



Saturday 21st March 2026

Dear families,

It felt only right to send this week's round-up once the week had *truly* finished and with the EGG-sellent efforts of our FODIS team and the wider Dinglewell community, that meant waiting until after the Easter Egg Hunt. I often catch myself saying "when I get home" when referring to school, so being here on a Saturday afternoon felt perfectly natural. And what an afternoon it was. With over 130 maps sold and almost as many returned, it was a joy to be part of such a vibrant, family-friendly event. I would like to take this opportunity to say a HUGE thank you to our brilliant FODIS team, who sourced sponsorships, gathered eggs, baked cakes and, in some cases, donned giant bunny costumes; all to bring joy, chocolate and extra opportunities to our children. Next up... Friday's cake sale!

This week in school, I continued shadowing our incredible support staff. I enjoyed circle time in The Hive with Mrs Jarvis and Mrs Dickens, singing and dancing our way through the days of the week. I joined Mrs Boone for a fantastic handwriting lesson in Class 9, and I also took part in two library sessions. Mrs Higginbotham and Class 9 shared our book of the month, *The Velveteen Rabbit*, while Mrs Price and Class 2 delighted in their favourite bear stories. Despite being in different year groups, the quality of discussion around language, story structure and personal experiences was equally impressive. It is clear how much our children value and enjoy their time in the library. **If you would like to help us continue fostering a positive reading culture at Dinglewell, we would love to welcome volunteers.**

Staff have also been meeting, moderating and preparing for discussions around progress and attainment. In a large school, consistency is key, and these opportunities for staff to meet with year group leaders are invaluable. Next week, teachers will attend pupil progress meetings with senior leaders to celebrate individual achievements and prepare for the summer term. Personally, I love these weeks, hearing staff speak with such passion about the children's progress is truly uplifting, and I know they are looking forward to sharing this with you during parent consultations after the Easter break.

My two external visits this week both centred on Inclusion, something that remains deeply important to us at Dinglewell. Mrs James and I visited Gardner's Lane in Cheltenham, where headteacher Oliver Tuck (one of our own parents) and SENCO Mrs Chapman proudly showed us the changes they have made to ensure every child reaches their full potential. On Friday, I travelled to Bristol with colleagues from Gloucester to visit Beacon Rise School. Their ethos is rooted in engagement, and headteacher Chris Thomas spoke passionately about ensuring children feel happy, confident and secure, sentiments that mirror my own hopes for Dinglewell pupils.

Back in school, I had the pleasure of teaching Class 6. It was wonderful to see the progress they have made in their writing since the start of the year, and even more enjoyable to hear them retelling their alternative *Billy Goats Gruff* stories. We also had great fun using positional language to arrange fairy-tale characters, skills that I know will support their computing work, just as I see each Wednesday with Class 4. On Wednesday afternoon, I led a whole-school science assembly featuring a "magic" trick involving pencils, a sandwich bag and water. I've challenged the children to decide whether it was truly magic or whether science was at play. Look out for the Magic vs Science Easter holiday challenge coming your way before the break.

As we move into our final week of term, we can look forward to Easter bonnet parades and exciting science workshops. Wishing you a wonderful weekend in the sunshine.

Mrs Southgate