



Dinglewell Infant School

Newsletter

March 2025

Message from Mrs Barby

I hope everyone had a lovely half term break and had the opportunity to recharge their batteries!

This week we will be participating in World Book Day events to encourage children and families to find fun and enjoyment in reading. I am really grateful to all the staff who have volunteered to host a Bedtime Stories event between 5 and 5.45 pm on Thursday – World Book Day. If you would like your child to attend please make a payment of £3 via Parentpay to book a place.



Mrs Bews and the rest of the staff are busy planning a science festival to mark British Science Week, which will be held on Thursday 13th March. The theme this year is Change and Adapt. Each class will work on an activity in their classroom to bring to the festival and share with the other classes.

Parent Drop-Ins

You are welcome to visit your child's classroom and share their learning with them at one of the Parent Drop-ins on Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th March from 3.20pm to 3.35pm. Parent Consultations are being held at the beginning of April, a separate email will be sent outlining dates and times for your child's class and details on how to book an appointment.

Housekeeping

Please can we remind you that children should be at school for 8.40am ready for registration at 8.45am and should arrive with everything that they need for the day.

Due to long term absence we are currently short staffed in the office, and the staff are spending a lot of time amending registers and taking late children and forgotten items such as lunchboxes, PE kits and library books to classrooms each day.

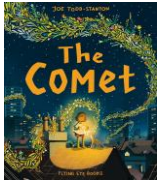
If there are any last minute changes to collection arrangements, please hand a note to your child's teacher in the morning at drop off.

Communication

To ensure that your queries are addressed promptly please direct all emails to the school office at admin@dinglewell-inf.gloucs.sch.uk This will ensure that your messages are received and dealt with in a timely manner. Individual class email addresses are not monitored as frequently so there could be a delay in you receiving a response

We understand the convenience of WhatsApp for communications between parents regarding school-related matters, however, if you have any concerns or queries please contact school directly in the first instance so that we can try to resolve your query.

February's Book of the Month



The Comet by Joe Todd-Stanton

Nyla is a creative child who loves drawing and enjoys her life in the countryside. She lives with her dad, and they spend lots of time playing and cooking together, making up stories and watching the night sky.

But everything changes when they have to move to the city, Dad has no time to play with her, the buildings are grey, the streets are busy, her school is strange and there are very few stars in the night sky. Then one night Nyla spots a comet, sparking her imagination, memories and lots of creative activity.

Lunchbox Reminder



As part of our 'Healthy School's Policy' we ask that you do not put chocolate bars in packed lunches. Thank you.

Our Numbots champions for February are **Class 1** with **42%** playing last month. Well done, Class 1.



Attendance (Every Minute Counts)

At the end of January our attendance figure for the year to date was 96.1% which was above both the National and Local Authority average. Our attendance this year to the end of February has fallen slightly to 95.8% but remains above the Local Authority figure of 94.9% and the National figure of 94.8%.

We understand that are times when children are unwell, and we do ask that you adhere to our guidelines for attendance surrounding sickness and diarrhoea. Your child should not return to school until at least 48 hours have passed since the last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea.

We also ask that if you have needed to give your child Calpol (or similar) before school this would strongly suggest that they are not well enough for the demands of the school day.



Please remember to phone the school office and leave a message to inform us that your child will be absent and the reason for this.

Comic Relief – Red Nose Day



We will be participating in this years Red Nose Day on Friday 21st March. We are holding a non-uniform day and ask that the children wear something red (no football kits please) in exchange for a donation to Comic Relief.

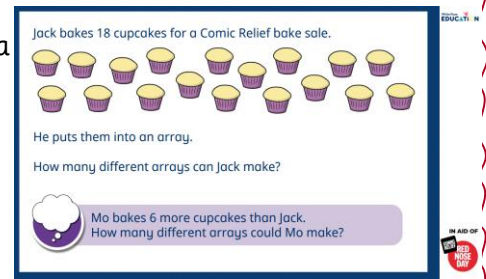
Donations to Comic Relief should be made directly via Parent Pay, please do not send cash into school.

Maths Challenge: March 2025

To link with Red Nose Day the challenge this month is based on a cake sale. An array is an arrangement of pictures or objects into columns and rows. They need to be arranged into a square or a rectangle with no holes in the middle to be an array. For this challenge, an array is a full box of cakes.



For example, this is an array for 15 cakes:-

A worksheet for a maths challenge about arrays of cupcakes. It features a blue border and a small 'Red Nose Day' logo in the bottom right corner. The text on the worksheet reads: 'Jack bakes 18 cupcakes for a Comic Relief bake sale.' Below this is an illustration of 18 purple cupcakes arranged in a 3x6 grid. The text continues: 'He puts them into an array. How many different arrays can Jack make?' Below this is a purple speech bubble containing the text: 'Mo bakes 6 more cupcakes than Jack. How many different arrays could Mo make?'

Jack bakes 18 cupcakes for a Comic Relief bake sale.

He puts them into an array.

How many different arrays can Jack make?

Mo bakes 6 more cupcakes than Jack.

How many different arrays could Mo make?

Mrs Bishop would love to see your solutions to this Red Nose Day problem. Please email photos of your arrays to: ebishop@dinglewells-inf.gloucs.sch.uk so they can be shared on the school website to celebrate maths at home.

Active Challenge



A big thank you and well done to everyone who participated in the Push-Up challenge last term.

This term's PE challenge is a Spring Walk. You are asked to take a spring walk ticking off the different signs of spring that you can see. Please look out for entry forms and tick sheets in book bags and send these back into school to be placed in the prize draw. This challenge will close at the end of Term 4.

Easter Hat Parade



We will be holding an Easter Hat parade on Friday 11th April as part of our Easter celebrations. More details will be included in the April newsletter.

Orienteering Festival

Class 5 enjoyed their trip to the Orienteering Festival hosted by the Gloucester Schools Sports Network on Robinswood Hill on 26th February. It was a very wet morning and the hill was very muddy but this didn't dampen the spirits of the children and fun was had by all. A big thank you to the parents that volunteered to help.



GSP Gloucestershire Dance Festival

Some of our children took part in Gloucestershire Dance festival at Cheltenham Town Hall in February. The theme was 'A Step Back in Time'. Eighteen schools took part, and we were the first school to perform. The children were very excited to step onto the stage and perform 'Jail House Rock' in front of a very large and unfamiliar audience. They 'Rock and Rolled' right to the end, despite a few last-minute prop difficulties. Well done Oliver, Maddison, Emma, Kendra, Freya, Lily-Rose, Effimie, Amelia, April, Franca, Emilie, Jacob, Seb, Rosie, Aurora, Bo, Beau, Reuben and Lily. You were AMAZING!



Our Super Star Speaker, Bo, represented the school brilliantly at the Partnership Heats on 5th February. Mrs Hockley, Mrs Barby and Bo's parents were there to support her. She competed against other Key Stage 1 winners from the Gloucester School's Partnership. Her talk on gymnastics was well-delivered but sadly, Bo wasn't advanced to the Gloucestershire Finals. We are all really proud of our Bo and her achievements in the Look Who's Talking competition. Well done Bo!

**LOOK
WHO'S
TALKING!**

Message from the Chair of Governors

You will by now be aware that Mrs Barby is leaving us at the end of academic year and figuratively will leave massive shoes to fill. The Governing Board now has the responsibility to recruit her replacement, a task that is not underestimated and one I feel a heavy responsibility to get right. As a former parent of the school my lasting memory of that first visit and deciding to send our daughter to DIS was Mrs Barby, and more recently having viewed many secondary schools locally I reflect on how having the right leadership matters in education. But it is not the views of Governors alone that we must consider, so we have heard from pupils themselves who would like the new headteacher to be 'caring, respectful and kind', and I have been reminded by staff of the increasing importance of considering social and emotional wellbeing and ensuring equity in access to education for all the young people who come through our doors. We have weaved these themes into the information pack that we have prepared for potential candidates.

Despite a busy start to the year, we started the process as quickly as possible and the job advert was published last week on the Gloucestershire County Council School Vacancy website as well as on our school website. Shortlisting of candidates will take place in the middle of March and we are planning for interviews in early April. I will keep you updated as the process moves on.

Adam Coates

chair@dinglewell-inf.gloucs.sch.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Term 4 2024/25

Starts **Monday 24th February** **Ends at 12.30pm** **Friday 11th April**

March

6th World Book Day –
Books for Bugs Book Fair
Bedtime Stories 5-5.45 pm
12th & 13th C1 Parent Consultations
13th Science Festival
21st Red Nose Day – donations to Comic Relief via Parentpay

April

4th iRock Concert
11th Non Uniform Day – donations to school funds via Parentpay
Easter Hat Parade

Term 5 2024/25

Starts **Monday 28th April** **Ends** **Friday 23rd May**

May

5th Bank holiday
6th Class Photos
23rd Non Uniform Day – donations to school funds via Parentpay

Term 6 2024/25

Starts **Monday 2nd June** **Ends at 12.30 pm** **Friday 18th July**

June

2nd INSET day = staff only to attend
3rd Children return to school
23rd-27th Enrichment Week
26th Sports Day

July

11th iRock Concert
18th Non Uniform Day – donations to school funds via Parentpay