

Dinglewell Infant School

Newsletter

October 2025



Message from Mrs Southgate

Dear families,

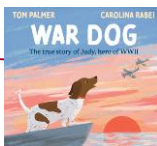
It is such a pleasure to write this to you following what I can only describe as a beautiful Harvest Service put on by the children. There was an overwhelming attendance from family members and it was delightful to see everyone so happily sharing in gratitude and joy for the season. Thank you immensely for your generosity. We are delighted to present the Gloucester Food Bank with 182 bottles of squash and a total of 278 items donated!! Wow!

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your attendance at the parent 'drop in' sessions after school this week. I was a very proud headteacher wandering through the school on these afternoons observing how the children proudly showed every highlight including spelling, maths and handwriting; and also the drawers, coat pegs and lunch bands! The comments that you have made will be added to the children's learning journeys as a constant reminder for them of just how **proud** you are. Here is just a selection below:

- *We are so proud of your progress. You love learning and we love hearing how you are challenged.*
- *10/10 proud!*
- *We love how much you love school*
- *I am so glad that I can see progress every single day!*
- *He loves going to the library and talks about maths a lot!*

As we go into our final half term, I can hardly believe we are 1/6 through the academic year already and would like to thank you for your continued support. After the half term, we will be looking forward to seeing you for the run up to (dare I say it) Christmas, parent consultations, Yr1 trip to Westonbirt, Festive productions and many fantastic events from our FODIS team.

Personally, I have wooded walks, pumpkin carving and rugby planned in for the week with my own children. We will also be heading back to Essex for a visit. I hope that you all have a wonderful half term break with your friends and family and wish you a safe return to school in November.



September's Book of the Month

Our book for the month for September was War Dog by Tom Palmer. The book tells the true story of the World War II hero Judy, a dog who lived on a ship called HMS Grasshopper.

Housekeeping

Please can we request that on your child's Forest School and PE days, they arrive at school dressed in their school uniform and have all the relevant clothing and footwear in a large, clearly named bag, with a separate bag to bring their muddy boots home in. Many parents have found that supermarket large reusable bags for life are ideal for filling with Forest School clothing and wellington boots. We are obliged to point out that other brands of bags are available! Forest School dates have been sent in a separate letter and dates added to the school calendar.

Attendance

We want to thank all families for their continued support in helping children arrive at school ready to learn. Currently, our whole-school attendance stands at **96.3%**, which is in line with both **local** and **national** averages. We are currently receiving a high number of requests for absence, most of which are unable to authorise. Research shows that children who attend school regularly not only achieve more academically but also build stronger friendships and routines.

Let's work together to keep our attendance above 95%, as every day really does count.



Help Dinglewell Infant School Win a Tesco Grant!

We're thrilled to share that Dinglewell Infant School has been shortlisted for the Tesco Stronger Starts grant!

We're hoping to secure funding to build a new playhouse and sports equipment storage area to enrich our outdoor play space and spark imaginative play in our natural environment.

How you can help:

- Shop at your local Tesco between October 2025 and mid-January 2026
- Collect a blue token at checkout
- Vote for Dinglewell Infant School at the in-store voting unit

Every token counts, so please encourage friends and family to support us too. Let's make this happen together!

Thank you for your continued support



Pantomime

Following last year's magical performance of Jack and the Beanstalk, we're thrilled to announce that M&M Theatrical Productions will be returning to school on **Friday 16th January** with their enchanting new show: Sleeping Beauty. The children were captivated by last year's production, and we're sure this year's performance will be just as memorable. It's a wonderful opportunity to bring live theatre into school and spark imaginations!

Costings and lunch arrangements have already been sent home.



BBC Children In Need

We will once again be taking part in BBC Children in Need on **Friday 15th November**. The event is called 'Make Life Lighter', this year.

The children can come into school wearing anything spotty in exchange for a donation.

Please do not send cash into school, donations should be made via Parentpay,



Year 2 visit to Farmer Gow's Farm

The Year 2's enjoyed a wonderful day out at Farmer Gow's farm in Oxfordshire. The children fed goats, cows, geese, pigs and sheep; handled hens and collected their eggs. They also learned about how plants are grown and discovered how fish are used to help grow salad crops! Following the trip, the children have completed lots of fantastic work, including recounts of the trip, learning about animals and their young, as well as completing some food-inspired artwork using Guiseppe Arcimboldo as inspiration



Message from Mrs Beer

Congratulations to our Women's Engand Team in winning the Euros this year. I feel that this was perfect timing as, the following week, some of the Year 2 girls took part in a Football skills workshop at Ribston High School. Maybe we have some future lionesses in the making?



Welcoming Our Student Teachers

We're delighted to introduce three PGCE students from the University of Gloucestershire who have joined our school community for their first teaching placement. Miss Robyn Churchill, Miss Ciara Doran, and Miss Anna-Marie Fisher will be with us until **28th November**, working alongside our experienced Year 1 staff to support and inspire our pupils.

Each brings fresh enthusiasm, a passion for learning, and a keen interest in developing their teaching practice. We're thrilled to have them on board and know they'll be warmly welcomed by children, staff, and families alike.

Please don't hesitate to say hello if you see them around the school—they're excited to be part of our journey!

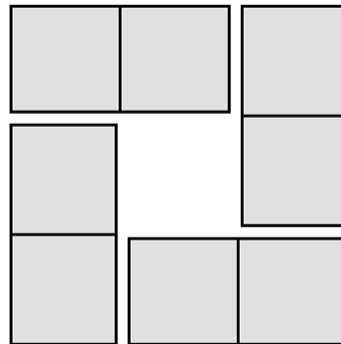
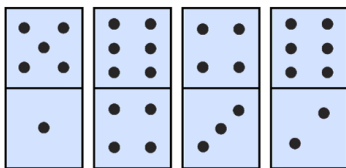
Non Uniform Day

Our first non uniform day of the year will be next Friday 24th October 2025. With **school council** having had their first meeting this week, we are well on our way to fundraising ideas and school improvement with the children's views at the heart! Keep your eyes posted for a School Council update coming soon.

Maths Challenge: October 2025

4 Dominoes Challenge

Use these four dominoes to make a square that has the same number of dots on each side.



What did you do to try to solve this challenge?

Use this QR code to take you to the maths at home page on the school website

Please email your solutions to Mrs Bishop ebishop@dinglewell-inf.gloucs.sch.uk

Prospective Parent Visits

At this time of the year (Autumn 2025) many parents are starting to look at local schools to decide which one will best suit their child. At Dinglewell we have set aside some times to show you around in small groups. This will be an opportunity to have a guided tour of the school where you can meet the staff and children and Mrs Southgate will answer any questions you may have. Visits will last approximately 35 minutes and will take place on:

Thursday 9th October at 9.10am – FULLY BOOKED
Tuesday 14th October at 9.10am – FULLY BOOKED
Thursday 6th November at 9.10am – FULLY BOOKED
Monday 17th November at 9.10am – LIMITED SPACES
Thursday 20th November at 9.10am – FULLY BOOKED
Friday 21st November at 9.10am – FULLY BOOKED
Tuesday 25th November at 9.10am – FULLY BOOKED
Friday 28th November at 9.10am – FULLY BOOKED
Monday 1st December at 9.10am – FULLY BOOKED
Tuesday 2nd December at 9.10am – FULLY BOOKED
Friday 5th December at 9.10am – FULLY BOOKED
Tuesday 9th December at 9.10am – FULLY BOOKED
Thursday 11th December at 9.10am – FULLY BOOKED
Friday 12th December at 9.10am – LIMITED SPACES
Tuesday 6th January at 9.10am – LIMITED SPACES



We are excited to announce that we are also holding an open evening for prospective parents to attend:

Tuesday 18th November 5pm – 6pm

This will provide an opportunity to come and meet the staff, tour the school and see some of the classrooms set up as they would be during the school day.

We will also be welcoming representatives from the Hucclecote Playgroup and the Dinglewell Junior School. We believe that choosing Dinglewell is an investment in your child's future at every point and so let us share with you how we can support your children at every stage of their development.

Following the tours of the infant school, the junior school will also be open should you wish to consider what great opportunities may also be available to you in the not too distant future.

Remembrance Day at Dinglewell Infant School

As Remembrance Day approaches, we take time as a school community to honour the courageous men and women who have served our country. This day holds deep significance, and we believe it's important for our pupils to understand its meaning and relevance through age-appropriate reflection and discussion.



To support the Poppy Appeal, children will have the opportunity to purchase a poppy at school. If you would like your child to take part, please send a cash donation in a named envelope between Tuesday 4th November and Monday 10th November.

As a school community we will come together to respect the 2minute silence at 11 o'clock on the 11th November.

Friends of Dinglewell Infant School

Following a successful planning meeting earlier this month, the Friends of Dinglewell Infant School are excited to share details of upcoming events with you. You should have already received a letter from the committee outlining these events and ways to get involved.



However, we're reaching out with an urgent appeal: the Christmas Fayre is at risk of not going ahead unless we can recruit more help from the wider Dinglewell community.

Currently, the Friends committee consists of just ten dedicated members who have supported the school over the past few years. As committed as they are, it's simply not possible for such a small group to organise and run an event as large as the Christmas Fayre without significant support from families.

If you can spare even half an hour—to help set up, run a stall, or assist with tidying up—it would make a huge difference.

Please email the committee to pledge your support. We're asking for offers of help by **Tuesday 4th November**.

The next Friends meeting will take place on **Tuesday 4th November at 7:30pm at the Wagon & Horses**, where a final decision will be made about whether the Christmas Fayre can go ahead.

Every bit of help counts—thank you!

Dinglewell-Infants-PTA@outlook.com

 Friends of Dinglewell Infant School
invite you to



FRIDAY 14th NOV

Doors open
from 7 pm **7.30PM START**

REFRESHMENTS & SNACKS AVAILABLE (CASH BAR)

TEAMS OF UP TO 6 (ADULTS ONLY)

PRIZE FOR THE WINNING TEAM!

£3.50
per person



DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Term 1 2025/26

Starts October	Monday 1st September	Ends	Friday 24th October
9 th	Flu Immunisations		
11 th	FoDIS Quiz Night (adults only)		
21 st & 22 nd	Individual photos		
22 nd	FoDIS School Disco		
24 th	Non Uniform Day – donations to school funds		

Term 2 2025/26

Starts November	Monday 3rd November	Ends	Friday 19th December
3rd	INSET day—staff only to attend		
4th	Children return to school		
28 th	PTA Christmas Wreath Making		
December 19 th	Non Uniform Day – donations to school funds	12.30pm finish	

Term 3 2025/26

Starts January	Monday 5th January	Ends	Friday 13th February
5th	INSET day—staff only to attend		
6th	Children return to school		
February 13 th	Non Uniform Day – donations to school funds		

Term 4 2025/26

Starts March	Monday 23rd February	Ends	Friday 27th March
27th	Non Uniform Day – donations to school funds	12.30pm finish	

Term 5 2025/26

Starts May	Monday 13th April	Ends	Friday 22nd May
4th	Bank holiday		
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	12.30pm finish	
20th	INSET day – staff only to attend		