new skills during a whole school assembly.



We would like to thank you for all your hard work and support with reading at home, learning new sounds and especially tricky words. We are super, super proud of all the children. Enjoy half term!

YEAR ONE UPDATES

CHAFFINCHES and ROBINS

Wow! We cannot believe it is half term already! The weeks since Christmas seem to have flown by, probably because the children have all been working so hard.

We had a brilliant start to the term with the children returning to school with beautiful ice sculptures linking to our new theme 'Ice and Fire!' We were all very impressed with the whole school sculpture park we created and enjoyed visiting to look at the different creations.

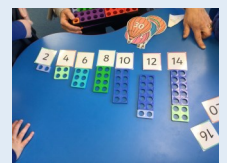


During our busy Creative Arts week the children were able to meet Mr Palmer and use only white Lego to create snowflakes. We talked about how many sides they had and how to build the starting structure, and then the children were free to create. They built some beautiful models.



Other activities during the week included - dancing to Vivaldi's winter music, inspiring us to make our own winter music and creating a winter tree at night, with a frosty moon in the background. We are certain that you heard about our 'famous' visitor, David Bowie, who delighted the children with his singing and dancing!

Our new maths topic this half term has been multiplication. We started by learning our doubles for numbers to 10 and then counting in multiples of 2s, 5s and 10s. The children then spent time rehearsing the vocabulary and practising their skills, linked to multiplication, using a variety of resources, including Numicon and cubes. The children have worked very hard - maybe they could even do some practise during the holiday!



We have made links between our English and Science learning this half term, with our new book 'Winter's Sleep: A hibernation story'. We started with learning by thinking about what winter is like and then comparing it to summer. Then we acted in role as the boy in the story, and wrote letters home to tell our parents what we had been doing with Grannie Sylvie, since she knows so much about nature. We continued our learning by gathering facts about hibernation and some of the animals that hibernate, and this will continue after half term as we continue to learn about different types of animals.

Our History learning has also supported our theme of 'Ice and Fire!' as we have started to learn about the two explorers Robert Scott and Roald Amundsen and their adventures at the South Pole. We thought about what they might have taken with them, but had to remember it was in 1911 and not 2023!



As you can see, we have been very busy — have a rest over half term, ready for next half term!

YEAR TWO UPDATES

SWANS and KINGFISHERS

We have spent the last half term learning about our new topic [‘Ice and Fire’](#). When we came back to school after our Christmas break we began reading the book [‘Leaf’](#) by Sandra Dieckman. The story is about a polar bear that washed up on the edge of a wild wood, and as a year group we followed the adventures of Leaf as he navigated his way around a strange and unknown environment. The children wrote letters, made predictions, took part in role play activities and enjoyed sketching polar bears whilst exploring posture, line and shape.



At the start of January we began learning about [Multiplication](#). As a year group we completed lots of fun practical Maths challenges. We have managed to answer ‘true’ and ‘false’ questions, solve word problems, and count in multiples of 2’s, 5’s and 10’s. We spent lots of time developing our reasoning skills and showing our working out using arrays. After half term we will continue to explore [division](#) in more depth.



We welcomed [Mrs Arnold](#) to Year Two on Monday mornings. She taught us lots of new skills in [gymnastics](#) and we enjoyed using the springboard, wall bars, ropes, crash mats and benches. We are now able to use the gymnastics equipment to perform a shape with a strong body and control. We can also travel across gymnastics mats with control and good body tension.

We have continued to enjoy our adventures in [Forest School](#). We have explored the woodland environment and played team games in the forest. Everyone built a tightrope that we had to travel across, and we spent time building a hammock from ropes and a giant piece of cloth.



We wanted to take this opportunity to congratulate all the children that took part in the [Multi Skills Competition](#) at Shenfield. The children proudly represented our school and took part in lots of exciting sporting challenges. Leigha said *‘The parachute challenge was so much fun!’* Brady said *‘I liked the bowling ball challenge the most, I was really good at it and got all 6 stickers!’*

This week to celebrate [Tasty Tuesday](#) we enjoyed making an arctic fruit salad. We put our chef skills to the test and practiced chopping, grating and mixing different fruits together. We added a scoop of vanilla ice-cream to the finished product. Our teachers were very impressed with us and the best part of the whole activity was that we got to eat everything we made!

To finish the half term we have taken part in a [Kidz Fit](#) workshop. We danced, jumped and sung our hearts out. We all had so much fun learning about how to maintain a healthy mind and body, we also found out about the different types of foods that are good for healthy bones, teeth and muscles.

We hope that everyone has a great half term and enjoys spending time with their family and friends. We will see you back at school on 20th February when we will be starting to learn all about [The Great Fire of London!](#)

ATTENDANCE

SPRING TERM

1st = Swans - 96.3%

2nd = Robins - 95.8%

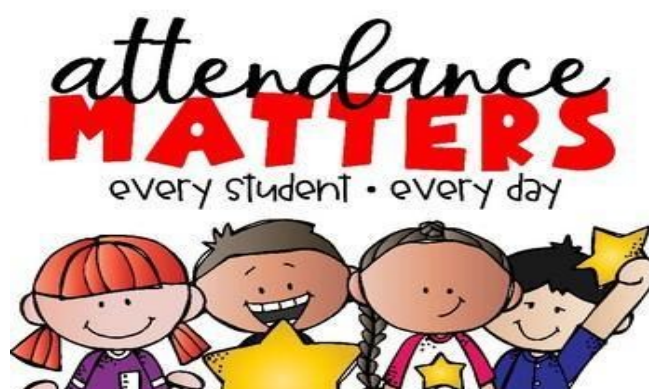
3rd = Swifts - 95.6%

3rd = Kingfishers - 95.6%

4th = Chaffinches - 95.3%

5th = Woodpeckers - 94.1%

WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE: 95.4%



STUDYBUGS—ABSENCE REPORTING APP

You should already be aware, we use an efficient and secure system for reporting your child's absence due to illness, called Studybugs.

Please download the free Studybugs app and use it to tell us if your child is ill and unable to attend school.

<https://studybugs.com/about/parents>

Please note: the absence telephone line will soon be unavailable.

GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE

Children from 5 to 16 must attend school regularly during term time. You may be fined or prosecuted if your child is regularly absent without the school's permission.

New guidelines state, 96% and below is classed as poor attendance and a letter will be issued. 90% and below is classed as a persistent absentee.

As a school we check attendance regularly. If you are having difficulties we are unaware of, please let us know so that we may assess the support available.

13th February — 17th February inclusive Half Term break
Pupils return to school on Monday 20th February 2023

UPCOMING DIARY DATES

3rd March		World Book Day
6th-10th March		Science Week
15th March	10:00am	Mother's Day assembly—Year 2 parents only
16th March	10:00am	Mother's Day assembly—Year 1 parents only
17th March	10:00am	Mother's Day assembly—EYFS parents only
17th March		Comic Relief Day
23rd March	3:00pm	Sharing Hour
29th March	3-4:30pm	Easter Stay & Play



Easter Holidays — 3rd April—14th April inclusive
Pupils return to school on Monday 17th April 2023

COMMENTS, IDEAS OR SUGGESTIONS

10th February 2023

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.

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