



Dovers Green School October 2023 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

The first month of the new school year has been completed and what a busy time we have had at Dovers Green! We are delighted with how well all of the children, but especially our youngest children in Ladybirds and Badgers, have settled into the routines of school.

Ladybirds

The children in Ladybirds have all settled in brilliantly to life at school, and are learning the rules and routines really well! We have been learning how to play in all of the different areas in our environment and have enjoyed using the mud kitchen, the climbing frame, planting bulbs ready for the spring time, the sandpit and the bikes, as well as all of the opportunities inside, such as the water trays and of course, junk modelling! It has been a busy start to the term! Our first topic 'All About Me' started this week, and we have been learning to talk about our families and about where we live. We have drawn some excellent maps! A really great start to the term!



Badgers

In Badgers we have been learning all about ourselves and our families. We have made timelines of our lives looking at the past and now. We have compared our families and looked at how they are the same and different to our friend's families. We have also drawn our self-portrait. In Forest School we made our faces from clay and autumn items.



In **year 1** we have been learning all about animals including what they look like and what group they belong to- mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and fish. In maths we have been developing number fluency by learning to represent numbers to ten in different ways and to identify one more and one less. In English we have just started to explore the text, 'Cave Baby'. In Forest School we have been learning to work together to build 'caves' for our cave babies! We have been focusing on writing simple sentences with correct punctuation and we have been learning to use descriptive language to describe different Stone Age animals.



Year 2



The children in **year 2** have settled back into school really well. They have particularly loved being back in Forest School where they have been recapping the rules, exploring the area and discussing seasonal changes. During outdoor games they have been having agility lessons which have involved an active warm up (like in the photo) followed by work using our agility ladders. This has involved careful footwork and lots of concentration!

The Dovers Green School vision

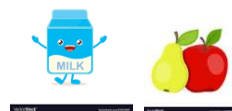
I am in the process of reviewing our school's mission, vision and aims. A mission statement encapsulates who we are and what we value whereas a values statement is about what we want to become. These statements act as guides for our decision making, resource allocation and policy decisions.

I would be really grateful if you would complete the form sent via ParentMail, so that I can gather your views and thoughts to feed in to the process. I will also be consulting with the children, governors and staff. Thank you for your support.

Should you be unable to complete the form via ParentMail, please contact the office for a papercopy.

Surplus milk and fruit

We sometimes have a surplus of milk and fruit at the end of each week and we will put these outside the main office every Friday, so please come and help yourselves



Community Saturday - Saturday 14th October

As you know, our school grounds and Forest School are vitally important to us at Dovers Green and are embedded into the curriculum for your children. Twice a year we organise a Saturday morning to work with parents to tidy, organise and improve our outdoor learning environment.



Please do come along and meet with other parents, children, staff and governors between 10.00am. - 12.00p.m. We will be tidying the grounds including our Forest School. Please bring along brooms, rakes, spades, forks, secateurs, wheelbarrows..... Light refreshments will be provided during the morning. Any help will be welcome, so just stay as long as you want to. Children can come too!

Communications between School and Parents

As I mentioned in the September update, communication is key and therefore we try to keep you well informed with accurate and up to date information through School Newsletters, ParentMail and Curriculum Evenings. Please read all emails that we send to you.



The first Parents Forum for this year is being held on Monday 9 October at 9.00 a.m. in school or you can join by Zoom if you would prefer. Please let the office know if this is the case. The agenda has a main focus on how we can make Dovers Green even better for the children. Minutes will be taken and circulated to the whole school community. The dates for the other Parent Forum meetings are shown in the Dates for the Diary section at the end of the Newsletter.



School Ambassadors



The children have elected children from each class to be their representatives on The School Council, The Green Team and librarians.



Class	School Council	Green Team	Librarians
Hedgehogs	Charlie and Ella	Ellie and Jace	Zayne and Harry
Owls	Jesse and Erin	Archie and Scarlett	Rayyan and Sienna H
Otters	Enzo and Beatrix	Max and Willow	Isabella and Emma
Foxes	Josh and Marley	Caleb and Izzy	Maisie and Oliver
Rabbits	Joyce and Blake	Holly and Grace	Sidney
Squirrels	Antonia and Luke	Evie and Henry	Muhammad and Lacey

Jeans for Genes

Thank you for your donations to the Jeans for Genes appeal which raised £155.91. All money collected has been given to the National appeal to raise funds for research into genetic disorders affecting children and to provide advice and support services for their families.



Harvest Festival

This year, we are going to hold our Harvest Festival Assembly for the children on Friday 13th October. In the assembly, each class will share a short poem or sing a song connected with this traditional celebration and Aneal Appadoo from St Luke's church will be talking to the children. Unfortunately, due to the capacity of the hall, parents are not able to attend this assembly.



As last year, we would like to support Love Works, which is a local charity. One of the key

ways they help the local community is providing support for families who are in food and hygiene poverty. Please could you send in tins, dried goods and hygiene products that we can donate to this very worthwhile cause. The charity are particularly looking for the following items:

Tinned meat
Tinned meat casseroles
Tinned vegetables
Tinned fruit
Custard
Rice pudding

More information about this charity can be found at loveworks.org.uk.



By giving donations, it will support us in teaching the children about our values and the importance of giving and looking after others. We would welcome your donations from Monday 9th October. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Sponsored Walk - Friday 20th October



We traditionally end this first half-term with a sponsored walk and this year will be no different! The children are sponsored to walk 20 laps of varying lengths around the school grounds according to their age. Please do come along and cheer them on if

you can. We will also need volunteers who are able to stamp the children's cards as they complete each lap. The children will be walking at the following times:

Years 1 and 2 - They will begin their walk at 9.00 am

Ladybirds - Will start at 2.15 pm

Badgers - Teachers will be in touch separately to let you know individual arrangements.

Money raised goes in to our school fund and during these difficult times budget wise, this provides us with the ability to provide those extra resources that enhance the children's learning.

We are very mindful that there is a lot of pressure on the family purse at the moment, so please only sponsor what you can. As they say, every little helps!

You will find a sponsorship form in your child's book bag next week. We encourage you to pay the sponsorship money online via ParentMail as this makes things a lot easier, however if that is not possible please bring the cash in a named envelope. You can make an online payment on ParentMail by going to your Payments section and selecting Shop. Sponsorship money should be paid by Monday 20 November. Thank you for your support!

Clothes Recycling Bin

Please remember that there is a clothes recycling bin outside Blue Ladybirds. As well as recycling being great for the environment it will also help raise funds for our school.

If the bin is full, please can you let the office know and we can contact Astra to come and empty this!

Astra Recycling is a textile recycling company looking to reduce the amount of clothing sent to landfill. On average, each person in the UK throws 3.1 kilos of clothing away a year, producing around 206.456 tonnes of textile waste in a year! Clothes can take up to 40 years to decompose and shoes up to 1000 years to break down, but 95% of these can be recycled!



The textiles collected are either sent to Eastern Europe to be used again or converted into insulation materials and industrial cleaning wipes, so nothing goes to landfill!

Open Morning Wanders

If you know of anyone who is looking for a place for their child from September 2024 please let them know that we are holding our 'Open Morning Wanders' on the following dates between 10.00 a.m. and 11.30 a.m.

Wednesday 11th October

Friday 3rd November

Monday 27th November

More information can be found on our website.

Parking

I have been getting a number of complaints from our neighbours about inconsiderate parking from parents at drop-off and pick-up. Please, please think about where you park and ensure that you are not blocking anyone's driveway and that you also do not leave your engine running whilst you are waiting. Thank you for your cooperation.



Yours faithfully,

N Starling

Ms Nicki Starling
Headteacher



Dates for the Diary

Autumn Term: Monday 4th September – Friday 15th December

Throughout October	Black History Month
Monday 9 th October	Parent Forum Meeting - 9.00 a.m. Inspirational Athletes Day
Wednesday 11 th October	Open Morning for Prospective Parents -10.00 a.m.-11.30 a.m.
Thursday 12 th October	Squirrels Assembly 2.30 p.m.
Friday 13 th October	Harvest Festival Assembly - 2.30 p.m. PTA Cake Sale - Year 2 PTA Quiz Night
Saturday 14 th October	Community Saturday - 10.00 a. m.- 12.00 p.m.
Thursday 19 th October	School Photos Otters Class Assembly 2.30 p.m.
Friday 20 th October	Nasal Flu Spray for children PTA Non Uniform Day - children to come dressed appropriately for the sponsored walk Sponsored Walk End of Half Term - 3.05 p.m. finish
Monday 30 th October	INSET Day for Children
Tuesday 31 st October	Children return to school
Friday 3 rd November	Open Morning for Prospective Parents - 10.00 a.m. -11.30 a.m.
Monday 6 th November	Parent Forum Meeting - 9.00 a.m.
Thursday 9 th November	Owls Assembly - 2.30 p.m.
Monday 13 th November – Friday 18 th November	'Inclusive Individuals' Week incorporating anti-bullying week.
Thursday 16 th November	Hedgehogs Assembly 2.30 p.m.
Monday 20 th November	Parents Evening - 3.30pm - 6.00pm
Wednesday 22 nd November	Parents Evening - 3.30pm - 6.00pm
Friday 24 th November	PTA Non Uniform Day

Monday 27 th November	Open Morning for Prospective Parents - 10.00 a.m.-11.30 a.m.
Week beginning 4 th December	Whole School Christmas Productions
Friday 8 th December	Bike it Breakfast - Bling your bike for Christmas
Tuesday 12 th December	Christmas Lunch Pantomime for children in school
Wednesday 13 th December	Christmas Party Day
Friday 15 th December	Non Uniform Day End of Autumn Term - 1.15 p.m. finish

Spring Term: Tuesday 2nd January - Thursday 28th March

Tuesday 2 nd January	INSET DAY / Start of Spring Term
Wednesday 3 rd January	Children return for Spring Term
Wednesday 3 rd January - Friday 12 th January	'Confident Communicators' week.
Monday 8 th January	Parent Forum Meeting - 9.00 a.m.
Thursday 18 th January	Foxes Assembly - 2.30 p.m.
Wednesday 24 th January	Maths Curriculum Evening 7:00 p.m. - 8.30 p.m.
Thursday 25 th January	Rabbits Assembly - 2.30 p.m.
Thursday 1 st February	Squirrels Assembly - 2.30 p.m.
Tuesday 6 th February	Safer Internet Day
Thursday 8 th February	Otters Assembly - 2.30 p.m.
Friday 9 th February	End of Half Term - 3.05 p.m. finish
Monday 19 th February	Children return to school
Friday 23 rd February	Non Uniform Day
Monday 26 th February	Parent Forum Meeting - 9.00 a.m.
Thursday 29 th February	Hedgehogs Assembly - 2.30 p.m.
Monday 4 th March - Friday 8 th March	Book Week
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day Badgers Assembly 2.30 p.m.
Friday 8 th March	Reception children only Mother's Day Assembly - 2.30 p.m.
Thursday 14 th March	Owls Assembly 2.30 p.m.
Monday 18 th March	Parents Evening - 3.30pm - 6.00pm
Wednesday 20 th March	Parents Evening - 3.30pm - 6.00pm
Friday 22 nd March	PTA Non Uniform Day
Thursday 28 th March	End of Spring Term - 1.15 p.m. finish

Summer Term: Monday 15th April - Tuesday 23rd July

Monday 15 th April	Children return for Summer Term
Friday 19 th April	PTA Non-Uniform Day
Monday 22 nd April	Parent Forum Meeting - 9.00 a.m.
Thursday 25 th April	Blue Ladybirds Assembly 2.30 p.m.
Friday 26 th April	School Group Photos
Tuesday 2 nd May	Red Ladybirds Assembly 2.30 p.m.
Thursday 9 th May	Year 2 SATS begin Yellow Ladybirds Assembly - 2.30 p.m.
Monday 6 th May	Bank Holiday
Friday 10 th May	School Reports Home
Monday 13 th May - Friday 17 th May	Mental Health Week
Wednesday 15 th May	Summer Celebration Event - 3.30pm - 6.00pm
Thursday 16 th May	Otters Assembly - 2.30 p.m.
Thursday 23 rd May	Hedgehogs Assembly - 2.30 p.m.
Friday 24 th May	PTA Non Uniform Day Ladybirds School Trip End of Half Term - 3.05 p.m. finish
Monday 3 rd June	Children return to school Challenge Visit
Monday 3 rd June - Friday 7 th June	Go Green/ Science Week
Friday 7 th June	Bike it Breakfast
Monday 10 th June - Friday 14 th June	Phonics Screening Week Parent Forum Meeting - 9.00 a.m.
Thursday 13 th June	Badgers Assembly - 2.30 p.m.
Thursday 20 th June	Owls Assembly - 2.30 p.m.
Friday 28 th June	Non Uniform Day
Thursday 4 th July	Sports Day Parents are invited to join for a picnic lunch at 12.00pm followed by races
Friday 5 th July	INSET day for staff
Wednesday 17 th July	Leavers Assembly 9.00sm - 10.00am
Friday 19 th July	PTA Non Uniform Day End of Term - 1.15 p.m. finish
Monday 22 nd July	INSET Day
Tuesday 23 rd July	INSET Day