



Wise Owls News

Summer Term Two

Welcome to Doddinghurst Infant School Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of this academic year, I can honestly say I would not have thought we would be living through the same difficulties and challenges we found ourselves experiencing the previous year. However, there seems to be some light at the end of an extremely long tunnel, perhaps now is the time, to reflect and look at some of the positives and say thank you.

Regardless of these challenges, it is with great pride that I can look back at our children's achievements and their ability to make the most of every aspect of school life.

To my staff who have managed to impart knowledge, solve problems, counsel those children and parents with worries and continue to make a chaotic year meaningful, when sometimes it all seemed impossible. A personal heartfelt thank you.

To our parents for the patience and understanding you have so readily demonstrated, even when at times our decisions may have caused frustrations. To Mrs Arnold who has encouraged and inspired our future sports generation. To our fundraisers who have been really creative this year, finding new ways to raise much needed funding for our school. The 'Wet the teacher' outweighed them all, from the children's perspective, that is! To you all **THANK YOU**

At this time of year, we always 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. 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. We are so very proud of them all, and look forward to hearing about their next exciting adventures. For some, we have seen 2 or 4 children from the same family come through our doors; to them we say a very big **THANK YOU** for supporting us and being part of our unique family. For others 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.

We will also sadly be saying our goodbyes to some very special and valuable members of our team, Mrs Piper, Mrs Lole and Mrs Dade and from our Governing Body Mrs Patterson and Mrs Grigg. I am deeply grateful to them for all the support, help and kindness they have given our children and the school.

Finally on behalf of the staff we would like to say a very **BIG THANK YOU** for all your very generous gifts and kind comments. We wish you all a fantastic summer and look forward to seeing you all on September the 6th.

Enjoy, have fun, but more importantly take care and keep safe. Best wishes, Mrs Nicholson.

EYFS UPDATES

WOODPECKERS and SWIFTS

What a journey this year has been! The children have been very busy, even in this last half term, and have showed us all that they are ready for their next learning adventure in Year1.



'The Train Ride' gave us the opportunity to carry on our theme of travel and we used photographs taken over half term to write about their journeys. The children did a good job of using the phonic skills they have



learnt this year to write simple sentences. 'The Train Ride' also inspired them to build a train with the large construction equipment outside. Many of the children also enjoyed creating physical maps using the small world equipment, like train tracks and the farm animals. They also drew some maps and wrote about the things they would see on their journey.



In maths we have been learning our odd and even numbers and practising sharing with lots of practical activities. We learnt how to share sets of objects with our friends and soon learnt that even numbers are fairer to share between two!



'Puffin Peter' gave us the chance to talk about friendship and the children thought about all the ways that they make their friends laugh. We took photos and they then wrote captions about how they make their friends laugh. We were very interested in finding out more about puffins and learnt lots of facts, like what they eat and where they live. We enjoyed moving like puffins, learning and using new vocabulary like swooping, gliding, and waddling. Mrs Cunningham also taught us plummet.



This last half term is always about transition to our new classes. The children had the chance to meet their new, and not so new, teachers and spend some time being Robins and Chaffinches. Lesley Williams came and worked with them for a session about preparing for year one, being a team, doing our best and not letting people down.



Sports day was enjoyed by everyone, even though it was super hot! Well done to all our gold, silver and bronze runners - maybe we'll see you at the Olympics in a few years!



Finally, well done from all the team for a great year, especially our 'Gold' readers who were celebrated in assembly.

YEAR ONE UPDATES

GOLDFINCHES and ROBINS

Bonjour! Hola!

Year 1 have been clock watching - having fun with the maths resources whilst creating their own Numicon clocks. The fun did not stop here! They continued their learning at home creating clocks with a range of household materials and objects. Be sure to ask them the time... They may even solve a time related problem!



The children have made use of the junior school field and participated in a Tri - Golf and Kwik Cricket competition. Whilst following the rules of a game and developing their skills, they have taken scores and virtually competed with fellow Brentwood schools. "I learnt to hit the cricket ball really far, it was great fun!"



Doddinghurst Infants were proud to host their first 'Break the Rules' day! Our Year 1 children rose to the challenge, demonstrating a range of catwalk hair styles, and break time snacks, that were the envy of the teachers! "I brought in a huge packet of Oreo biscuits, it was the best break time snack ever!"

We were delighted to welcome back Lesley Williams and her puppets, who worked with us in a workshop to support our transition to Year 2. We worked collaboratively to create dances and share our hopes and dreams.



As a recognition of The Euro 2020 championships, we decided to extend our Geography learning to our neighbouring European countries. Starting the week with a very French breakfast of hot chocolate and croissants! We investigated French landmarks, looking closely at Paris, then creating postcards, whilst listening to accordion music. We then hopped across the Pyrenees landing in Spain! Looking closely at Spanish festivals and celebrations. Finally, feeling home sick, we returned to London to immerse ourselves in UK culture and traditions.



We enjoyed the competitive nature of our sports day! We attempted the tricky obstacle course, egg and spoon race, ending with a sprint and long race. We were all very hot, but enjoyed ourselves!



YEAR TWO UPDATES

SWANS and KINGFISHERS

Year 2 have found their topic about Titanic interesting and engaging. Many of the children have been inspired to write their own stories based on real events and created silhouette pictures of the ship. At the start of the topic the children knew it was a big ship that crashed into an iceberg; however, by the end they amazed us with their knowledge. They even performed expressive role plays about the evacuation and how the survivors were rescued.



The Year 2 children enjoyed their visit to the Juniors and meeting Mr Davies. They made us so proud and were very sensible and mature during the assembly that he led, despite the rain! The children enjoyed exploring the Junior field and playing on the new equipment.

Everyone had fun breaking the rules and raising money for school funds.

Kingfishers were excited when they won the penny wars with two filled buckets and were awarded an extra PE lesson with Mrs Arnold.



Despite the heat, Year 2 participated in their Sports Day with enthusiasm, cheering each other on in a variety of events and persevering during the long running race.



As always the children were overjoyed to see Leslie and impressed us with their acting and dancing skills. They recalled their favourite memories of Doddinghurst Infant School and all the topics they have learnt in Year 2, culminating with what they want to be when they grow up— many wanted to be teachers!

After many years supporting our school as governors, Mrs Griggs and Mrs Patterson are retiring. They presented the Year 2s with their Leavers' books.

We wish all the Year 2s a happy and safe holiday and all the best for their move to Year 3.



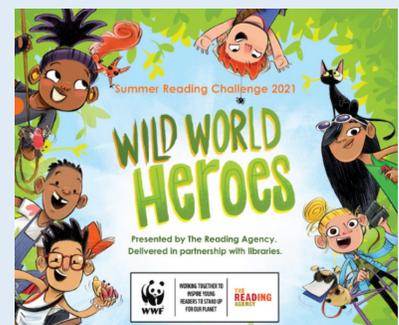
OUR LAST DAY



SUMMER READING

Advice to parents about supporting your child—it's all about reading.

Over the summer holiday, it will make such a difference if you read to your child and they read to you. Reading for pleasure has a powerful influence on children's cognitive development especially in terms of their vocabulary. Even older children who are fluent readers benefit from the opportunity to read aloud to an adult or discuss the plot of a fiction book or discuss information found in a non fiction book. The reading and writing of Standard English, alongside proficient language development, is the key to unlocking the rest of the academic curriculum. To support summer reading all Essex libraries and mobile libraries are running their Summer Reading Challenge - Wild World Heroes - running from Saturday 10 July to Tuesday 31 August.



HAPPY READING!

UPCOMING DIARY DATES

Pupils return to school on Monday 6th September 2021

Thursday 14th October

Individual Photographs

Thursday 4th November

Flu Immunisation Sprays (Details in Sep)



ATTENDANCE

1st = Woodpeckers - 98.2%

2nd = Robins - 97.0%

3rd = Swifts - 96.1%

4th = Swans - 95.8%

5th = Goldfinches - 97.2%

6th = Kingfishers - 94.6%

WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

96.1%

COMMENTS, IDEAS OR SUGGESTIONS

21st July 2021

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

Doddinghurst Infant School
Church Lane
Brentwood
CM15 0NJ
admin@doddinghurst-inf.essex.sch.uk