



Friday 13th February 2026

Good afternoon families,

I hope this weekly round-up finds you well and that you are looking forward to the weekend and the upcoming half-term break. We have had a wonderful final week here at Dinglewell Infant School, and it has been a great way to end Term 3.

This week also marked my 105th day as your Dinglewell Headteacher. This number has particular significance, as part of my interview process this time last year required me to outline what my first 100 days would look like. My intention was to spend that time getting to know the school in its entirety. I am delighted to say that I have now learnt every staff name and (I believe!) every child's name — and some parents' too. At this week's governing body meeting, I was able to share everything we have worked on since September, as well as our exciting plans for the future. Thank you all for your continued support during this period of transition.

I would also like to extend my thanks to our team of parent volunteers - Mr Mitchell, Mr Sutton and Mr Turnock and to Mrs Bews, who all braved the wintry weather on Saturday. Our Forest School was in need of some TLC, and they certainly delivered. We now have a new path around the outdoor classroom, a woodstore, two tool stations, a safer pond surround, old pallets removed and tidied, new storage solutions, an improved water butt, and a new table surface for the fire pit! Phew! Quite a list, I'm sure you'll agree. As mentioned in last week's round-up, Forest School is a vital part of our curriculum, and we are now in an even stronger position to deliver a fantastic experience for our children.

Last week, we also welcomed Year One parents to our Mastering Number workshop. It has been a delight to hear parents talking on the gate about the different ways they have been playing the games at home. If you attended and haven't yet had the chance to complete the survey, the link is below.
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSejO88J0oP7IFO_XOkVfrRPzows-8zXxWAV79DI0nRWgnmuwA/viewform?usp=header

At the start of this week, senior leaders met to discuss potential future workshops. We have considered sessions on phonics, reading and resilience (not all at once!). In the new term, I will be sending a survey to gather your views on what support you would most welcome to help you engage with your child's learning.

I would also like to thank the PTA and our parent volunteers for their hard work at this week's discos. Even from our governors meeting, which unfortunately took place at the same time, we could hear plenty of fun and laughter from the children. Fear not, I did manage to join in the dancing at this afternoon's Year One Ball! It was a wonderful way to end the Fairytale unit. Thank you to all staff for the extra effort they put in to make the afternoon magical, and thank you to parents for providing the formal wear. Sheldon's top hat was a particular favourite! In other dancing news, EYFS have delighted us with their Chinese dragon performances. They showcased not only their dancing skills but also our school value of *collaboration* as they moved around the hall sharing their new knowledge of the Chinese festival.

In today's celebration assembly, we added an extra section to recognise the children who entered the Gloucester Schools Partnership Art Competition. Congratulations to all entrants, as well as our runners-up and winners across EYFS, Year One and Year Two (see the separate attachment). All the artwork has been beautifully displayed by Mrs Best, and I will certainly be visiting St Mary de Crypt over half term to see the exhibition in all its glory.

Earlier this week, I was fortunate enough to spend the morning with Class 8. We enjoyed reading *Rain Before Rainbows* and spent time thinking about worries and wishes. We discussed how each cloud — however tricky it may be to see — holds a silver lining, and how sharing our worries can help us support one another in finding solutions.



You may be wondering where Miss Hills was during this time. She was delivering an essential in-house training session to our incredible support staff team. As you know, delivering our high-quality curriculum is a responsibility shared by everyone at Dinglewell. Our dedicated support staff now have even greater expertise in phonics acquisition and reading fluency. This training is a great example of our commitment to ongoing professional development, and we look forward to seeing its positive impact on interventions and outcomes for children.

I hope you are all looking forward to a restful half-term break with family and friends. I plan to visit the Colesborne snowdrops with my mum, attend a book club with friends, and take a trip back to Essex to visit Mr Southgate's family. It will also give my boys a chance to catch up with their old school friends, something they have been looking forward to since our last visit in December!

On behalf of everyone here at Dinglewell, I wish you a wonderful half-term break, and we look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 23rd February.

Mrs Southgate