

Friday 15th May 2026



Dear families,

I hope you have all enjoyed your week and managed to dodge the sudden rain showers. The playground has certainly kept us entertained today with coats coming off, going back on, and then coming off again. Two are currently drying in my office after being caught out in the downpour.

It has been another week of exploration at Dinglewell Infant School. Year One ventured into the local area to spot geographical features, returning full of enthusiasm as they explained the difference between human and physical geography. They were particularly excited about the amount of street furniture they were able to identify. Perhaps over the weekend your children might enjoy pointing out more examples as you're out and about.

We have also continued our work with the My Happy Mind programme, and the children's engagement has been wonderful. You may have heard them talking about the amygdala, prefrontal cortex and hippocampus, or referring to "Team HAP" and practising their happy breathing. One parent told me this week how their child has been using the breathing techniques at home to stay calm when feeling frustrated. With our new display now up in school, it felt like the perfect moment to share some of the conversation cards that breakfast club selected this morning.



As part of our ongoing focus on helping children be "ready to learn," this week's staff curriculum meeting explored sensory circuits. These circuits involve a sequence of activities designed to stimulate different parts of the brain and body, helping children to approach learning with calm and focus. Mrs Bishop was one of the first to put her new skills into practice, and the impact was fantastic. Class 5, you impressed us all with your concentration and self-regulation.

This afternoon I had the pleasure of visiting every class to talk with the children about their learning, paying particular attention to the ambitious vocabulary they are using. You will know from previous newsletters how important high-quality language is to us, and the children certainly rose to the challenge. Class 1 amazed me with their understanding of plants, including Lorelai's clear explanation of how roots absorb water and nutrients from the soil. Class 2 confidently named the different parts of a plant, while Class 3 gave an impressively detailed account of how bees make honey, using some excellent scientific terminology. Year 2 were able to recall vocabulary from their Titanic topic, explaining words such as signal, passenger, funnel, bow and stern. They remembered the name of the rescue ship, the significance of Southampton and New York, and could even explain the meaning of the word tragic in context. Year 1 spoke knowledgeably about their music, computing and maths learning, using terms such as tempo, pitch, dynamics, coding, programming and algorithm. By the end of the afternoon, I was exhausted but incredibly proud. What a privilege it is to listen to such confident, articulate young learners.

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend and I look forward to seeing you on Monday. Don't forget that next week is the FODIS disco, and with so many staff signing up to stay, it seems the disco bug has spread right across the Dinglewell community.

Mrs Southgate