



Dovers Green School November 2023 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that everyone had a lovely half-term and that by the time you read this we have all come out of Storm Ciarán relatively unscathed!

Ofsted

As you know, Ofsted finally visited on 10th and 11th October. We have been expecting them for quite a few years now and therefore, whilst it was an intense and stressful experience, we are all rather glad that this is no longer hanging over us! Thank you so much for all your kind words of support before, during and after the inspection. I have received the draft report and will be able to share the report with you when the final one comes through.

Remembrance Day Poppies

Poppies are sold worldwide to raise money and to remember those who lost their lives in the First World War and in subsequent conflicts. We have got some in school if you would like to buy one - I suggest a 50p donation. We have also been sent some merchandise which includes pencil sharpeners, key rings and bracelets which cost £2. All monies raised go to the Royal British Legion. More information can be found at [Poppy Appeal](#) | [Armed Forces Charity](#) | [Royal British Legion](#)

Year 2 children will take the poppies round to classes next week, so if you would like your child to buy a poppy or item of merchandise, please put money in a sealed envelope in bookbags.



A few quick reminders!

Please remember that we operate a one-way system for drop-off and pick-ups. Entry to the playground is either by one of the front gates or the side gate. Follow the path round the front and side of the building and come onto the playground by the building where Early Birds, Tea-Time Tigers and Badgers operate from. Exit is via the path that runs alongside Ladybirds. By following this system, it really does help to prevent bottlenecks and generally makes for a calmer start to the day for the children. The exception is for parents of Blue Ladybirds who wait outside the classroom door at the front of the building.

Please, please **park considerately**. Parking on the double yellow lines along Rushetts Road is not only illegal, but I worry that it is only a matter of time before an accident happens.

We need some more photos for our 'Dovers Got Talent' board! If your child achieves something or does something new for the first time, please email in a photo and short description to the office (info@dovers-green.surrey.sch.uk) so we can put them on our board.

Important dates for your diary

Fingers crossed that we will be able to hold our **sponsored walk on Friday 10th November**. If the weather is not in our favour, we will postpone until the spring.

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 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 should have got a sponsor form, but if you need another one, please ask the school office. 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!

On **Wednesday 15th November** at 2.30 pm there will be an information session for parents of children in Ladybirds to give more information about the Early Years Foundations Stage Curriculum and how we assess and track the children's progress in their Reception year.

Parents Evenings

These will be held on **20th and 22nd November between 3.30pm and 6.30 p.m.** These meetings will all be face to face. Last time we held parent's evening, the majority of parents requested a face-to-face meeting, and we experienced technical issues with the few that were organised virtually! If, however, you can't make an appointment on either of these days, please let your child's teacher know and we will make every effort to arrange a mutually convenient time. These are really important meetings, so please make every effort to come along.

Booking for appointments will go live on Monday 6th November at 7.00 pm. Details about how you make a booking will be sent via ParentMail.

One comment that we often receive is that some parents feel that the 10-minute appointment is not long enough. The teachers will be holding these meetings for six hours in total and working until 6.30 pm on these evenings. It is therefore not possible to extend the length of appointments. We do however have an open-door policy at Dovers Green and the teachers are available to talk to you at the end of the school day. If you feel that there are areas of your child's development that you do not feel were discussed at your meeting, you can contact the school office and request a follow-up appointment.

Book Fair



We will be holding a book fair in school from Monday 20th November to Friday 24th November. This will give you an opportunity to buy children's books at a reduced price, a great idea with Christmas around the corner! It will be a cashless book fair and payments will be made easily through a QR code, which can be scanned through your phone.

The fair will be open every day after school during the week beginning 20th November and it will be open on the evenings of the parent teacher consultations. You will be notified of exact opening times nearer the time.

Every book purchased will help fill our library and classrooms with free books from Scholastic so please do visit the fair if you can.

Christmas at Dovers Green

Our whole school Christmas Production this year will be 'Everyone Loves a Baby.' Each performance will start at 2.00 pm. All year 1 and year 2 children will be involved in every performance with Ladybirds children taking part as follows:

Tuesday 5th December - Blue Ladybirds

Wednesday 6th December - Red Ladybirds

Thursday 7th December - Yellow Ladybirds

Friday 8th December - 10 children from each of the Ladybirds classes.

Experience has taught us that sitting through four performances for some of the children in Ladybirds is just too much! We will let Badgers' parents know what the arrangements will be for their children on an individual basis.

We will send more information out about the performances and how to book tickets at the beginning of December.

Christmas Activities

Friday 8th December - 'Bling your bike for Christmas.' Please scoot or bike to school in the morning and join us from breakfast from 8.00 am. Why not 'bling' up your bike or scooter to make it as festive as you can!



Tuesday 12th December - Pantomime for the children (there will be a small charge of £2 per child for this but more details will follow nearer the time). The pantomime will be followed by Christmas lunch. Please could we ask that you make a Christmas hat at home for your child to wear to lunch. If your child usually has packed lunch but would like to have a Christmas lunch, you will be able to book this through ParentMail and a form will be sent out on Monday 6th November.

Wednesday 13th December - Party Day for the children with hopefully a visit from a special person in the afternoon!

Friday 15th December - School finishes at 1.15 p.m.

Inclusive Individuals Week incorporating Anti-bullying week

The theme for this year's Anti-Bullying Week, starting on the 13th of November, is 'Make a Noise about Bullying' and will form the basis of our 'Inclusive Individuals week.' There will be a specific emphasis on the role that 'banter' plays in bullying and how we can tackle it. Banter and jokes can play an important role in the development and maintenance of friendships. Banter is defined as 'the playful and friendly exchange of teasing remarks. However, sometimes these behaviours can be taken too far such that the behaviours constitute bullying. For example, when there is targeted repetition of the 'banter' or if the 'banter' is about personal characteristics such as appearance. The significance of behaviours that we would think of as bullying can also be downplayed when people try to pass these behaviours off as 'just banter'. We are not saying that we can't joke with friends, but we are encouraging everyone to be mindful of how, sometimes, these jokes may not be received as they were intended.



On Monday 13th November it is **Odd Socks Day** which is an opportunity to encourage our children to celebrate how we are all special and unique. Please send your child to school with odd socks in celebration of such an important topic.



Whether it is verbal, physical, online or in-person, bullying can have a significant impact on a child's well-being. Throughout the week the children will be learning; What bullying is, the different types of bullying and most importantly, what to do if they feel that they are being bullied. All children in Reception will be coming home with a child friendly Anti-Bullying leaflet which discusses these topics. Please can you take the time to read this to your child. Children in years 1 and 2 received this leaflet last year. If you would like another copy, please contact the School Office.

Dovers Green is proactive in creating a safe nurturing environment for your child and uses different strategies to maintain this such as: School Council, Playground Friends, Pupil Voice and the 'Buddy Bench' which is a place where the children can go and sit if they have a problem or are having difficulties in finding someone to play with. An adult or one of our 'Playground Friends' will go and talk to them. The Playground Friends are a group of year 2 children who have been trained by Mrs Moxley and an advisory teacher from Surrey. They even have their own job description!

What are Playground Friends?

Our Skills

- Kind
- Polite
- Reliable
- Active listener
- Friendly
- Calm

What do we help with?

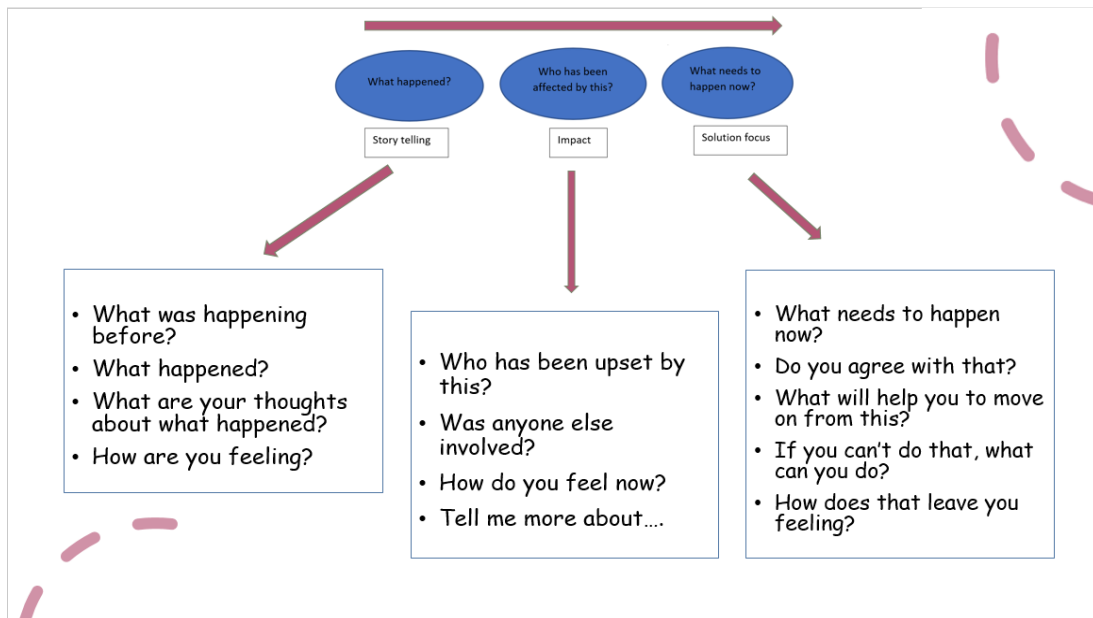
- Children on the Buddy Bench
- Children who look sad or lonely
- Children who come to us and ask for help
- Encourage children to play games and be involved in sport
- Support children to use our playground in a responsible and friendly manner

What do we do?

- We look out for children that need our help on the playground
- We ask children if they are OK and whether they need our help.
- We decide if we can help to repair relationships with three bubbles or find an adult to help.


Dovers Green School

The 'three bubbles' have replaced 'WIBIT' as our tool to help children and adults sort out problems that may have occurred between children and are part of our Restorative approach to solving conflict. The children are taught to use this approach, facilitated by an adult when necessary. We hope that this is something that you can use at home as well to solve any issues that arise. We are trying to avoid 'sorry' as an acceptable resolution but encouraging the children to say what needs to happen now or next time a situation occurs. For example, 'I need you to stop using unkind words.' We use this approach to resolve 'minor' issues and whilst we would use this to help the children involved in more serious incidents understand the impact of their actions, there would be appropriate sanctions applied and parents spoken to in these situations.



Sports for Schools

We have currently raised a brilliant £1,471.53 from our Inspirational Athlete event. Thank you so much for your support. This money will be used to buy equipment and fund other events to encourage the children to be as active as possible.

Harvest Festival

A huge thank you to everyone who donated food for our Harvest Festival, as we mentioned previously we supported LoveWorks again this year and they have asked for the following message to be passed on to parents:



A massive thank you from Loveworks for the amazing Harvest donations. This year we were not only impressed by the quantity but also that nearly everything was what we needed and was in date.

Please pass on our thanks to your children, parents and staff. These donations really are helping to make a difference to many local people's lives.



Children in Need

Children in Need Day is on Friday 17th November and their theme this year is, The Great SPOTacular! To support this event, the children are invited to wear their own clothes and if possible, something **yellow or spotty**. We are asking for a £1 donation which can be put in the postbox by the main entrance.

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 Wander' on Monday 27th November 10.00 - 11.30 am. It will begin with a short welcome presentation to provide some key information, after which visitors will have the opportunity to look around the school, ask any questions and see what life is like at Dovers Green.



Winter is here!



As the evenings are drawing in and the mornings are getting darker, here is a reminder from the Surrey Safer Roads Partnership about the safety precautions that can keep yourselves and others safe on the roads.



Bonfire and Firework safety

There are some useful advice on keeping children safe around bonfires and fireworks here:

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/community/surrey-matters/categories/families-and-young-people/firework-and-bonfire-safety>

Yours faithfully,

N Starling

Ms Nicki Starling
Headteacher



Dates for the Diary

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

Monday 6 th November	Parent Forum Meeting - 9.00 a.m.
Thursday 9 th November	Owls Assembly - 2.30 p.m.
Friday 10 th November	Postponed Sponsor Walk
Monday 13 th November – Friday 18 th November	'Inclusive Individuals' Week incorporating anti-bullying week.
Wednesday 15 th November	Information session for Ladybirds' parents - 2.30 pm
Thursday 16 th November	Hedgehogs Assembly 2.30 p.m.
Monday 20 th November	Parents Evening - 3.30pm - 6.30pm
Wednesday 22 nd November	Parents Evening - 3.30pm - 6.30pm
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.
Wednesday 29 th November	Year 1 Trip to Reigate Library
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	PTA 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	PTA 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 - 6.30pm
Wednesday 20 th March	Parents Evening - 3.30pm - 6.30pm
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
Thursday 2 nd May	Red Ladybirds Assembly 2.30 p.m.
Monday 6 th May	Bank Holiday
Thursday 9 th May	Yellow Ladybirds Assembly - 2.30 p.m.
Friday 10 th May	School Reports Home
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
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	PTA 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