



Wise Owls News

Summer Term Two

20th July 2022

Welcome to Doddinghurst Infant School Newsletter

Dear Parents, Carers & Friends,

'In the blink of an eye' is how I feel this academic year has gone, and yet we have achieved so much. I am always in awe of our children and their achievements, not only academically, but for putting Doddinghurst Infants on the sporting map for their success in a myriad of sports: qualifying for the District 3 Tees Cricket and Panathlon tournaments. As well as, demonstrating their brilliant artistic skills, reaching the final in the Bay Tree Art Competition.

We know it doesn't just happen, there are so many people who work behind the scenes to make sure our children have the best education we can offer. From my amazing teaching team who continue to support and help our children achieve their best, our MDAs and Catering staff who make sure that hour and a half is full of fun; to parents old and new who go the extra mile and help us with jobs that we are just not skilled to do (or have the money for), ex students who return and are willing to help out, giving back to the school they loved; Governors, offering their time; Mrs Lewis our resident Play Therapist and our brilliant LSAs who have so many skills and ensure the smooth running of the classroom, and finally to Mrs Walker who basically does the rest. My job, well, with out the above magic ingredients, would be ten times harder, so to you all a very heart felt **THANK YOU** for helping me make our school special in so many ways. I'm not a football fan , sorry, but I do like Jurgen Klopp's ethos; **'if you want special results, you have to feel special things and do special things together'**, to me that is what makes Doddinghurst Infant School unique.

It is also this time of year when we sadly say a fond farewell to our brilliant Year 2's and their families who we want to thank for all their warmth, memories and the learning that we have shared over the years; especially when we consider the surreal situation we found ourselves in with remote learning and bubbles! We have genuinely loved teaching them, watching their own unique characters develop. We know that the skills and talents that they have cultivated over their time with us, will ensure that they continue to create, innovate and challenge themselves; **THANK YOU** for being part of our unique family. We will also sadly be saying our goodbyes to some very special and valuable members of our team: Mrs McGeorge and Mrs Sweetman. I am deeply grateful to them for all their support, help and kindness they have given our children and the school; you will both be very much missed.

Thank you from all the staff for your very generous gifts and kind words. Wishing you all a happy holiday filled with sunshine (below 40C!!) and fun. Stay safe. All the very best, Mrs Nicholson

EYFS UPDATES

WOODPECKERS and SWIFTS



There was a mysterious parcel waiting for us when we returned after the half term break. When we opened it, we found a London bus inside! We used our creative skills, such as painting, to create our own bus. When it was finished we got inside and used it during our role play activities. We discussed our experiences of London buses and looked at the features of them. Using chairs we made our own bus and pretended we were going on a journey.

We have been very excited because each day a member of the class took the Naughty Bus home and wrote in our class book about their adventures and shared it with us all. During the story, the Naughty Bus fell in a pond so we decided to visit our school pond area to observe how the frog spawn had changed.

During Healthy Living Week we had a great time in the 'Fit Kidz' workshop where we learnt lots of facts about our bodies and how to keep them healthy. We thoroughly enjoyed our first Sports Day and participated with enthusiasm. We read 'Oliver's Vegetables' and sorted healthy and unhealthy foods.



We read 'Yucky Worms' and became fascinated by worms and all the wonderful jobs they do for the environment. During our independent learning we looked for worms in our outside area and made habitats for them. We asked lots of questions and found it hilarious when we found out that worms poo and they help flowers grow.

In Literacy, we listened to Spike Milligan's poem about worms, which inspired us to write our own class poem. In small groups, we added actions and performed our poem to the rest of the class. We were very happy when Leslie Williams returned. She used role play, Shrek characters and dance to discuss our transition and prepare us for moving onto our new chapter in Year 1.



During our final week of school, we kept cool by having fun in the water, hanging out in the Computer Suite (the air con was lovely!) and enjoyed ice poles.

Our teachers have been very proud of the progress we have made this year and are so impressed with how independent we have become.

Thank you for all your support with our home learning. We're looking forward to a break over the summer and our new adventures in Year 1.

YEAR ONE UPDATES

CHAFFINCHES and ROBINS

What a busy final term it is has been; the children have not stopped learning! It has been pleasing to see how they have continued to challenge themselves so that they can show their new Year 2 teachers how much they have learned.

We have continued our theme of 'What a Wonderful World!' with the interesting discovery that not only is there a Brentwood here in Essex, England but there is also a Brentwood in Perth, Australia! We were surprised to learn that although Australia is much larger than the UK, it has a much smaller population.



We have also learned lots of facts about a group of Australian mammals called marsupials. The children have wowed us all, including Mrs Nicholson, with their recall of the facts they learned about kangaroos, writing these facts beautifully as their final piece of written work in their books in Year 1.

We continued our Australian theme in our art, looking closely at how the Aboriginal people created their art. First we used felt-tip pens to create a kangaroo, then moved on to using paint to make lizards. The children worked very hard and extremely carefully. They have also created another piece—we hope that you liked the surprise!



'Healthy Living Week' was another highlight, not only because we could come to school in P.E. kit everyday (including Mrs Walker!) but because we got to participate in lots of active learning and had visitors to school. The children enjoyed their workshop with 'Kidz FIT', taking part in lots of exercise and learning facts about keeping their bodies healthy—it seems we have some very good hula-hoopers in our year group!



All the children in school made us very proud on Sports Day, but we were especially proud of Year 1 for their perseverance and resilience, demonstrating good team spirit. Well done to all our racers, especially those who tried so hard in the long distance race at the end—it is hard to keep running when it is hot!



Leslie Williams has once again been helping the children to prepare for the next stage of their learning journey. We think the Year 2 team are very lucky to be having such a hard-working group of children moving into their classes.

The Year 1 team would like to say thank you for all the support that you have given them and the children with learning this year.

We wish you all a wonderful summer and look forward to hearing about all the children's successes in Year 2.

YEAR TWO UPDATES

SWANS and KINGFISHERS

To put it simply this year has been a BLAST, and our last half term of learning has been the busiest yet! From sporting competitions to travelling back in time, from Sports Week to performing in front of our parents for the final time as infants, there is nothing we haven't covered.

This half term started off with learning all about the **Titanic** and its maiden voyage from **Southampton** to **New York City**. The children wrote Newspaper Reports that detailed how the Titanic sank in the North Atlantic Ocean on 15 April 1912. They also took part in role-play scenarios where some of the children pretended to be guests on board the doomed passenger liner. We were so impressed with the children's extended writing and loved to see their enjoyment of this topic shining through in our lessons.



We welcomed **Lesley Williams** twice this half term. She worked with the children to create a '**What a Wonderful World**' themed dance. She then returned later in the term for a whole day workshop, where the children created another expressive dance that showcased their learning for the whole year.

Sports Week and **Healthy Living Week** was a particular highlight of ours! Sports Day, Kidz-Fit Workshops, Quad Kids and an inter-school Cricket competition kept us busy all week, and was a perfect way to celebrate all our sporting successes this year.

In **Science** we have been learning all about food-chains. The children discovered that a food chain shows us how plants and animals within a habitat rely on each other for food. Food chains usually start with a green plant (a producer) which is eaten by an animal (a consumer), which is then eaten by another animal. We spent some time creating our own **food chains** based on our prior knowledge of **habitats**.

We said our final goodbye to Doddinghurst Infant School and performed our **Year Two Leavers Assembly** to you all last week. It was filled with our happiest memories from the last year, we laughed, cried and sang with our loudest voices (and that was just our teachers)! We really hope you enjoyed watching and made some memories of your own to treasure.

Our entire Year Two team would like to say a huge Thank You for all the support that you have given us this year. We have loved teaching your children and helping them to grow; their smiles and enthusiasm for learning has been a credit to you all. We wish you all a wonderful Summer break and we are confident that all the children are now ready for the next phase of their learning journey as they move on to their new schools. Good Luck Year Two, this has been a year we will never forget!



FAMILY SUPPORT

During the holiday period, there is extra support available through different charities and organisations; including but not limited to: Online Safety, and Mental Health & Wellbeing.

The following services and organisations offer free support and advice:

NSPCC Helpline on **0808 800 5000** or www.nspcc.org.uk or www.facebook.com/nspcc

Children and Families Hub on **0345 603 7627** or www.essexeffectivesupport.org.uk

Childline on **0800 11 11** or www.childline.org.uk

Mind on **0300 123 3393** or www.mind.org.uk or info@mind.org.uk

YoungMinds on youngminds.org.uk or they also have a parent helpline on **0808 802 5544**

Parent Zone Crisis Messenger - Text **PARENTZONE** to **85258** to get help

Parent Zone also provides a list of additional services and organisation that offer expert support and advice. <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/help-and-support> or if you have any questions contact

info@parentzone.org.uk



SUMMER MEAL DEALS



Café across England and Wales this Summer, children can eat for just £1 with no adult minimum spend.



Offers all children one meal for 95p or a combination meal for £1.50, including a jelly or fruit (excludes Hammersmith & Aberdeen).



Morrisons Café offer children one free meal with every adult meal. From 3pm they discount their daily special meal to £4.99 for adults.

SUMMER EVENTS



21st July—4th September inclusive Summer Holidays
Pupils return to school on Monday 5th September 2022



29th July, 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th August 2022

Brentwood Family Fun Days
Various locations

Activities carry per week. £4 wristband charge per child for the rides. Some activities are free! Hours 10:30am-3:30pm. For further information, please visit the following link:

<https://www.mumsguideto.co.uk/romford/event.php?eventid=5256>



Daily 9:00am-4:00pm

White Elm Petting Farm



Pre-booking only. Two sessions per day—9:00am and 12:30pm till 4:00pm. Included is a Soft play area with toys up to 8 years, separate area for toddlers, Outside playground incl. diggers and Petting Farm plus Trim trail. For further information, please visit the following link:

<https://whiteelmgardencentre.com/white-elm-petting-farm>

23rd July—4th September

Enchanted Summer Adventure - Miniature Audley End Railway

Autism and SEN Friendly. A quest to find enchanted creatures hidden within the magical woodland! Tickets to be purchased before you visit—includes Train Ride, Fairy and Elf Walk, Wand Making, Nature Corner, Games Area, Mini-musical adventure with singing, dancing and puppetry, Adventure Play Area. For further information, please visit the following link:

<https://www.audley-end-railway.co.uk/events/>

Daily 10:00am-5:00pm

The Gruffalo Trail - Thorndon Park North

Self-led trail searching for the hand-carved Gruffalo characters as you discover the magic in the deep dark wood. Thorndon park is accessible and includes a picnic and play area, toilets, shop, café and Wifi. For further information, please visit the following links:

<https://www.essexwt.org.uk/visit/nature-trail/gruffalo>

<https://www.essexwt.org.uk/nature-reserves/thorndon>



SUMMER EVENTS Continued...

27th August - 29th August 2022 **Day out with Thomas** **East Anglian Railway Museum**

Divided into two sessions: 10:00am-1:00pm and 1:00pm-4:00pm. Ticket entry includes unlimited rides with Thomas, Percy and Daisy; meet Toby and Henrietta; stories, playground, and themed activities, plus more. For further information, please visit the following link:

<https://www.earm.co.uk/events/day-out-with-thomas/>



Daily **Chelmsford Mystery Treasure Trail**

Self guided, download a PDF for a fee. Hunt down clues, hidden statues, signposts and landmarks. All in all its expected to take about 1.5hrs but its dependent on what you do as you go along the trail. For further information, please visit the following link:

<https://www.dayoutwiththekids.co.uk/attractions/the-chelmsford-mystery-treasure-trail-25010afd>

23rd July - 31st August 2022 **Great Garden Adventure - RHS Garden Hyde Hall**

For all the family. Hours 10:00am-6:00pm. Activities throughout the day—dates and times vary. Including a self-led explorer quest, Mini den building and clay creatures, ZooLab minibeast workshops, Storytelling, and Outdoor theatre—Wind in the Willows! For further information, please visit the following link:

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/hyde-hall/whats-on/summer-holidays>

Tue, Wed & Thur August 2022 **Discovery Days - Hyde Park, London**

A variety of themed outdoor activities every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 11:00am to 3:00pm.

Wild Water on 2nd, 3rd, 4th August;
Peter Pan on 9th, 10th, 11th August;
Meadow Madness on 16th, 17th, 18th August;
Life Underground on 23th, 24th, 25th August

For further information, please visit the following link:

<https://www.royalpark.org.uk/parks/hyde-park/things-to-see-and-do/events-in-hyde-park/education-and-wellbeing-events/discovery-days>



FAREWELL YEAR 2

Here are a few memories from the past year...





An online mental wellbeing community that provides anonymous support free of charge and its safe—recommended by the NHS.

You can find others experiences, tips for young people, helpful articles, friendly discussion boards with lots of topics, a helpful team you can chat to live or via message, as well as a daily journal to help you manage and monitor your feelings. Click on the image for further information.



What is Play Therapy



Play Therapy uses play and creativity to help children who display emotional or behavioral difficulties, those who experience trauma; as well as children who may need support expressing themselves.

Spending quality one-to-one time with a Therapeutic Play Practitioner or Play Therapist allows children to work through their challenges in a safe and confidential environment. The therapeutic tool kits consists of Clay; Music, Dance and Movement; Drama, Role-Play and Dressing Up; Puppets; Sand Tray and Small World Play; Arts and Crafts; Drawing and Painting; Creative Visualization, and Story Telling—helping each child to fulfil their true potential.

Through the support of the trained therapist, children have the freedom and security to work through, and express their feelings. They can learn to gain confidence, build on their self-esteem, and rise to their potential.

COMMENTS, IDEAS OR SUGGESTIONS

20th July 2022

If you have any comments, ideas or suggestions, please visit the newsletter page on the school website to complete the online form 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.

01277 822721



DODDINGHURST INFANT SCHOOL

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