



Dinglewell Infant School

Newsletter

April 2026

Message from Mrs Southgate

Dear families,

I hope that you have enjoyed the final week in April. It seems hard to believe that we are now on the cusp of summer, and we are busily readying ourselves for the remainder of the summer term. It is with pleasure that I inform you that we now have 75 families who have confirmed and chosen Dinglewell Infant School as the next step on their child's journey. We are excited to make contact in the coming weeks and work with our new families, preparing the children as best as we can for the transition to school. Our Reception teachers Miss Fields, Mrs Beer and Mrs Bews have all visited local preschool settings to begin developing those all-important relationships.

During celebration assembly today, it was great to see the wide and varied reasons for celebration. The children are flourishing in their final term, and it was a real squash and a squeeze to fit all of the Maths Passport certificates in! As you know, the Maths Passports are an integral part of our delivery of foundational knowledge, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. Next week, Mrs Bishop will be leading our staff curriculum meeting around Maths, and we will be sharing our effective teaching strategies as well as reviewing the Maths Passports. We know that the children delight in their own and others' achievements, and the passports are a great way to present Maths in small, manageable steps.

We also had our curriculum and standards governor meeting this week, in which we celebrated Maths progress and attainment across the school. We also shared some of the Year Two written work, including a retell (with some amendments) of *The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch*. The governors were particularly impressed with the language used by many of the Year Two children in their writing—the impact of carefully selected and high-quality texts. You will notice on page 3 of the newsletter that we have added a vocabulary page to the Year One and Year Two curriculum overviews. I look forward to challenging some of the children (and maybe some parents!) as we raise the profile of high-quality vocabulary and language together.

Mrs Bishop and I also met with the PTA this week. We celebrated the fantastic contributions from the parent community this year, the excellent events that have been organised and arranged by the PTA, and made some loose and provisional plans for next year. Members of the current PTA will be in attendance at the curriculum transition meetings at the end of the year, so do look out for them. We acknowledge the challenge we all face in trying to fit another meeting or event into our busy lives, and much of our conversation focused on how we can streamline events and meetings to allow more people to attend. I find myself that attending meetings or events at school can be tricky to fit in, and my younger son's PTA has meetings via Teams, which allows more people to share thoughts and ideas. It's certainly something worth considering.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for another great week and to wish you a very happy bank holiday weekend.

Mrs Southgate

Housekeeping



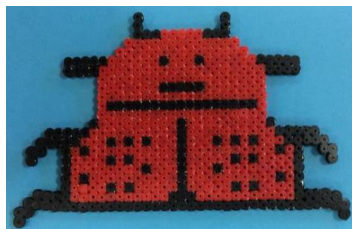
Parking update. We have received a worrying email from a local resident who acknowledges that the majority of the Dinglewell families park considerably and safely. However, he has drawn our attention to the fact that some families are parking on the zig-zag lines during drop-off/pick-up times. He is totally correct in pointing out that this is not illegal, however it poses a real danger to our children, families, and other road users. Please can we remind you to park safely and consider the safety of our families and other road users. A huge on-going thank you to all of you who continue to put safety above convenience.

Maths Challenge: May 2026

Sizzling Symmetry!

Design a symmetrical image. This could be a photograph or a piece of patterned artwork.

Examples:



Please email your symmetrical pictures to Mrs Bishop

ebishop@dinglewell-inf.gloucs.sch.uk

and I will share them on the school website. Please visit the website to see the photos of maths games in action that were sent to me last month.



Attendance (Every Minute Counts)

During our attendance meeting last week, Mrs Southgate was able to highlight how the Dinglewell Infant School attendance data remains in a strong position at 95.3% and this puts it above both national and county levels.

We have been able to support a couple of our families who were struggling with attendance and make a positive impact. So, please reach out to us if we can be of any help. Please contact us via the office email:

admin@dinglewell-inf.gloucs.sch.uk



SEND Festival of Sport

On the 15th April the children in The Hive had the opportunity to take part in the Gloucester School Sports Network SEND festival of sport. The event took place at Gloucester Academy and the children took part in a variety of activity including Bocha, curling and table tennis. Fun was had by all.

Student Teachers

We are delighted to welcome Nathan Flynn, Joe Hawkins and Dale Kimberley to the Year 1 team. They are studying at the University of Gloucestershire and are completing their final teaching placement at Dinglewell. They will be with us until the end of June and come September they will hopefully have secured jobs elsewhere and will be teaching their very first class as a qualified teacher.

Book of the Month

Our 'Book of the Month' for April was *The Magic Feather*; the latest book by the much-loved author, Julia Donaldson. In her usual rhyming prose, the author tells us the story of a girl who is given a feather that enables her to understand what the birds are saying.

This fairy-tale style story is beautifully illustrated by Catherine Rayner and is absolutely filled with drawings of real birds, so it will particularly appeal to young birdwatchers!



Our Numbots champions for April continue to be **Class 3** with **24%** playing last month. Well done Class 3.



Reminder from Mrs Beer

Mrs Beer sent home a competition to design a sports day certificate. The entries we have received so far are amazing. Please make sure you send your entries into school by

Curriculum

As we start Term 5 all year groups have come back to new topics.

The Reception children have a topic focusing on the wonderful world of minibeasts that are found 'In My Garden'.

The Year 1 children have a topic based on their local community 'Out and About' and will begin by learning about the school, the key features of Hucclecote. The topic will run into Term 6 as the focus moves from the local area to Gloucester. A visit has been planned to explore canal building at the Waterways museum. The topic will end with a mini topic on London.

In Year 2 the topic is 'Dragon Eyes' and the use of the book has really sparked their interest.

The Hive are focusing on the series of books *Aliens Love Underpants*.

Year group leads have included a page focused on vocabulary as part of the curriculum overviews this term. You may be aware that during our last Ofsted inspection in July 2023 we were challenged to raise the 'recall important vocabulary in some foundation subjects'. A lot of work has been going on within school to address this target, and we now want to involve our families. The word lists contain the main topic-based vocabulary that will be used as part of the theme. Please use the vocabulary lists to reinforce the words that will be introduced at school as part of their learning as we know that using them home will enhance their understanding and retention of the unfamiliar words.

Curriculum maps are available on the school website or via the QRcodes below.

The Hive



Year 1



Reception



Year 2





Lunchbox
Superstars
spotted by
Mrs Beer
this week!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

EYFS 'Save the Date'

4th May – Bank holiday
5th May – Class Photos
7th May – C3 Forest School
11th May – St Lawrence Church Trip
14th May – C2 Forest School
18th May – Walk to school week
20th May – School Disco
21st May – C1 Forest School

Y1 'Save the Date'

4th May – Bank holiday
5th May – Class photos
6th May – C6 Forest School
6th May – Quadkids C4
13th May – C4 Forest School
18th May – Walk to school week
20th May – C5 Forest School
20th May – School Disco

Y2 'Save the Date'

4th May – Bank holiday
5th May – Class photos
5th May – C7 Forest School
12th May – C8 Forest School
19th May – C9 Forest School
20th May – School Disco