



Dinglewell Infant School

Newsletter

November 2025

Message from Mrs Southgate

Good afternoon families, I hope that this newsletter finds you well, albeit a little soggy! It's hard to believe it has been a full month since the last newsletter, there has been so much to keep us busy at school. I hope that you enjoy reading about all of the enrichment activities that have been offered to the children.

It has been my pleasure this month to continue parent tours for prospective Dinglewell parents, a role that I thoroughly enjoy. It is easy to see why Dinglewell is chosen and I would like to take this opportunity to commend the children for their responses during tours. I will often appear in classrooms and invite the children to share the most special part of Dinglewell Infant School. This week, the responses have been *'I love how caring everyone is', 'It is great to be challenged and supported with our learning'. 'I love playtime because I love to run around!'* I quite agree with this final one and wish our Cross Country team good luck in their future event.

This month, even more school clubs have begun and I had the chance to pop in to puzzle club on Monday afternoon. It was great to see our school values of responsibility and cooperation being demonstrated so brilliantly. This week I was also fortunate enough to be invited on the Year One trip to Westonbirt. Although the weather did not give us it's best, we certainly made the most of puddles, soggy piles of leaves and catching raindrops with our tongue. As the headteacher, it was a privilege to see the children, staff and parent volunteers enjoying the chance to deepen their knowledge about the woodland. I am looking forward to seeing how Year One use this knowledge to deepen their understanding of seasons and the natural world.

Thank you to all of the families who have attended parent consultation in recent weeks and to those that completed the feedback surveys. With such a huge community, it is incredibly useful for us to use these opportunities to understand parent view and consider ways that we can work better together. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive with many parents choosing 'strongly agree' to the question 'Would you recommend the school to another parent'. Thank you! We hope that you continue to view us as a school for whom open communication is hugely important, and to that end, please do make an appointment if there is something that you would like to discuss in person. We will always make time for a phone call or visit in person.

Finally, I'd like to end the message by sharing the words that have come from staff, governors, children and yourselves in response to our 'What's in a word cloud challenge'. I'm sure you'll agree that it is a truly positive reflection of our wonderful school community.

constructive, love, honest, imaginative, creative thinkers, resilient, kind, competitive, loving, inclusive, friendly, inquisitive, adventurous, family, perfect, helpful, vibrant, kind, independent, collaborative, beautiful, supportive, a team, sporty, helpful, thoughtful, caring, curious, surprising, loving, careful, community, happy, organised, welcoming, inclusive, supportive, passionate, engaging, positive, fun, attentive, patient, safe, nurturing, family, attentive, nurturing, supportive, happy, welcoming, sociable, creative, inclusive, kind, supportive, creative, safe, enjoyable, caring, progressive, positive, open, welcoming, organised, community, inclusive, caring, learning, fantastic, the best, patient, supportive, friendly, helpful, attentive, patient

Have a lovely weekend,
Mrs Southgate

Attendance

We're thrilled to share that our current whole-school attendance stands at **95.6%**! This is right in line with local authority figures and even slightly ahead of the national average—a wonderful achievement that reflects the commitment of our students, families, and staff. Thank you for helping us maintain such strong attendance, which plays a vital role in learning success. Let's keep aiming high together!



Maths Challenge: November 2025

This month's activity focuses on our on-line learning platform NumBots. NumBots is an excellent way to support your child's maths learning at school and their developing number sense.

Mrs Bishop will monitor usage during November and the class that has the highest percentage of children playing will be awarded our robot mascot for the month. Play can then continue each month with the mascot awarded to the class sustaining their efforts at home. Currently Class 3 are in the lead with 52% of the class having successfully logged in and started their NumBots journey. If you

need a copy of your child's login details, please email Mrs Bishop

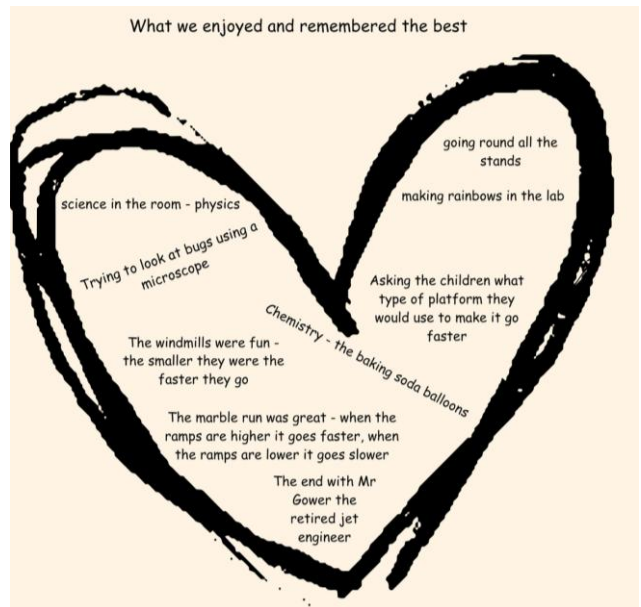
ebishop@dinglewell-inf.gloucs.sch.uk



Science Festival

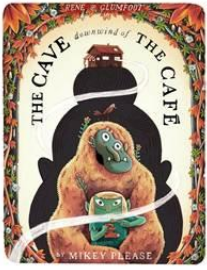
Mrs Bews took a group of Year 2 children to this year's science festival and has sent the following photos to capture the event.

Our fabulous Science Ambassadors worked hard to explore and explain our concept of air pressure.



October's Book of the Month

October's Book of the Month was 'The Cave Downwind of the Café', by BAFTA-winning and Oscar-nominated writer, director, and animator, Mikey Please. It's a prequel to his first book, 'The Café at the Edge of the Woods' which won the Waterstones Children's Book Prize. It begins,



*Glumfoot grew up in a cave,
where every morning father made
a booger broth, stirred with a spade.
He dreamed of something sweeter.*

It's a great book for children (and adults!) who like monsters and all things disgusting, and has been described as 'darkly hilarious.'

School Council

Mrs Bishop and Mr Bracey met with the School Council members on Thursday 14th October.

A warm welcome was given to the Key Stage 1 members for this year:

Class 4 – Annie and Jack

Class 5 – Oliver and Beatrice

Class 6 – Emmie and Grace

Class 7 – Amber and Kai

Class 8 – Lottie and Penny

Class 9 – Charlie and Isla

They discussed the purpose of the school council and shared some ideas on how we could improve the school. One of their ideas was to have an assembly each day. As a direct result, Mrs Southgate has introduced a new Wednesday assembly for the whole school.

Mrs Southgate, Mrs Bishop and Mr Bracey are going to be asking the school council to choose a charity for the year. Please talk to your children about any charities that hold a special significance to you and/or your family. They can send their ideas through their school council members to the next meeting.

Year 1 Visit to Westonbirt

Earlier this week, our Year 1 children enjoyed a seasonal adventure at Westonbirt Arboretum, immersing themselves in the vibrant colours of autumn. They wandered through golden carpets of fallen leaves, marvelling at nature's changing palette. Not even the rain could dampen our spirits—though we were all thankful for the shelter offered by the trees!

A heartfelt thank you to the parent helpers who accompanied us. Your support is invaluable, and outings like these simply wouldn't be possible without you.

Active Challenge – Christmas Hunt

The active challenge that Mrs Beer has set has a Christmas theme.

Ask a family member to hide 10 of the same objects (it could be baubles or candy canes). Each time you find an object, you must bring it back to a spot before going to find the next. Keep going until you have found all 10.

Copies of the challenge will be sent home via bookbags. Please return completed forms to school to be entered into the prize draw.

Mrs Beer has been busy organising different sporting events for our children to participate in through her work with the Gloucester School Sports Network. 11 of the Year 2 girls went to a **Rugby Taster day in October**. They learnt about passing, throwing and scoring. It was a very wet day which is perfect Rugby Weather!



This **November**, we hosted a **Benchball Competition**. Nine teams made up from children across many Gloucester Schools, all competed in the tournament. All 3 of our own teams, were brilliant. They showed a competitive spirit and every player got better as the morning went on.

Congratulations to our Blue Team who came 2nd overall!

A special mention to our children that received Special awards:

Indi: for listening to the rules so carefully and picking up the game so confidently.

Elijah: for the most amazing catch on the bench (his hands ended up in a figure of 8 shape).

Keira: for waiting for her turn to play her games so sensibly, showing how sensible she is.



Housekeeping

We kindly ask all parents and carers to park considerately when dropping off or collecting children. Recently, a neighbour reported being unable to leave their driveway for 20 minutes due to a car blocking access. Please ensure driveways and entrances are kept clear at all times. Your cooperation helps maintain good relationships with our community and keeps everyone safe. Thank you for your support!



Request from Mrs Bews

The Reception team are looking for volunteers to support outdoor learning on a Friday morning. If you are interested and can spare some time on a Friday morning, please contact Mrs Bews directly on jbews@dinglewells-inf.gloucs.sch.uk

Friends of Dinglewell Infant School

The Friends of Dinglewell Infant School are busy preparing the Christmas Wreath Making Workshop and the Christmas Fayre. It is not too late to pledge your support for the Christmas Fayre. If you can spare half an hour to help on a stall please email the Friends of Dinglewell Infant School dinglewells-infants-pta@outlook.com



New Topics:

All the year groups have started new topics this term

Reception: Autumn and Winter Celebrations

Year 1: Whatever the Weather

Year 2: London's Burning

Please look on the school website for curriculum overviews and the optional projects for Year 1 and Year 2 to enjoy doing at home to support their learning.

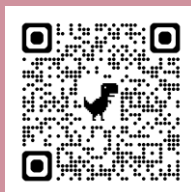
EYFS



Year 1



Year 2



DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Term 2 2025/26

Starts	Monday 3rd November	Ends	Friday 19th December
November			
3rd	INSET day—staff only to attend		
4th	Children return to school		
14 th	PTA Quiz Night		
28 th	PTA Christmas Wreath Making		

December

5th	PTA Christmas Fayre	
12th	iRock Concert	
15th	Reception Christmas Production	
16th	Y1 Christmas Production	
17th	Christmas Lunch	
17th	Y2 Christmas Production	
19th	Non Uniform Day – donations to school funds	12.30pm finish

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		
16 th	Panto in school		

February

13 th	Non Uniform Day – donations to school funds	
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Term 4 2025/26

Starts	Monday 23rd February	Ends	Friday 27 th 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			
17 th	Non Uniform Day – donations to school funds		12.30pm finish
20th	INSET day – staff only to attend		