

Friday 8th May 2026



Dear families,

I hope you have all enjoyed the shorter week. It certainly left some of us double-checking which day it was, but thankfully Year One have reached that point in the curriculum—so Classes 4, 5 and 6 were on hand to keep us all on track! It has been another wonderfully busy week at Dinglewell Infant School, filled with sports events, sponsored runs and creative art sessions.

Tuesday began with the bright lights of class photographs. The team here use a slightly different approach to the one I'm used to, and it was lovely to see the children smiling together in their friendship groups. I'm looking forward to seeing the final photographs with all the groups brought together.

On Tuesday evening, staff gathered for our curriculum meeting, with a focus on developing the teaching of Maths led by Mrs Bishop. She shared best practice on making the most of every learning moment, and we celebrated the progress we've made as a staff team around inclusion and adaptive teaching. It was inspiring to see such consistency across classes. This was echoed by the Year Two team, whose children tackled the NRICH problem *Play to 37* this week. <https://nrich.maths.org/problems/make-37> Perseverance, determination—and a little frustration—were certainly on display, but the quality of mathematical language and problem-solving was exceptional. Why not try the challenge yourselves this weekend and let us know how you get on?

On Wednesday, I had the pleasure of accompanying Class 4 to a Gloucester Schools athletics competition. The children threw, jumped and sprinted with enthusiasm, with the paired sprints proving especially popular. A special mention must go to Jugadh, who threw his howler an impressive 10.8m. Class 4 represented Dinglewell beautifully, encouraging one another and cheering on children from other schools too.

Staying with the sports theme, Thursday saw every class take part in our cricket and sprinting challenge. Each class rotated around the cricket circuit, collecting as many runs as possible. Mrs Beer announced the grand total in Celebration Assembly today... 4,052 runs! With our target set at 2,026 (in honour of the Women's T20 Cricket World Cup), we were thrilled to have doubled it exactly. Thank you once again for your generous sponsorship—Mrs Beer assures me that this term's Enrichment Week is shaping up to be fantastic thanks to your support.

If your child entered the Winter Art Competition, you may remember that we promised an additional art session as a 'well done'. Today we began the first stage of a pointillism-inspired artwork. The children thoroughly enjoyed the extra creative time and are excited to bring home their finished pieces soon. Elsewhere in school, I was stopped in my tracks by the sight of multiple dragon eyes staring at me from the Year Two classrooms—their art project exploring form, texture and colour has produced some truly striking results.

As we head into the weekend, we are looking forward to next week's EYFS visit to St Lawrence Church as part of their learning about special places in religious and worldviews education.

I'd like to wish you all a very happy weekend. My family and I are heading back to Essex to celebrate both a 40th and a 70th birthday, so it will be a lively one for us too.

Warm regards,

Mrs Southgate