



Dinglewell Infant School

Newsletter

February 2026

Message from Mrs Southgate

Dear families,

I hope that you have enjoyed this week following the half-term break. Hasn't it been lovely to see a little sunshine and to feel a little warmth? Spring is on its way, there is no doubt! On Wednesday, I spoke with the children during assembly about St David's Day. We played a spot-the-difference game with some familiar and less familiar images and even shared some Welsh phrases courtesy of Stanley in Cl4 and Mrs Best. I wonder if any of your children can remember anything about St David's Day, particularly Mrs Price's favourite Welsh item?

The week after a half-term is often a showcase of new haircuts and styles, and you will notice that the school hedges have also had a haircut! Thank you to Jake from Newent Landscapes who completed this work for free, and to Andy who has been diligently clearing the path each day. It's great to see the results of the steps we are taking to improve the school environment. Next up... planting! Do let us know if you would be interested in some after-school gardening. Personally, I've been very excited to see tulips sprouting in a corner of my garden.

Elsewhere in the school this week, Year One have been planning and writing their own fairy tales. All of the work from last term around story language, character profiling and exciting events will help the children to write fantastic stories. Perhaps we will even make them into a book which can be shared for years to come. Don't forget to check out this month's book *The Wonder*. I shared the story with my younger son Flynn, who found it really interesting to consider the idea that just because a day starts with a grey cloud, it doesn't mean it ends that way!

Elsewhere in the school, Year Two have begun their Spring 2 learning by sailing on board the Titanic. This week they have been labelling features of the ship and learning new language that they will apply to their writing. Our Hive provision this week has built on the Year One curriculum, and the children have been retelling and writing the story of *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*. Our provision has also provided the children with additional opportunities to name different colours and textures as we have used *The Textured Bears Book*.

EYFS have also been sharing stories about bears, and this week featured *Whatever Next* by Jill Murphy — a great story about a bear with a terrific imagination and a picnic on the moon. I wonder where your child would love to jet off to if they were Baby Bear?

There are lots of exciting celebrations coming up this half-term, including Science Week and World Book Day. You will have received information about the programme of events that we are offering the children to build on the celebration of reading that we offer every day at Dinglewell. I am particularly interested in the mystery reader and am looking forward to a surprise appearance, as well as the 'drop everything and read' idea. I must remember to bring my book in from home! We look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible back to school on Thursday evening for a bedtime story.

As you will know, I am passionate about maintaining the school's open-door policy and have enjoyed the opportunities I've had this week to get to know more of the parent community. To that end, please remember that if there is something that is niggling (however small), we are always happy to lend a listening ear. Please either make an appointment to speak with the class teacher or myself through the office (admin@dinglewell-inf.gloucs.sch.uk) in the first instance.

I hope that you all enjoy a wonderful weekend. I will be attending my mum's band concert and making some spring and summer planting decisions. We are also going to try Robinswood Hill Country Park for the first time. See you all Monday.

Mrs Southgate

Healthy School



Mrs Beer has sent out some guidance about Healthy Eating. Please look out for this in bookbags. As promised, Mrs Beer has been on the hunt for well-balanced lunchboxes. We have started in Reception. Good to see a good mix of fruit/veg, dairy (yogurts/cheese), some carbohydrates and a small treat! Well done Izzy and Freddie!



Maths Challenge: March 2026

Book Worms

Can you find **maths in a book**? To link with World Book Day, I have chosen a book-based activity for next month. While you're reading look out for any maths links? There may be maths in an old favourite story, a school reading book, a non-fiction book or even in poem.

Ask a grown up to take a photo of you reading your book, so that I can see the front cover and tell me all about the maths that you have spotted within the book.

For example:



This book is all about money. You could get out you coins and make the different amounts. You could decide which pets you would buy if you only had 10p.

Please email your book worm photos and quotes 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)



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

We are keen to maintain a strong attendance record, but we also recognise that there are times when children are simply too unwell for school and need a day or two at home to recover.

Mrs Southgate and Mrs Ali, our pastoral lead, are always available to support families when mornings begin to feel overwhelming. They have recently worked closely with one family and have already helped to reshape their morning routine, leading to a noticeable improvement in attendance. If you ever feel that mornings are becoming a challenge at home, please do reach out—working together makes a real difference.

Easter Arrangements

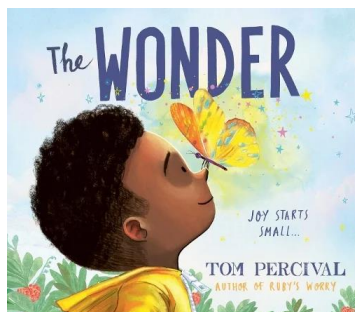


The last day of term, **Friday 27th March**, is going to be a busy one. It will be a non-uniform day in exchange for a cake donation for the Friends of Dinglewell Infants cake sale.

We ask that you and your child make an Easter Hat together at home. This can be as simple as a baseball cap with a picture of the Easter Bunny added the front or a paper crown with rabbit ears added. Please arrive with this ready for the morning as we will hold a parade in the hall just for the children and staff.

At 12 noon we will gather on the playground and host the Easter Hat Parade. Parents and carers are very welcome to join us for this event. The children will then return to their classrooms ready to be collected at 12.30pm. The Friends of Dinglewell Infants will hold the cake sale on the school playground as soon as the parade has finished.

Book of the Month



Our book for the month of February was 'The Wonder' by local author and illustrator, Tom Percival.

In this book, Daniel is in a bad mood, and we are reminded that there are always reasons for feeling this way.

As the pages turn, we discover what the “wonder” is: those small, uplifting moments that can change everything. They’re not always obvious, but when we slow down and look for them, they brighten our day — and even better, they’re joys we can share with others.

Our Numbots champions for February are **Class 6** with **26%** playing last month. Well done Class 6.



Before half term we welcomed two trainee teachers to our Reception team. Bethany Wade and Sophie Waller are in their second year of teacher training at the University of Gloucestershire and will be completing their school-based placement at Dinglewell until the start of May. We are thrilled to welcome them to our school so please say hello to them if you see them at the classroom door.

Curriculum Topics

Year 2 and Reception have new topics this term. Please make sure you take a look at the curriculum maps that will be available within the next few days. Year 1 are continuing with their topic based on fairy tales.

Reception



Year 2



Dance Festival

We took 21 Year 2 children to represent Dinglewell at the Fortius Dance Festival at the Town Hall in Cheltenham this January. I would like to commend them on their hard work, confidence and enthusiasm through every rehearsal and the final performance. They were some of the youngest children performing, but they still represented our school and the values that we stand behind perfectly. I hope that they (and many of our children that have watched them) feel inspired to continue to dance.

Mrs Beer



House Keeping

Please can we remind you that the car park in front of school is for staff use only. We appreciate that drop-off for Breakfast Club can be challenging—especially on rainy mornings or when it's bin day—but using the car park makes the area unsafe for children crossing to access the Junior School hub. It is also a particularly busy time, with staff from both sites arriving. Thank you for your continued cooperation and for helping us keep everyone safe.



Science Festival

Thursday 25th March 2026 9.00 – 11.50am

In order that every child has an opportunity to take part we need parent volunteers to spend the morning guiding children around the school hall and/or supporting children to host their stand whilst they share their knowledge with other children. Please email Mrs Bews (jbews@dinglewells-inf.gloucs.sch.uk) to offer your help as soon as possible so that the logistics can be effectively planned. Please detail what class your child is in to aid matching where possible. Thank you.



Friends of Dinglewell infants

A very productive meeting was held earlier this week to plan upcoming events. Please look out for information about the **Easter Trail on Saturday 21st March**. There will be a map to follow around the local area searching for clues related to famous rabbits. Back at school, families can claim their prize for successfully completing the trail. Refreshments will also be available to help recharge before the journey home and an ice-cream van will be selling ice-creams in the carpark (with 20% of the takings being donated to school funds). This was a wonderful event last year and we are looking forward to welcoming as many families as possible to participate in this event. Slips to purchase Easter Trail maps will be sent home via book bags.

There will also be a cake sale at the end of term on Friday 27th March, details will be sent on how to make donations in the morning and arrangements for the sale as school finishes at 12.30.

The Friends of Dinglewell Infants are holding their next meeting on **Wednesday 29th April at 6pm** at the school. This meeting is designed as an information sharing evening, so please come along and find out what the Friends do and how you can support the school in the future. Many of the current committee no longer have children at the infants or are about to leave so they are keen to welcome new members. Please come along and find out more, even if you can only spare the odd half hour to support an event or are willing to help plan events to support the school.

The quiz night earlier this month raised £240 and the discos raised £517. The funds raised so far this year are being used to fully fund the purchase of the Year 2 leavers hoodies, which they will be presented with at the end of their time at Dinglewell Infant School.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Term 4 2025/26

Starts March	Monday 23rd February	Ends	Friday 27th March
2 nd	Y2 Sewing Club		
3 rd	C7 Forest School		
4 th	C6 Forest School		
5 th	C2 Forest School		
5 th	World Book Day		
10 th	C8 Forest School		
11 th	C4 Forest School		
12 th	C1 Forest School		
17 th	C9 Forest School		
19 th	Reception Forest School		
20 th	iRock Concert for parents		
25 th	C5 Forest School		
26 th	Reception Forest School		
27 th	Non Uniform Day – donations to school funds		
27 th	PTA Cake Sale		

Term 5 2025/26

Starts May	Monday 13th April	Ends	Friday 22nd May
4 th	Bank holiday		
5 th	Class Photo Day		
5 th	C7 Forest School		
6 th	C6 Forest School		
7 th	C3 Forest School		
7 th	C4 Beanbag Rounders		
12 th	C8 Forest School		
13 th	C4 Forest School		
14 th	C2 Forest School		
22nd	Non Uniform Day – donations to school funds		

Term 6 2025/26

Starts July	Monday 1st June	Ends	Friday 17th July
17 th	Non Uniform Day – donations to school funds		
20 th	INSET day – staff only to attend		