



# Wise Owls News

Spring Term Two

28th March 2024

## Welcome to Doddinghurst Infant School Newsletter

### Dear Parents, Carers & Friends,

*Welcome to* the final newsletter of the spring term; one of the shortest in the year and yet with the same amount of things to achieve. It's been an amazing end, overflowing with lots of exciting learning, sporting events and celebrations. I always feel so proud when I see how much our children have flourished, especially when they performed in our Mother's Day assemblies. They sang beautifully and the EYFS portraits of their mummy's, well how life like they were! It was lovely that our families could see all the hard work our children and staff had put into the event. Our Mummy's definitely felt loved and cherished, it bought a tear to many. Don't forget Dad's to sign up for your lunch date with your children during June.

We pride ourselves in the various sporting events we enter so for me it was a real treat to attend a drama and dance session held at Shenfield school. I was not only impressed with their behavior, which was second to none, but also their ability to dive right in, work with the older children and end the session with their own dance routine. I might be just a lit bit biased but WOW did I feel proud to be their head teacher; Thank you children.



We were fortunate to see just a little bit of blue sky and sun over the past couple of week. It makes such a difference and with the lighter evenings you get a real sense that spring is just round the corner. Don't forget to turn the clocks forward on Easter Sunday!

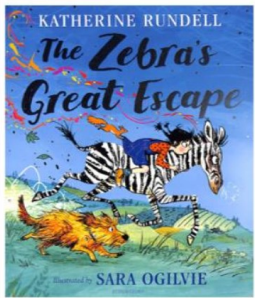


If you're looking for a little Easter gift that isn't chocolate then this read for our little people is really one to buy; 'Little Dinosaurs, Big Feelings'. With not one but three authors, (Swapna Haddow & Dr Diplo and Yiting Lee) this collection of small stories follows cretaceous critters navigating complex emotions and pursuing active mindfulness. It's lovely and warm and gentle, and good for helping the youngest amongst us to put names to their feelings, and we know how hard that can be.

As always a **BIG THANK YOU** to my brilliant staff who have worked tirelessly to help the children reach their potential, despite a variety of illness, which included Scarlet Fever! Enjoy the Easter break and family time. Stay safe over the break and thank you for your continued support. Mrs Nicholson

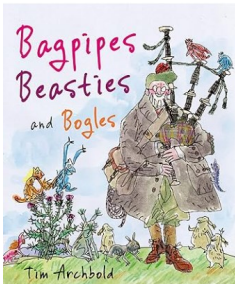
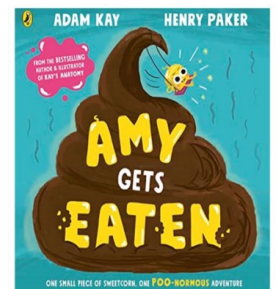


# Recommended READS



Katherine Rundell's 'The Zebra's Great Escape'. This book has a wild and free spirited energy running through it, and the writing style is entertainingly playful and up-tempo. There's also some rather lovely themes about animal's feelings and needs and personalities, and one rather inspiring pigtailed protagonist.

Adam Kay's 'Amy gets Eaten'. This book is dedicated to the serious study of the human digestive system, which is to say that it follows the plight of an excitable piece of sweetcorn who is eaten (on a pizza slice, of all things) and then follows the full course of innards before exiting the process via the usual route. It is enjoyably gross, or just enjoyable, depending who's reading it and one to engage our less reluctant readers. At this age this is a subject they all giggle about!



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

Don't forget you can always visit the library. The endless amount of information spanning history, geography and science, as well as the creative and imaginative fictional offerings, allows a child to find out information about anything and everything they want.

## SPRING TERM 2 ATTENDANCE

1<sup>st</sup> = Woodpeckers - 96.5%

2<sup>nd</sup> = Kingfishers - 95.8%

3<sup>rd</sup> = Chaffinches - 95.2%

4<sup>th</sup> = Swifts - 93.8%

5<sup>th</sup> = Swans - 93.3%

6<sup>th</sup> = Robins - 91.7%

WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

94.4%

# Maths Challenge



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

## Question 1

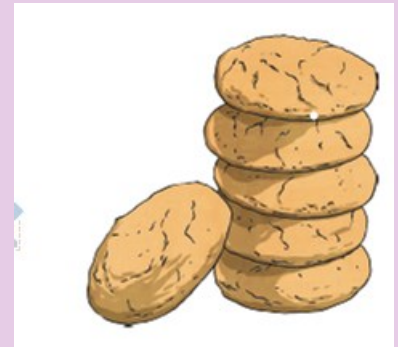
Daniel is making Easter biscuits. Here is his recipe:

80g flour

40g butter

15g lemon zest

25ml water



He has 120g of butter. How much of the other ingredients will he need for his recipe?

## Question 2



The Easter Bunny has a team of 8 helpers.

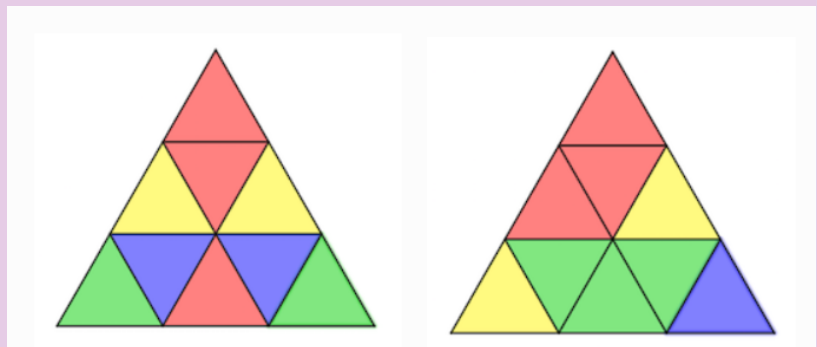
Each helper makes 6 eggs. How many eggs do the helpers make altogether.

## Question 3:

What do you notice?

What is the same and what is different about the two pictures?

How many triangles can you see altogether?



Can you create your own symmetrical pattern?

## EYFS UPDATES

### SWIFTS and WOODPECKERS

When we returned to school we were very busy preparing for our Mother's Day assembly. We expressed our love for our mummies through art, singing and wrote some phrases about why we loved our mummies so much. We explored the theme of families through the story *So Much* and we all enjoyed the repetitive phrases and rhythm of the words. In Maths, we explored doubling amounts and used resources such as dominoes to help us find the answers. As we approached Mother's Day we read another story linked to families called *My Mum* and enjoyed listening to the similes and found the illustrations in the book amusing. We had a fantastic time celebrating World Book Day and enjoyed dressing up as our favourite book characters. In Art we made our book characters using toilet rolls and a range of materials. We were excited to receive a package of new books for our class libraries from the Reading Fairy.



During our Maths lessons we learnt about 3D shapes and looked at real life objects that were similar shapes. The following week we were very surprised to find mysterious eggs in our classrooms. We used our prior knowledge of how living things begin life and made predictions about what could be inside the eggs. When our teachers told us there were dinosaurs growing inside, we made it our mission to find out as much about dinosaurs as we could. In Maths we explored length and height, using resources such as building blocks, rulers and metre sticks. We continued learning about dinosaurs through the story *Dinosaur Roar* and looked at rhyming words. During our phonics lessons we had a go at writing our own list of rhyming words, ensuring the word endings sounded the same. As we neared the end of our dinosaur topic, we had a special visit from Mrs Clare and she shared all of her illustrations from her sketch book with us. Mrs Mansell was so impressed with our drawings of dinosaurs, using water colours and oil pastels.



In our final week we learnt about the Easter story and why Christians celebrate Easter. We discussed how Easter is linked to eggs, new life and Christianity. We all sequenced the story and wrote sentences to describe the main events in the story. Rev Ann welcomed us into our local church so we could look at the paintings of the stations of the cross. As part of Maths, we looked at time and events that happen over a period of time. We challenged

ourselves to see how many times we could write our name and how many star jumps we could do in one minute. To prepare for Easter we made chocolate nest cakes and discussed how we could melt chocolate; we thoroughly enjoyed eating our cakes during snack time. During the week we went for a walk to the school pond area and wellbeing garden while looking for signs of spring. We took photos of our observations and discussed how new life is linked to Easter and the season of Spring.



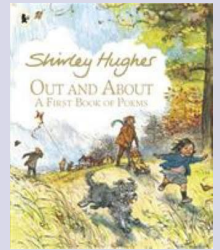
We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our families for your continued support with our learning. We hope you all have a restful break and make lots of lovely memories during the Easter break.

## 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!

This half term in English we have been looking at poems from the book 'Out and About' by Shirley Hughes. The children have written their own versions of the poems 'Cold' and also 'Fire'. Part of learning during our poetry focus has been reciting and performing to the class. They have thoroughly enjoyed this and it has helped to increase their confidence.



In History we have continued our topic 'Life Long Ago...' focusing on toys and how they have changed. The children enjoyed bringing in their favourite toy from home and telling the class how they play with it. Mrs Newman and Mrs Walker told the children about their favourite toys growing up which were a rocking horse and trolls.

We were very lucky to have Mrs Boutel come in to talk the children about the toys and games she played when she was a little girl in the 1950s. They were particularly interested to learn that girls were not encouraged to play football, get muddy or play with boys toys, as this was not deemed ladylike.

Another themed week we enjoyed was World Book Day. 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.



We have had fun learning about the UK, the countries within it and each of their capital cities. The children have enjoyed map work, locating where we live, and places in the UK that they have visited. Perhaps if you are going away this Easter on holiday or visiting family, you could help your child by locating this destination on a map of the UK or world.



In Forest school the children have been learning how to saw wood safely, built dens for adults and small fairy houses. As always, the children gain so much from the freedom to explore the wooded area whilst showing respect for the trees, plants and animals that live there.

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

## YEAR TWO UPDATES

### SWANS and KINGFISHERS



What a whistle stop half term that was! On return to school we collaborated and organised a memorable **Mother's Day Assembly** based on the roles we had chosen to showcase. We wrote heartfelt diary entries containing adjectives and adverbs. Proving that it is the little things that are indeed very big in our children's lives. Archie B recalls his holiday and time with Mum being a **'terrific time!'**. Our musicians performed using glockenspiels, conducted by our resident conductors.

As a school we have worked hard to support charities, fundraising and thinking of those who may not be as fortunate as us. We have worn as much red as possible for **Red Nose Day** and wore hats to support **Brain Tumour Awareness**.



For **World Book Day** we arrived as our most loved story characters, Fiction and non fiction. We united as a school in the hall admiring the imagination and creativity of our friends. Not least, the glamorous Princess and the Pea combo! We then enjoyed a book focussed activity as part of our House Teams. As Year Two, the children showed great responsibility and kindness collaborating with our younger house team members. Finally we used our DT skills and Eco Warrior recycling initiatives to repurpose a toilet roll into our chosen characters. These are now in pride of place adorning the library.

This half term in English we have investigated a range of poems from Michael Rosen and Julia Donaldson. The children enjoyed reciting their own choice of poems to their peers using actions and expression. In Maths, we solved division problems and applied these skills when finding fractions of a number. They had fun finding out how we can use fractions in everyday life, such as sharing a pizza and cakes with friends and family!



**Lesley Williams** performed an energetic workshop to celebrate **World Poetry Day**. She focussed on friendship and kindness using Snow White and the Seven Dwarves characters to consider desirable friendship qualities.

To develop our understanding of **The Easter Story** we welcomed visitors from our church community. They took us on a 'Sadness to Joy' workshop journey, where we used drama and role play to bring the story to life. Finding **joy, light** and **special messages** that we can also share when retelling the Easter Story. Our Easter Gardens are now being tenderly watered. Maybe they can be recreated at home!





**Easter Holidays — 29th March—12th April inclusive**  
**Pupils return to school on Monday 15th April 2023**



## UPCOMING DIARY DATES

Monday 22nd April	9:15 an	Parent workshop for all year groups—Maths 2
Tuesday 23rd April	9:15 am	Parent workshop for all year groups—Maths 2
Thursday 25th April	9:00 am	Coffee & Chat
Monday 6th May		May Bank Holiday - NON Pupil day
Friday 17th May	3:00 pm	Sharing hour

**27th May — 31st May inclusive Half Term break**  
**Pupils return to school on Monday 3rd June 2024**

### COMMENTS, IDEAS OR SUGGESTIONS

**28th March 2024**

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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