



Dinglewell Infant School

Newsletter

January 2026

Message from Mrs Southgate

Good afternoon families,

I hope that you have had a busy and enjoyable week as we have here at Dinglewell Infant School. Many of you will know that as a teaching head, it is hugely important to me to spend as much time in the classroom as possible. Due to commitments elsewhere, I was unable to enjoy my teaching day in Class 4 this week and so I was determined to get my classroom 'fix' in another way. I have thoroughly enjoyed immersing myself in classrooms during Thursday and Friday afternoons this week. It's always great to step away from the desk and spend time with the wonderful young people that we are all here for.

This week the school has received many notes and comments of thanks from the parent community for the response to queries and comments shared. Our open door policy is alive and well! The spring term is always such a great one with routines and support being established and children really 'going for it!'. It's great to hear from parents that are noticing positive changes in their child's enthusiasm for school. To that end, it's also great to hear from Mrs Bishop that our attendance results are above local and national standards! Amazing efforts everyone.

This week we have heard from local MP Alex Mcintyre. You may remember that in the Autumn term, Alex visited Dinglewell Infants to see our SEND provision in all its glory. He has since commended us on the provision and is keen to highlight our efforts both in Gloucestershire and parliament. We are incredibly proud of the SEND team lead by Mrs James and the exceptional children that we get to spend our days with.

Did you know that Mr Bracey, as well as being terrific Cl6 teacher, PSHE lead and the schools mental health and wellbeing lead, is also our trainee teacher mentor? As a result of his commitment to his role which has been recognised by the University of Gloucestershire, on Tuesday we welcomed a host of trainee teachers to Dinglewell. They planned and delivered a series of PSHE activities for the Year One classrooms that were engaging, fun and took into consideration the needs of individuals. It's always so inspiring to see new teachers, and we know that they thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon with the Dinglewell children. A special mention to Mrs Cooke's daughter who herself was a Dinglewell pupil many years ago!

On Monday Mr Coates and I put together the first Meet the Headteacher & Chair of Governors evening. Due to the limited attendance. I would like to offer an alternative time for families to come and hear about school successes and priorities, perhaps even a teams call as we understand the limitations that evening meetings can place on childcare. Watch this space for a chance to give your views on how we can meet your needs as the parent community; and how your voice can be part of our school development plan.

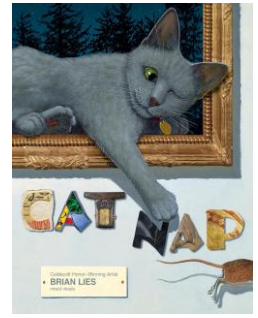
I hope that you have wonderful weekend plans and hope that, like me you are feeling rejuvenated with these sunny days that we have had. I will be spending my weekend accompanying my youngest son Flynn to birthday parties and hoping to pop over to my Mum in Cirencester for a Sunday roast, a definite perk of residing in Gloucestershire these days! Have a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Southgate

January's Book of the Month

Book of the Month – Cat Nap by Brian Lies

This month's book is remarkable! It is written and illustrated by Brian Lies, and what makes it really special is that the author-illustrator created 3-d replicas of pieces of art work from the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, and used these for the illustrations in the book.



'Cat Nap' tells the story of a sleepy kitten who spots a mouse and goes on an epic chase through time, art and history. Children who enjoy James Mayhew's books about Katie who jumps into famous works of art in a gallery, are likely to be interested in this book too. The book will be available for children to borrow and take home from the beginning of February.

Maths Challenge: February 2026

Foodie Maths

Can you find maths disguised as food?
Please take a photo, write down or draw what you have spotted. Here are 2 simple ideas to get you started.

3 sets of 2 cupcakes
2 and 2 and 2 make 6

cupcakes altogether.



Please email your foodie maths pictures to Mrs Bishop
ebishop@dinglewell-inf.gloucs.sch.uk
and I will share them on the school website.

Attendance (Every Minute Counts)



Last term, our overall attendance was **95.3%**, sitting just below the county average of **95.4%**.

As of the end of January, our attendance remains steady at **95.2%**, which is now slightly **above both the local authority figure of 95.1% and the national figure of 94.8%**. This is a really encouraging picture and reflects the commitment of our families in helping children arrive on time and ready to learn. Thank you for your continued support—every minute truly does make a difference to your child's learning and wellbeing.

Our Numbots champions for January are **Class 2** with **43%** playing last month. Well done Class 2.



Earlier this month the school was full of purposeful talk as the children presented to their classes. The teachers were full of praise for all the presentations that had been prepared at home over the Christmas holidays.

Congratulations to the Class Star Speakers:

Elsie who talked about her love of mermaids, Roman who talked about fossils and shared a few from his personal collection, Connor who talked kickboxing and showed us some key moves, Zara who shared her incredible knowledge of Votes for Women and Emmeline Pankurst, Annabelle dazzled us with her passion for birds and Henry who shared his love for knowledge of the solar system. The six Class Star Speakers then did their presentation to all the children in Year 1 and Year 2 on Wednesday 21st of January. The standard of the performances was incredibly high and made the judges job difficult. Miss Hills, Mrs Southgate and Mrs Bishop were very pleased to announce that Henry is the School Super Star Speaker.

Henry will now compete in the next heat, to be held on February 24th, at Castle Hill School. We wish Henry all the very best and know that he will be wonderful ambassador for our school.

**LOOK
WHO'S
TALKING!**

Topic Overviews

As the children returned to school each year group started new and interesting topics. The curriculum overviews for each year group are available on the school website, via the Children tab and then Year Group Pages: [Year Group Pages | Dinglewell Infant School](#) or use the QR codes below. Reception children have a topic based around dinosaurs



The Year 1 children are being immersed in traditional fairy tales with a topic entitled Once Upon a Time. There are also some project suggestions of activities that you can do at home to support their learning.



In Year 2 the topic is based around Lighthouses.



Will you help make a positive impact of your child's Forest School Experience?

We hope to achieve these tasks over a couple of mornings on a weekend or in February half term dependant on volunteer availability.

Task Force Required – please can you help; Mrs Bews would like to volunteers to join her in a working party to help restore and renovate some areas of Forest School.



Create a tool station using old pallets (wood work skills would be amazing)



Repair pond surround



Move old stored paving slabs to an alternative space (load bearing trolley available)



Removal of some embedded slabs around the pond/ replaced with wooden sleepers.



Gardening

Please contact Mrs Bews with your availability using JBews@dinglewell-inf.gloucs.sch.uk

Panto!



The children really enjoyed the visiting pantomime earlier this month. Watching their faces and reactions was simply priceless. M&M Theatrical Productions will be returning in January 2027 with a pantomime based on the story of Cinderella.

Year 1 Mastering Number Parent Project

Mrs Bishop has had a positive response from parents about the Mastering Number workshops. There are still a few spaces available at the afternoon session; please contact the office to reserve a space.



NCETM
NATIONAL CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE
IN THE TEACHING OF MATHEMATICS

The activity packs will be sent home with every child on Monday 2nd February following the workshops and run for 5 weeks. We hope you enjoy using these supportive materials.

Active Challenge

The Home Adventure ; Create a home obstacle course. You could:

1. Balance Walk; Walk along a line (tape, a crack in the pavement, or imaginary line).
2. Jumping Zone; Do 5 jumps (two feet or one foot).
3. Animal Move; Move like an animal for 10 seconds (bear crawl, frog jumps, crab walk).
4. Target Throw; Throw socks or a soft toy into a box, basket, or bucket.
5. Quiet Finish; Freeze like a statue for 10 seconds.

Even better if.. You make up your own!



Emotion Coaching

Please remember to let the office know if you are interested in being added to a waiting list for future Emotion Coaching Workshops.



Thank You.

Thank you so much to all parents that drive to school in a morning or use the car at pick up time and park responsibly within the community. This simple act supports the school values of responsibility and respect that we strive to develop within all the children of Dinglewell Infant School.

It has saddened us greatly to receive two separate messages of inconsiderate parking across neighbours driveways this month. In one incident the entire driveway was blocked, stopping the resident from being able to drive on/off their driveway. This not only makes the immediate environment unsafe but builds unnecessary tension with our neighbours. Please be mindful of parking regulations and remember the message that you are sending to your children.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Term 3 2025/26

Starts Monday 5th January **Ends** Friday 13th February

February

4th C6 Cricket Festival
6th PTA Quiz Night
11th Height/Weight/Vision Screening for Reception
11th School Disco
13th Non Uniform Day – donations to school funds
13th Year One Royal Ball

Term 4 2025/26

Starts Monday 23rd February **Ends** Friday 27th March

March

27th Non Uniform Day – donations to school funds 12.30pm finish
27th PTA Cake Sale

Term 5 2025/26

Starts Monday 13th April **Ends** Friday 22nd May

May

4th Bank holiday
22nd Non Uniform Day – donations to school funds

Term 6 2025/26

Starts Monday 1st June **Ends** Friday 17th July

July

17th Non Uniform Day – donations to school funds 12.30pm finish
20th INSET day – staff only to attend