



Wise Owls News

Summer Term Two

21st July 2023

Welcome to Doddinghurst Infant School Newsletter

Dear Parents, Carers & Friends,

As we come to the end of this academic year, it is with great pride that I look back at the many wonderful achievements of the children, acknowledging how hard they have all worked.

The last 3 weeks of term have been an absolute triumph, packed with moments of brilliance, laughter, hard work and collaboration. From our whole school trip to Wyvernwood, our Year 2's winning us a place in the District 3 Tees Cricket Tournament and our unique Year 2 Doddinghurst's Got Talent Leavers Assembly; triggering many a tear, including my own! To recognising our other amazing sporting achievements from our Yr1 and 2 children; including Tag Rugby, Tennis, Quad Kids, Football and our amazing Pantathlon competitors who won their category too.

We have had many fundraising events during the year to help boost our school coffers, from Break the Rules, Drag Queen Bingo and Soak the Teacher. I am still trying to work out who enjoyed this final activity more, the children or staff. We are always looking for new ideas, so don't be shy and if you want to help you would be welcomed.

We said a fond farewell to our brilliant Year 2's and their families, wishing them the very best of luck as they embark on their new school adventures. We have genuinely loved teaching them during the past 3 years, watching their own individual characters develop. For some, we have seen 2 or 3 children from the same family come through our doors; to them we say a very big thank you for supporting and trusting us and being part of our unique family. For some it is just a quick break until the next sibling joins. No matter what stage your child's education, we will always be keen to see you return and tell us your news.

Saying farewell always triggers a tear, but none more so than saying good bye to staff. On Thursday we wished Mrs Elliot, a valued member of our Midday assistant team a sad farewell, she will be very much missed. We also said a very emotional goodbye to Mrs Palmer who has given so much to our children and the school team, from supporting with copious amounts of chocolate, to caring for children and staff alike. Both ladies will take with them many lovely memories and no doubt will be back for a visit.

Finally I would like to take the opportunity to thank all my amazing staff, for their hard work this year. It has been challenging at times, no more so than the 2 days of Ofsted, where everyone stepped up to help us achieve an excellent result. They have persevered and through their dedication to our school families, they have continued to provide the best education for our children.

Thank you from all the staff for your very generous gifts and especially your very kind words. Wishing you all happy holidays filled with more sunshine and fun. Stay safe, all the very best, Mrs Nicholson

THANK YOU' for an amazing 2022 -23 Academic year

EYFS UPDATES

WOODPECKERS and SWIFTS

What a journey our wonderful children have had over the past 7 weeks! The theme 'journeys' filtered into all aspects of learning this half term. We began by looking at the story *The Odd Fish* and explored the theme of plastic pollution and the impact it has on our oceans. We linked the story to Computing and the children used their mouse skills to drag and drop, sorting objects into the correct recycling bins. To celebrate Father's Day we read the book *My Dad* and discussed the special male members of our families. Using our phonics skills, we wrote a series of sentences describing our *Dad*.



We then continued our journey to Africa and focused on *Handa's Surprise*, in the beautiful setting of Kenya. The children used their senses to look and taste the different fruits from the story. We weren't sure on the guava but we loved the taste of pineapple and some of us enjoyed the avocados.



We became jet setters to travel to Kenya and looked at globes to plan our journey. We looked at the similarities and differences between our village of Doddinghurst and Handa's village in Kenya. We enjoyed exploring African art and created our own silhouette paintings, danced to African music and played the drums. We were inspired to look at the features of our local village and some of us created our own maps. We looked at positional language in Maths and used the Beebots to travel on the maps. In PE we demonstrated we could follow instructions and travel over, under and around the gymnastic equipment.



To prepare for our school trip to Wyvernwood, we focused our attention onto *Zog* which included characters such as a dragon and a princess. We wrote a character description of Zog and applied those adjectives into sentences. In Phonics we looked at rhyming words and spelling patterns in words. When we arrived at Wyvernwood we were greeted by the Princess and followed her into her kingdom and listened to a story told by her wizard Merlin and a captivating tale from the Captain. We were all eager to explore her kingdom and



had great fun crawling through the Goblin's tunnels. We worked up an appetite and tucked into a royal feast at lunchtime. After lunch we followed the Princess for a private tour of her kingdom and met some fun characters along the way. We had such fun playing in the Captain's den in the woods, making



wands with Merlin and sprinkling magic in the woods with the Queen of the fairies.

The adults in EYFS are so proud of the progress we have made this year. We have flourished throughout the year and all our adults feel we're ready for the next step on our learning journey in Year 1. Now it is time to rest and relax and make lots of new happy memories in the Summer.

YEAR ONE UPDATES

CHAFFINCHES and ROBINS

Well, here we are—the end of Year 1! The children have worked so hard this half term and are certainly ready to move up to Year 2. They have shown us lots of things that tell us that they are ready to take on the responsibilities associated with being the oldest children in the school.

We have continued our learning on *'Zeraffa Giraffa'* by finishing the story and discovering that she walked the 550 miles from Marseilles to Paris because no vehicle was suitable to transport her. This led us to design and make our own suitable vehicle, after researching and learning about the transport available at the time. The children worked hard to join materials



and many of them had to master an axle and wheels so their vehicle would move! Learning about 1830s Paris inspired our art work, as we learnt about the work of Henri Rousseau. We looked at the different elements of his work and used his famous painting *'Surprise!'* as inspiration for our own creations. We built up each

layer using different media—paint for the background, pastels for the plants, a hand-drawn giraffe and finally collage of real leaves for the fore-ground. The children did an amazing job and we were very proud of what they achieved.



Our maths work has been based around lots of measuring—measuring length, weight and time. We learnt to use cubes and then a ruler to measure accurately, remembering to use 'cm' to record the measurement. We then practised using balance scales to weigh objects using cubes and Numicon. After weight we went on to learning to tell the time. We used clocks to practise showing o'clock and then half past. We also used our problem solving skills to find the answers to word problems using all these different ways to measure.

'Healthy Living Week' gave lots of opportunities to talk about all the ways to keep ourselves healthy and safe. We made 'Overnight Oats' and used 'bossy verbs' (imperative verbs) to write the instructions. The children made us proud at sports day by joining in with everything and doing their best.



We all enjoyed our whole school trip to Wyvernwood. It was a fantastic day and we were very lucky with the weather. We got to meet lots of different characters like the Captain, Princess Arabella, Tatiana the Fairy Queen and Gurt the Goblin - luckily he was friendly. There were lots of fun activities: the bouncy pillow and the Enchanted Castle were



very popular. However, the dragon trail turned out to be too long a walk for some of us. It did help a few of us to have a little nap on the way home though!

As you can see, the children have been very busy learning, so they definitely deserve a little rest over the next six weeks—but not too much! The Year One team would like to wish you all a happy and safe holiday and we look forward to seeing you in September.

YEAR TWO UPDATES

SWANS and KINGFISHERS

We have spent our last term in Year Two making memories that will last a lifetime!

We have continued to explore the forest, made boats in Design Technology (some more successful than the Titanic), created weaving artwork as a year group, as well as celebrating Sports Day.

At the start of June we continued learning how to tell the time. As a year group we completed lots of practical Maths challenges and solved time problems. We have worked to a strict timetable and have been putting our skills to the test, making sure our teachers are running to schedule!

We had a blast celebrating **Sports Day** during **Healthy Living Week**; taking part in lots of fun and energetic sporting activities, competing against other House Teams to win points and claim victory!



Congratulations to Elm House who scooped the winning trophy! Our teachers also treated us to a healthy feast, where we selected healthy fillings to create a delicious wrap.

We have been extremely busy this half term completing our **Design Technology** and **Art** projects. We made boats that had to be able to carry cargo and float. Some of our designs were more successful than others; and during our evaluations we were able to suggest how to make our products better. We created a beautiful weaving artwork based on the journey of the Titanic. We developed our weaving skills using pieces of fabric and recyclable materials.



Our whole school trip to **Wyvernwood** was a highlight of ours. We went on a magical adventure through an enchanted kingdom. We stepped through a magic portal into another world for an entire day of adventure; making magical memories with our friends. We met Zephyr the dragon, made wishes in the Land of the Fairies, concocted potions with the Wizard and raced around on dragon karts. But our favorite activity was scaling the Castle walls and crawling through goblins' tunnels.

We think you'll all agree that our **Leavers Assembly** was fantastic. We loved showcasing and celebrating our achievements with you – some in person and some via video link! We laughed, cried and celebrated in style. We are so excited about all the adventures we have in store and can't wait to start a new chapter at the Junior School.



The Year Two team would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful summer and thank you all for our generous gifts and vouchers. We hope that everyone enjoys the sunshine and you all take some time to make new memories as a family. Know that we will miss you all very much, and can't wait to see you in September in your new uniforms at the Junior School. Best Wishes, keep smiling! The Year Two Team

Maths Challenge



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

Question 1



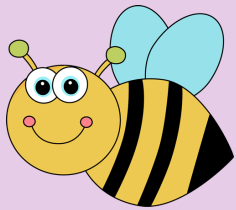
Rachel and Lauren found 20 shells on the beach. They both took some shells home with them and left 8 on the beach.

Lauren took 4 home.



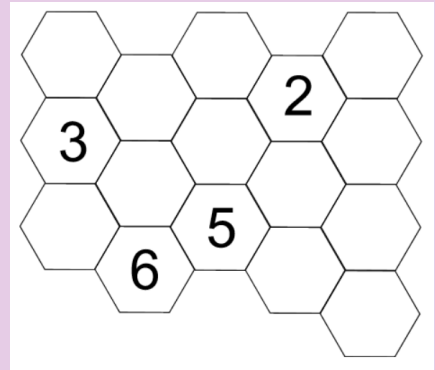
How many shells did Rachel take?

Question 2



Buzzy Bee was building a honeycomb.

She decided to decorate the honeycomb with a pattern using numbers.



Can you discover Buzzy's pattern and fill in the empty cells for her?



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 or the **Free 1-2-1 Counsellor Chat** <https://www.childline.org.uk/get-support/1-2-1-counsellor-chat/>

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



REPORTING ABSENCE—STUDYBUGS

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.

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



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.

FAREWELL YEAR 2

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



JOIN TODAY!

The Summer Reading Challenge is ON.

Ready, Set, Read! is the name of the game and this year, you guessed it, our theme is sports and games.

Take part in your local library or online, right here. Set a reading goal and log your books on your profile. When you reach your goal you will unlock some digital goodies.

Join today!

Summer Reading Challenge 2023

Ready, Set, Read!

Presented by The Reading Agency. Delivered in partnership with libraries.





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<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

COMMENTS, IDEAS OR SUGGESTIONS

20th July 2023

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



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