



Dinglewell Infant School

Newsletter

March 2026

Message from Mrs Southgate

Dear families, as we draw to the end of another excellent term at Dinglewell Infants, it is with pleasure and pride that I share with you the highlights of this week.

You will know from last week's round up that this week was a busy one for senior leaders as we held multiple pupil progress meetings. I am always delighted to hear from the teachers about the impact of our successful interventions, as well as the results of the high quality teaching delivered. This term we have been focusing on ensuring that adaptive teaching is a feature of each lesson and this week it has been clear to see the the impact of the every day scaffolds and adaptations to ensure that every child reaches their potential in every lesson. After the Easter break we will be revisited by Ken Buxton, the school improvement partner who will celebrate our inclusive practices and hopefully share some recommendations about how we can promote even more success.

My time in classes this week was spent investigating with force and friction in Class 1. I had the pleasure of teaching class 9 on Tuesday afternoon and was impressed with their teamwork, throwing and catching skills and resilience to the weather! We only lost one ball to the roof! In Class 4 this week we completed our alternative Billy Goats Gruff stories and the children eagerly shared their full stories with one another. What a terrific culmination of this term's efforts in writing.

I want to take a moment to offer a heartfelt thanks and a wish of good luck to Dayle Francis, leader of the Hucclecote playgroup as today marks her last day in post. Dayle has dedicated herself to the Dinglewell community for 18 years and I can only imagine how many of our wonderful children have benefited from her incredible provision. Miss Fields and I took some children over to the playgroup today to wish Dayle good luck and to thank her for her commitment to our children. Links with all of the local preschools continues to be high on our agenda and we look forward to supporting Vikkie Place in her new role as Hucclecote Playgroup lead.

On Wednesday during assembly the school and I learned about Easter traditions around the world. I wonder if your child can remember which country celebrates with fireworks, which country flies kites, where butter lambs are made, and which country celebrates with an Easter Bilby instead of an Easter Bunny?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hu2gjLfCRBE>

Speaking of Easter bunnies..... I saw just a few during today's Easter Bonnet Parade. It was a joy to see the children this morning praising and delighting in one another's hats during our indoor parade. Unfortunately I was unable to make the afternoon parade but thoroughly enjoyed a sneaky peek first thing. From dangling carrots, to dinosaurs and entire easter gardens to flippy floppy bunny ears, I LOVED seeing the efforts from the children and from yourselves as their support. I shared with the staff that it felt like one of those moments when Dinglewell needs reminding of just how special it is! The numbers that turned out for the afternoon parade were exceptional!

Thank you Dinglewell for your continued support this term. We hope you enjoy a rest and bring lots of energy back to the summer term. With Sports Day an Enrichment Week to name just a few of the offerings, it promises to be another busy one! In the next two weeks Team Southgate will be travelling to Norfolk to celebrate my 90 year old Gran's birthday, getting stuck into the garden, egg rolling (as is our family tradition), as well as a couple of planned pyjama days!! Happy Easter to you all.

Mrs Southgate

Housekeeping

A quick reminder that ball games should not be played on the school grounds before school. Because of the number of people passing around the school at this time, it is important that children remain with their parent or carer rather than playing on the playground.

This helps us avoid any unfortunate accidents before the day starts and ensures that children can come into school safe, happy, and ready to learn.

Please can we also remind you and the children that the brig and trimtrail are closed before and after school; again, this is to prevent unforeseen accidents and keep the children safe.

Thank you for your support.



Maths Challenge: April 2026

Maths Games

I have fond memories of playing a game of Ludo with my family when I was a child. Does your family have a favourite game that promotes maths skills. Now as an adult Mr Bishop and I enjoy playing the card game Crazy Eights.

This month I would love to see pictures of our Dinglewell families playing their favourite maths game; please let me know the rules of the game as it may be a new one that I can incorporate at school. Class 5 are very familiar with Snakes and Ladders and this can be played with two dice to promote addition skills.

Please email your maths games photos and rules to Mrs Bishop

ebishop@dinglewells-inf.gloucs.sch.uk

and I will share them on the school website. Please visit the website to see the wonderful mathematical pictures that were sent to me last month.



Attendance (Every Minute Counts)

At Dinglewell, we know that regular attendance makes a real difference to children's confidence, progress, and sense of belonging. Every day in school is a chance to learn something new, build friendships, and take part in the experiences that help children thrive. We truly appreciate the effort families make to support good attendance, and we are here to help if challenges arise. By working together, we can make sure every child has the best possible opportunity to shine.



Our attendance for the academic year to date remains at **95%**, which continues to be broadly in line with both national and local figures.

Parking

A plea from our local Dinglewell residents... Please refrain from parking in the residents-only bays that are reserved for the bungalow residents. We acknowledge parking is a huge challenge to our site and local community and Mrs Southgate has ideas and plans for a Walking Bus which she is hoping will limit congestion AND encourage healthy choices.

Watch this space!

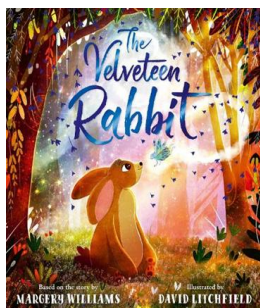


An active challenge from Mrs Beer

We are starting to fundraise for our Enrichment Week in June. The challenge this term, invites you to get your creative fingers busy. Look out for the invite to design a Sports Day Certificate. Entries cost £1. The winning certificate will be printed and distributed to every child who takes part in Sports Day in the Summer Term. Best of Luck!

Mrs Beer

Book of the Month



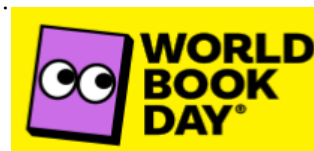
Our Book of the Month for March was a beautiful new re-telling of the much beloved story by Margery Williams, The Velveteen Rabbit. The stunning, colourful illustrations by David Litchfield make this an appealing version of the book for today's children. It has already proved to be very popular with many of our children who have enjoyed it at story-time in their classroom.

Our Numbots champions for March are **Class 3** with **38%** playing last month. Well done Class 3. Let us see if over the Easter holiday we could have as many children as possible developing their number sense through playing Numbots.



Thank You

Last month our staff welcomed children back to school for bedtime stories. It was lovely to see the children in their pyjamas, snuggling up to cuddly toys and blankets in each classroom. The event raised £300 which will be used to purchase new books for the library.



Last week we dressed in red to support Comic Relief and as a school we sent £103 to the charity.

The sun shone for the Friends of Dinglewell Easter Trail on Saturday 21st March. As a school we received some incredibly positive feedback about the event and the school hall was full of smiles as the children claimed their prizes. The children were delighted to meet Pater Rabbit who put in a guest appearance for the afternoon. A massive thank you to all the individuals who helped to organise and run the event. The Easter trail and colouring competition raised a staggering £983 which will be used to buy leaver's hoodies for the Year 2 children.



Year 1 Mastering Number Parent Project

Mrs Bishop would like to thank all the families that have participated in the recent Mastering Number project. The focus was on number bonds for 6 and 7 (please excuse the pun!) which support the targets on the Uranus maths passport. A significant number of children have now successfully completed Uranus and are now working on the Saturn passport.

The workshops were a success and all the feedback has been incredibly positive; so we will schedule these again for the next year. Below are some of comments that we have been sent: 'I really enjoyed that there was a section for parents and then a part which involved opportunities to play the games with the children. My daughter loved doing the games with me and I don't think she'd have been as keen if she hadn't have been involved in the workshop. She really enjoys playing them most days.'

'It can sometimes be difficult to find engaging, fun ways to support learning at home. This gave us different strategies we can use'

'Finding out about how they are learning (phrases etc.) as i wouldn't have thought to use them.'

Please could we remind you send the double sided counters back to school so that they can be reused.

Mrs Bishop would be extremely grateful if our Year 1 parents and carers could spare a few minutes to complete a feedback form to support this project.

<https://forms.office.com/e/dbGmg9tkVz?origin=lpLink>



Parent and Carer Consultations

Class teachers are holding consultations to discuss your child's learning and progress on Tuesday 21st April, Wednesday 22nd April and Thursday 23rd April. You will receive a separate email detailing the times available for your child's class and information on how to book a slot.

On the day of your consultation please come to the school hall and your child's teacher will collect you. The teacher will have your child's learning journeys with them to support your conversations, and you will have an opportunity to look at them after your appointment.

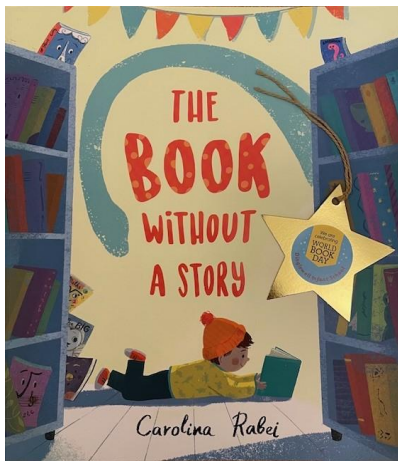
World Book Day

As always, the school was buzzing with excitement and anticipation throughout World Book Day week. We began with a special storybook gifted to each class. *Dusty*, the book who had never been borrowed from the library, spent his nights listening longingly to the adventures shared by the other books. Then one day... everything changed. Dusty was finally checked out, and his own adventure began.

The children loved sharing their favourite places to read, proudly talking about the cosy corners, garden hideaways, and imaginative spaces where stories come alive for them. Each day brought the thrill of a Mystery Reader, arriving with a favourite story to share — a highlight that kept everyone guessing.

There was also the daily suspense of *when* “drop everything and read” might strike. Books were snatched up in an instant as the whole school paused to dive into a story together.

And of course, Bedtime Stories was a cherished moment for many staff and children. Coming together in pyjamas, cuddled up with a book, created a sense of calm, connection, and shared joy that perfectly captured the spirit of the week.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Watch
this
Space

Exciting things to come...

In the new term, we will be trialling a 'diary date by year group' following the success of the Christmas checklist.

Our intention is to provide more targeted info