



Dinglewell Infant School

Newsletter

December 2025

Message from Mrs Southgate

Dear families,

It is hard to believe that there are only 7 sleeps until Christmas, and I hope that, similarly to my own home, your children are full of excitement and festive cheer. Team Southgate are going to see the Sudeley Castle Christmas lights tonight, which I have been reliably informed is beautiful but COLD!

This week has most certainly been the week in which I have been the proudest headteacher in all of Gloucester. I am sure that you will agree that the year group nativities were exceptional. EYFS delighted us with their nursery rhyme nativity, a definite highlight being those enthusiastic camels! Year One, despite being down a king, still managed to deliver all that was needed to Bethlehem, and finally, Year Two's singing was absolutely sensational. A huge thank you to our families who provided costumes and supported children in learning songs and lines. It wouldn't have been the same without your efforts.

This month, I have continued to enjoy touring prospective parents around the school and love hearing comments about how polite, respectful, and engaged the children are. Something that I share as part of the tour are our plans to develop the lunchtime provision. I am pleased to tell you that we have been awarded a grant from a local firm, Mears Foundation, to support our provision of purposeful play stations and a calming and sensory space for all children to access. Our next step is to chat with the children about what they would like their lunchtime play to look like, and then it'll be on to the plans. Keep your eyes and ears posted for ways that you can also get involved.

I am delighted to share with you all that our pastoral lead, the wonderful Mrs Ali, has been awarded a 'once in a lifetime' opportunity in the new year. She has been invited, through the LIA Relief Trust, to accompany 10 Palestinian orphans on a meaningful journey to the city of Mecca. While this aspect of the trip holds religious significance, what truly lies at the heart of this initiative is compassion, offering families who have lost everything the opportunity to feel dignity, peace, and support once again. We are looking forward to sharing Mrs Ali's experience with her and the school community, and if you would like to know more about the trip itself, or a way in which your family can support the charity's efforts, please contact the office. Mrs Ali has been working alongside myself and Mrs James to ensure that, in her absence, all of the children and families continue to be well supported. Please remember our door and the phone line are always open.

With that, my final message of the term is a wish of joy and love to you and your families over the Christmas break. Thank you all for your constant support of Dinglewell Infant School through this term's period of change. I hope that everyone enjoys a restful break and I look forward to welcoming you back to school on Tuesday 6th January 2026.

November's Book of the Month



November's Book of the Month was My Friend, Billy Whiskers. Written and illustrated by David Litchfield, this book is a charming celebration of friendship, bravery, and the little push we sometimes need to try something new.

On a snowy day, while the other children play together, Patrick sits alone – but he isn't really alone. His imaginary friend, Billy Whiskers is always there, ready for bike rides, tree climbs, and magical adventures where Patrick's worries can just disappear. But on this special snow day, with the help of Billy whiskers, Patrick finds the courage to take a new adventure and say hello to real life children playing in the real life playground.

Our Numbots champions for November are **Class 3** with **67%** playing last month. Well done Class 3.



Charitable efforts

As a school, we have contributed to multiple charitable efforts this term. Thank you all for your generosity.

Children in Need - Thank you for supporting Children In Need last month. The children looked amazing in their spots and Pudsey jumpers. As a school we raise £178. THANK YOU

Save the Children – Christmas jumper day donations totalled £155.35

James Hopkins Trust – Our Christmas production donations raised £106.65 for the James Hopkins Trust

Maths Challenge: December 2025

Create an image of Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer using 2D shapes. Please remember to label the shapes that you have used. Here are a couple of ideas to get you started. Please email a photo of your 2D shape Rudolph to

ebishop@dinglewell-inf.gloucs.sch.uk



Attendance (Every Minute Counts)

Last term, our attendance figure was 95.6%, which was in line with the Local Authority average and slightly above the national figure.



As of the end of November, our attendance stands at 95.3%, which is just below the county average of 95.4%.

Cross Country Championships



We are incredibly proud of our cross-country team: **Sofia, Olivia, Eadie, Henry, Cesca, Penny, Elijah, Albert & Matthew**; who represented Dinglewell Infant School at the Cross Country Championships in November this year. 1,200 children from 25 local schools competed and our Year 2 team came 3rd overall. Albert had a fantastic race finishing 4th overall, well done Albert. A huge congratulation goes to the whole team for their amazing performances as every position counts!

Please remember that every minute counts when it comes to your child's learning. We do understand that Dinglewell has recently experienced a wave of seasonal illnesses, including a nasty cold and flu-like bug, followed by a stomach bug. On some days, children and staff have simply not been well enough to attend, and in those cases, home is absolutely the right place to be. Thank you for continuing to support good attendance whenever possible—it really does make a difference.

Message from Mrs Beer

As the Christmas season encroaches... don't forget to pop a token or two in the Dinglewell Infant 'Stronger Starts' bid! Help us to build a better Outdoor Learning environment.



Friends of Dinglewell Infant School – A Heartfelt Thank You

A huge thank you to everyone who braved the weather on the evening of 5th December to join us for our Christmas Fayre. The event was a wonderful success, and the hall was alive with festive cheer and activity! We are so grateful to the Friends of Dinglewell Infant School (FofDIS) for their incredible hard work and to our dedicated staff for manning the stalls. Thanks to your generosity, the Christmas Fayre raised an amazing £528.66, and the Christmas Colouring Competition added a further £108.81.

Earlier in the month, the wreath-making and quiz night brought in £561.85, and the school disco in October raised £305.30.

Your support for these fabulous events makes a real difference. The school is currently deciding how best to use the funds raised, but please know that every penny is greatly appreciated. A significant portion of the fundraising goes towards maintaining our school iPads, ensuring our children continue to benefit from high-quality learning resources.

Thank you once again for your continued support – it truly helps make our school an even better place for our children.

Panto!



Just a quick reminder that M&M productions will be in school on Friday 16th January with their performance of Sleeping Beauty. Please remember that all children will need packed lunch that day, unless you have pre-booked a packed a lunch via the kitchen.

Year 1 Mastering Number Parent Project

Mrs Bishop, our maths lead, will be organising the Mastering Number Parent project and hosting a workshop for parents to attend with their child early in the new year. Details on the project will be sent to Year 1 parents in January, and this will include details on how to secure a place at the workshop.



NCETM
NATIONAL CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE
IN THE TEACHING OF MATHEMATICS

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Term 3 2025/26

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

January

5th INSET day—staff only to attend
6th Children return to school
6th Panathlon
12th Y1 & Y2 Wordsearch/Puzzle Club
14th C5 Athletics
14th Y2 Forest School Club
14th Y1 & Y2 Running Club
15th Y1 Art Club
16th Panto in school

February

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

Term 4 2025/26

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

March

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

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