

Dovers Green School

March 2024 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

It is hard to believe that we are fast approaching the halfway point of the school year! Spring is just around the corner! Having said that, Forest School is suffering with all the rain that we have been having and therefore there will be no Forest School sessions for the children until further notice. We will let you know as soon as we can use it again.

The children's learning

In Badgers we visited The New Leaf Cafe for our Geography learning. We used a map of the local area to find the cafe, we ordered our own food and drink using the menu and then each paid for what we had ordered using real money. We had a fabulous time and can't wait to go back!



In Ladybirds, we have really enjoyed learning all about the story 'The Magic Paintbrush' by Julia Donaldson. A very special paintbrush was delivered to our classrooms, and we painted objects which magically came to life, just like in the story! We have learnt all about China and we have enjoyed ordering food and eating in our Chinese restaurant! We have listened to Chinese music and watched traditional Chinese dancing! Our favourite learning of all was when we tasted Chinese food, including noodles and prawn crackers! Yum!



In year 1 we have enjoyed learning all about Space. We have learnt that there are significant individuals who have contributed to national and international achievements, for example Neil Armstrong and Helen Sharman, who was the first British astronaut to go into space in 1991. In science we have been learning to identify and describe the properties of a range of materials. The children were challenged to build a bridge which would be strong enough to hold an egg! In DT we have been learning to use tools to prepare food safely. We were able to put our skills to good use by preparing food for our Cultural Celebration event. A highlight was making samosas alongside an actual chef!



In year 2 the children had a wonderful cultural afternoon where they sampled food from around the world, including Egypt, China, America and India. They were very adventurous when trying the different foods and it promoted some great discussions. For our outdoor PE lessons this half term the children are learning how to play hockey. They are practising holding the stick correctly; remembering at no point must they raise their stick above their waists! They will be learning the basic skills of controlling the ball, passing and shooting which will all work towards being able to play a match.



Attendance

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

The Government has recently launched a campaign to improve school attendance. At Dovers Green, our attendance has traditionally been above National Average, but last half-term dropped to below national, due mainly to some rather nasty sickness bugs that swept through the school!

I cannot stress how important good attendance is to children's achievement and over all wellbeing. There are of course times when a child is too unwell to come to school but if in doubt, we would prefer that you send them in; we will always contact you if we feel they need to go home. Please follow the links below for further advice about when you can send your child to school, even if they are slightly under the weather.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

https://www.instagram.com/p/C3Vn4Z3I3_p/?hl=en

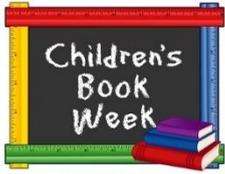
If you are struggling to get your child into school, please do reach out as there maybe things that we can do to help. I will continue to contact parents directly if their child's attendance is causing concern.

Internet safety

During our work with the children about online safety it came to our attention that a number of children are regularly playing games such as 'Fortnite.' This particular game has an age guidance of 13+ making it unsuitable for Infant children. We do see children re-enacting behaviours that they see on such games and ask that you safeguard your children by not allowing them to have access to material that is unsuitable for their age.



Book week



Just a reminder that we will be holding our annual book week next week. Children are invited to dress up for world book day on Thursday 7th March and parents/carers are welcome to come and join us on Friday 8th March at 2.30 pm to share work and books. We are very sorry, but we cannot accommodate younger siblings due to space.

No energy hour

On the 26th of March Dovers Green School will take part in a "No energy hour" to celebrate Earth Hour which is taking place Internationally on 23rd March. Earth Hour has been known for the "lights off" moment, with individuals from around the globe switching off their lights and energy to show symbolic support for the planet and to raise awareness of the environmental issues affecting it. At Dovers Green each class will celebrate the hour by not using any energy, so no laptops and interactive boards, no class computers or iPads etc. Classes may choose to spend their time outside in Forest School, exploring the playground or taking part in PE. If you would like more information on Earth Hour visit - <https://www.earthhour.org/>



Sustrans Big Wheel



This year we are taking part in the National Sustrans event, to encourage children to walk, bike or scoot to school between 11th and 22nd March. There is a letter attached to this newsletter giving more information and it would be great if as many families as possible could participate. There are of course enormous health benefits for the children if they walk, bike or scoot as well as reducing the environmental and congestion impact that using cars to take children to and from school has. Please try and make a commitment to joining in with initiative; even if everyone changed their habits for one day, it would make a massive difference!

Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel is the UK's largest walking, wheeling, scooting and cycling challenge. It inspires pupils to make active journeys to school, improve air quality in their neighbourhood and discover how these changes benefit their world.



15th Big Walk and Wheel challenge

Help us to celebrate the 15th year of Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel and make it the biggest one yet. Active travel is a great way to build physical activity into children's daily routine. It helps them arrive to school more relaxed and alert, and is great for their mental wellbeing too.

This year the challenge will run from **11–22 March 2024**. It is free and easy to take part in Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel. You can register your school for the challenge from January 2024 at www.bigwalkandwheel.org.uk.



How it works

On each day of the challenge schools compete to see who can record the greatest number of pupils walking, using a wheelchair, scooting or cycling to school.

A school's best five days will determine their final position and schools at the top of their leaderboards will receive an exclusive Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel certificate.



Prizes

All schools will be entered into daily prize draws for rewards if over 15% of your school takes part on each day of the challenge. Prizes up for grabs include accessories and equipment to help your school travel actively.

In 2023,
3,096kg
of nitrogen oxide
avoided as a result
of the 10-day
challenge*

In 2023,
**1,890
tonnes**
of CO₂ avoided as a
result of the 10-day
challenge*

In 2023, pupils at
1,862
schools made
2,666,937
journeys to school by
foot, wheelchair,
scooter and cycle

*Based on the assumption the journeys logged in the challenge would otherwise have been made by car.

PTA



The children of Dovers Green desperately need your help. The PTA is a vital part of our school community; it organises events that bring us all together such as the Summer Fair and other events such as the Silent disco which the children love. It also raises much needed funds that support the learning and development of the children that come to this school. For example, every class now has a touch screen computer and headphones courtesy of funds raised through PTA events.

Our two Co-chairs and Treasure have done an amazing job over this last year, but they are unable to continue in these roles. We therefore need some people (or even groups of people to help share the load) to step forward and help continue the supportive work the PTA does for Dovers Green. If you can help in any way, please get in touch with myself or the PTA.

Dovers Green Vision and Mission statements

You may remember that in the autumn term, I asked you for your thoughts on the Dovers Green Vision statement. After consulting with the different stakeholders in our school community, I am pleased to share with you our revised statements (attached to this newsletter) which sit under the umbrella statement:

**'Reaching up, Reaching out
Together we achieve greatness.'**

These vision and mission statements will drive school improvement and our strategic plan over the next three years.

Building works

As you know, the preliminary works for the expansion of our Centre for our children in Badgers has begun and we are hoping that work will start in earnest after Easter. We will be in touch with the parents of Badgers and users of Early Birds and Tea Time Tigers with specific information as to how this will affect these groups of children in the near future.



I have attached some plans to give you an idea as to what the finished building will look like and the facilities it will offer.

Parents Evening



With the exception of Badgers, this term's Parent's Evening consultations are taking place on 18th and 20th March. It is important that you attend these meetings, so please sign up when the appointment system goes live on **Monday 4th March at 7.00 pm.**

A plea!

Please can all parents and children make sure they have left the school site by 3.20 p.m. As the days are getting longer, children who attend some after-school clubs and Tea-Time Tigers need to be able to come out and use the grounds and equipment. Please can you also make sure that children, including younger siblings, are carefully supervised in the mornings and afternoons on the playground and a reminder that children must not be on bikes or scooters. Thank you.



Comic Relief

This year's Comic Relief Day is on Friday 15th March. The charity raises money to help people live free from poverty, violence and discrimination. For a small donation of your choosing the children can come in to school wearing their own red clothes. To minimise the spread of any germs that may be lurking, please do not send your child in with one of the iconic red noses; keep those for home! I am happy for them to wear any other merchandise you might have got for them.



Dover's Got Talent

Please continue to send in or email photographs and a short description of your child if they have done or achieved something special out of school.



Values



Our value this term is Honesty and this will be reinforced in lesson time and in assemblies.

Mobile Phones

A reminder that as part of our Safeguarding Policy, mobile phones are not allowed to be used whilst on school premises. We make an exception for when you attend an assembly on the understanding that any photos or videos are for personal use only and must not be shared on any form of social media.



Yours sincerely

Nicki Starling

Nicki Starling
Headteacher



Monday 19th February - Thursday 28th March

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
Monday 4 th March	Badgers Sett Parents Evening 3.30 - 6.30pm
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day - children are invited to dress up as their favourite book character.
Friday 8 th March	Reception children only Mother's Day Assembly - 9.00am 2.30pm Parents/Carers or other significant adult invited in to share books.
Thursday 14 th March	Owls Assembly 2.30 p.m.
Friday 15 th March	Comic Relief Day
Monday 18 th March	Parents Evening - 3.30pm - 6.30 p.m.
Wednesday 20 th March	Parents Evening - 3.30pm - 6.30 p.m.
Friday 23 rd March	PTA Non Uniform Day
Thursday 28 th March	End of Spring Term - 1.15 p.m. finish Tea Time Tigers finish at 4.15pm

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
Monday 13 th - Friday 17 th May	Mental Health Week
Wednesday 15 th May	Summer Celebration Event - 3.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m.
Thursday 16 th May	Otters Assembly - 2.30 p.m.
Tuesday 21 st May	Year 1 trip to Leeds Castle

Tuesday 21 st May	Year 2 trip to St Paul's Cathedral
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 12.00 p.m. followed by races
Friday 5 th July	INSET day for staff
Wednesday 17 th July	Leavers Assembly 9.00 a.m. - 10.00 a.m.
Thursday 18 th July	Leaver's activities & disco
Friday 19 th July	PTA Non Uniform Day End of Term - 1.15 p.m. finish Tea Tigers finish at 4.15pm
Monday 22 nd July	INSET Day
Tuesday 23 rd July	INSET Day