



Wise Owls News

Spring Term Two 31st March 2023

Welcome to Doddinghurst Infant School Newsletter

Dear Parents, Carers & Friends,

Many amazing experiences have taken place this half term but today's sponsored walk for Autism tops them all. A huge thank you to our families for digging deep and giving so generously. Our balance so far stands at **£2,701** the most we have ever raised for any of the charities we support, and there is still more to come – **FANTASTIC**. The biggest cheer must be for our children, who in the pouring rain walked their designated laps; EYFS needed to do 5 laps, Year 1, 8 and Year 2, 10, some even challenged themselves to do more. To my staff who stood outside encouraging the children to keep going, shouting with great enthusiasm and at times joining in with the walk, just to keep warm. **A BIG THANK YOU!**

The fun just kept on coming with a surprise visit from the Easter bunny; any ideas who it could be? The children enjoyed hunting for Easter eggs and gifts from our amazing village knitters. What an talented group of ladies, who spend their time keeping each other updated with news whilst using their knitting skills to create some brilliant Easter creations for our children. Another **BIG THANK YOU!**

Our Mums and some Nannies also had a treat this month with our Mother's Day assemblies; how proud did you all feel? I know we were all delighted with their efforts, their poems, pictures and songs bringing a tear to many.

We are always happy to invite visitors to our school to engage with the children's learning. More so this year when during Science week we were pleased to have Mrs Howard demonstrate some very exciting experiments. It was interesting to see what happens to Jelly beans when they meet the enzymes in our tummies!

The E-Safety event run by the 2 Johns certainly opened our eyes to a world we, as adults, didn't grow up in but the informative evening zoom presentation certainly made us realise that our children are growing up within and into this digital age. The staff and I were amazed at what our children knew. Especially the 56% of children compared to the 5% of parents who knew the Discord instant messaging social platform.

The NSPCC are running a series of free Online Safety Workshops for Parents and Carers on zoom throughout April. These 'Keeping Children Safe Online' workshops help parents and carers understand why young people go online and gives them resources to help keep them safe. For more information please email parentworkshops@nspcc.org.uk.

Enjoy the Easter break and family time. Stay safe over the break and don't forget to read. Thank you for your continued support. *Mrs Nicholson*





Recommended READS

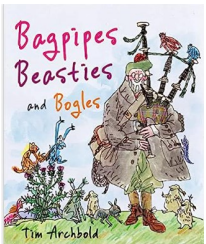
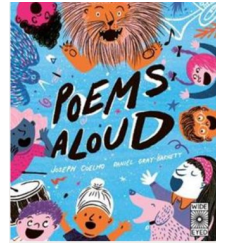


Three Little Vikings

A Trio of young Viking investigates the cause of various mishaps and antics and do so amusingly and with fun illustrations.

Poems Aloud

Coelho's 'Poems Aloud' is a scintillatingly accessible volume of performance poetry, designed to be read, shouted, orated and delivered out loud. Joseph Coelho shows us that poems are made to read OUT LOUD! In this wittily illustrated anthology of poems, designed to be read aloud, twenty poems arm children with techniques for lifting poetry off the page and performing with confidence.



Bagpipes, Beasties and Bogles

An entirely fictional account of how bagpipes are made. 'Bagpipes, Beasties and Bogles', by Tim Archbold, is cunningly wrought and surprisingly funny, and a nice celebration of Scottish culture and myth

ATTENDANCE

1st = Chaffinches - 94.8%

2nd = Swifts - 94.3%

3rd = Swans - 93.2%

3rd = Robins - 91.7%

4th = Kingfishers - 91.1%

5th = Woodpeckers - 90.4%

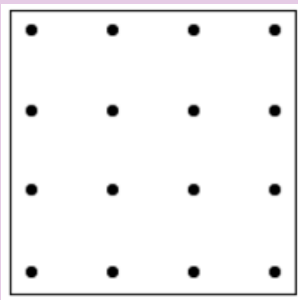
WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE: 92.8%

Maths Challenge

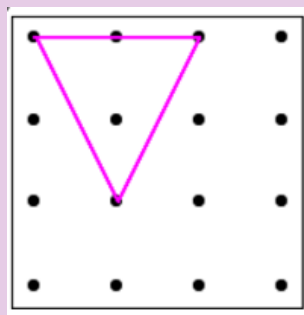


Remember to show your school values of 'resilience' to help you complete the challenges.

Question 1



Here is a four by four dotted grid.



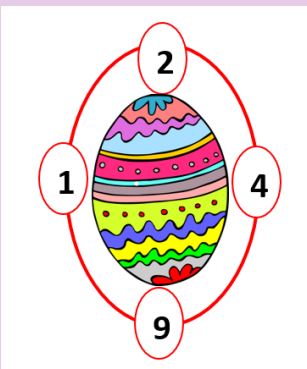
I have joined three dots on the grid to make a triangle which has one dot inside it.

How many different triangles with one dot in the middle can you draw?

How do you know you have found them all?

Question 2

Here is a picture of four numbers joined together around the Easter Egg. Each number is joined to two other:



What do you see?

What do you notice?

Choose four numbers from these—1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 to put in the circles so the difference between the joined squares is odd.

Only one number is allowed in each circle. You must use four different number.

What can you say about the sum of each pair of joined numbers?

What must you do to make the difference even?

EYFS UPDATES SWIFTS and WOODPECKERS



When we returned to school we were greeted with a basket full of ingredients, Mr Wolf had given us his leftovers so we could make pancakes too. The following day, we demonstrated we could sequence pictures and write instructions for each stage. At the end of the week we found out our new book included a wolf and some pancakes. We used our knowledge of traditional tales to write a character description of the wolf. The following week school was full of excitement and enthusiasm for reading as we celebrated World Book Week. We celebrated in our houses, dressed up, attended a workshop with Leslie Williams and finished the week performing our class story during a whole school assembly. Then we transformed from book characters into scientists! Each day we visited a different year group and had fun



conducting different experiments such as exploring forces using magnets, learning about electricity and creating our own circuits. We finished Science Week with a huge finale, a scientist visited our school and conducted some exciting live experiments in the hall. There were many "oooo's" and "ahhhs's". Wow, what a week!



In Maths, we have been exploring the composition of the numbers 9 and 10. We have explored all the different ways we can make those numbers. Recording our knowledge of number bonds on part whole models and number sentences.

We explored the theme of families through the book, So Much. This led us onto the special women in our lives, such as our Mummies and Nannies. Using our creative skills, we painted portraits, sang songs and recited poetry to celebrate the wonderful women in our Mother's Day Assembly. This finally led us into Spring and we explored the beauty of nature and new life through the book, The Twelve Days of Springtime. As a year group we found this topic very



engaging. It was very exciting to visit the school pond area and find a huge amount of frog spawn! We studied daffodils and demonstrated we could paint our own flowers and label them in Computing, using a mouse and keyboard. Our understanding of life cycles impressed our teachers and we enjoyed performing them through dance during PE. As we approached Easter we began to understand how eggs

and new life were linked. Rev Ann visited school to talk to us about the story of Easter. We had great fun hunting for easter eggs in the school hall (the weather was not kind) and spotted a familiar fluffy figure with floppy ears hopping around school. Before the term came to a close, we all came together as a school to walk together for Autism and celebrated our differences.



YEAR ONE UPDATES

CHAFFINCHES and ROBINS

Here we are again—at the end of another busy half term. We can't believe it is the Easter holiday already and the children will be returning to school for their final term in Year 1!

We continued to enjoy our book 'Winter's Sleep: A hibernation story'. We all wrote a fact file about a mammal that hibernates, like a hedgehog, bat or dormouse. This then led us on to the rest of our Science work about why these animals are mammals, what other groups there are and how we can group animals by what they eat.



This Science learning was not as exciting as all the work we did during 'Science Week'. Thank you for all the shirts and lab coats that the children arrived in on the first day—it really made them feel like real scientists. Lots of fun was had over the week, carrying out various investigations, not only in our own classes but also learning from other teachers too. During our busy week the children made chemical reactions to create volcanos. They used their knowledge of materials to sort objects using magnets, and built bridges to hold coins and bricks. But the best activity by far was the assembly shared with us by Mrs Howard from Shenfield School Science department (and one of our parents). The whole school were 'wowed' by her chemical reactions—especially the screaming jelly baby! This was followed by rocket building and launching, using the rocket launchers that she left for us.

Another themed week we enjoyed was book week. Having house activities to start the week was exciting, with teachers sharing some of their favourite books and lots of craft activities. It was also lovely to have the opportunity to share our favourite books with each other and the different characters that were reflected across the two classes in the costumes, was lovely.



Our new maths topics this half term have been halves and quarters and money—the children are now well aware of coins and their value! This has involved lots of practical work, including halving and quartering pancakes and playing shops. Maybe you can practise some more over the holiday with your Easter eggs and



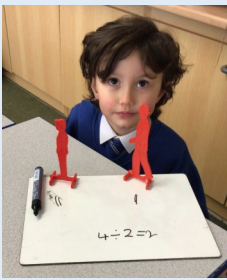
give half to someone in your family, or sell your eggs to earn some more pocket money! We have also tried hard to keep fit this half term—with the help of the 'Fitkidz' workshop and 'Skip to be Fit'. Skipping has now become a popular pastime at break and lunch! With all these themed weeks and activities, we thought we would never get to our theme of 'Fire', but luckily Shirley Hughes came to our rescue with another great poem—'Fire!', which inspired us to write our own. We thought about the sights, sounds, smells and feelings associated with fire. All the children did a great job.

Have a great Easter Break—don't eat too much chocolate. See you in April!

YEAR TWO UPDATES

SWANS and KINGFISHERS

We have spent the last half of the Spring Term travelling back in time to **1666** and have been learning about **'The Great Fire of London'**. We have found out so many interesting facts about The Great Fire and the diary of Samuel Pepys. We have discovered that only a small number of people died in the Great Fire, but around 13,000 houses and 87 churches were burnt down, including the original St Paul's Cathedral. We have



written facts and diary entries detailing the events of the fire; our teachers have been very impressed with our knowledge!

At the start of February we continued learning about **division**. As a year group we completed lots of practical Maths challenges. We have also been working very hard to find **fractions** of shapes and numbers. We have been working independently to solve word problems and have challenged ourselves to reach the 'Challenge Cup'.

We welcomed **Lesley Williams** to Year Two. She taught us about the importance of teamwork and friendships. We performed dances and songs to the rest of the school during an assembly and a great time was had by us all! We really look forward to welcoming her back for our final term in Year Two.

Half way through the half term we took part in another **Kidz Fit** workshop. Our instructor hosted a speed jumping and hula hooping competition. 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.



Science Week was a blast! We made real life rockets and launched them in the school hall; we completed the **Curly Wurly Challenge** and managed to stretch our Curly Wurllys to almost 1 meter in length! Matilda said **'I had so much fun, but the best part of the entire experiment was getting to eat the chocolate after we had finished!'**

We loved welcoming all our Mum's into school for our **Mother's Day Assembly**, we really hope you enjoyed all of our performances! Our singing was a highlight of ours and even though we all had nervous tummies before we started, seeing all of your smiling faces looking back at us really put us at ease.



To see in the **Easter** break we have taken part in a chick and Easter egg hunt at the Church, we have made lots of Easter crafts and cards and welcomed the Easter Bunny!

The Year Two team would like to wish you all a restful and happy Easter. We hope that everyone enjoys spending time with their family and friends. We will see you back at school on 17th April when we will be starting our new topic **'Location, Location, Location.'**



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



UPCOMING DIARY DATES

2nd—26th May SATs Month—It is **VITALLY** important children are in school!
11th May 3-4:45pm **Movie & Munch**
22nd May 3:00pm **Sharing Hour**

29th May — 2nd June inclusive Half Term break
Pupils return to school on Monday 4th June 2023



COMMENTS, IDEAS OR SUGGESTIONS

31st March 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.

01277 822721



DODDINGHURST INFANT SCHOOL

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