

Dovers Green School

October 2024 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 Butterflies, have settled into the routines of school.

Ladybirds

Ladybirds have recently enjoyed their first PE lesson! They went on a train and focused on moving forwards and backwards in a straight line, as well as carrying passengers (crawling, with a beanbag on their back). They have also worked hard to decorate our outdoor shed. They have been using large rollers and brushes to develop their arm strength, moving them up and down. Ladybirds are working hard to build up their core strength, balance, co-ordination and agility, developing their gross motor skills, which is the best preparation to begin their writing journey. They are excited to begin their first phonics lessons this week!



Butterflies

It is great to be settling back into school this half term and in Admiral and Monarch Butterflies we have been busy learning both inside and outside. We started the half term by exploring the book 'Mixed' alongside the whole school. It is all about accepting each other's differences. The children then explored different colour mixing activities and made art work showcasing the secondary colours they had created.

In science and forest school, we have been looking at the season of autumn and plant life. We have explored the signs of autumn in forest school including the weather and searched for creatures sheltering from the rain under logs and branches. We have also taken part in plant hunts searching for different plants and trees we have on our school grounds.



Our favourite time of the week has been our life skills lessons, where we have been learning lots of different skills we can use in our home life including cutlery control and the magic Montessori coat trick. You can find this on YouTube to practise! Wow we have been so busy and have so much more to look forward to!



The children in Emperor Butterflies have been getting to know each other, working on settling in and getting to know the routines of the day. They enjoyed the work we did based on the book 'mixed' where the children used their hands to mix primary colours together to see what secondary colours they could make.



Key stage 1

Year one and year two have had a very busy start to the term, getting used to our new classes, teachers and friends! We have enjoyed exploring our new outside learning environments and getting used to our new routines. We have loved learning about the story 'Wolves' and have carried out research into what wolves like to eat, how they behave and where they live, in order to create an interesting information leaflet! In Science, we have been learning about plants and trees, including learning the name and purpose of each different part of a plant and sorting flowers as to whether they are wild or garden flowers. We have loved our Forest School sessions, where we have been describing and identifying different trees and deciding if they are evergreen or deciduous! A great start to the term!





Kindness challenge



Over the next few weeks, we are joining in with the NSPCC's kindness challenge. We will be talking to the children about what they can do to be kind to others and challenging them to carry out at least one act of kindness every day.

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 5th October



A **HUGE** thank you to those families that came along to help tidy up our grounds. We successfully planted about £500 worth of plants which had been purchased from a grant that the PTA obtained. The terrace outside Ladybirds and some of the KS1 classes is now looking much neater and has a variety of plants that will look amazing come next spring and summer.

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 was held on Monday 7th 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 and it is good to hear what we are doing well so that we can keep on doing those things as well as hearing your ideas about how we can do things even better. 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.



Jeans for Genes



Thank you for your donations to the Jeans for Genes appeal which raised £172.35. 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 18th 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
Tinned potatoes

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 14th October. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Sponsored Walk - Friday 25th 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

Butterflies - 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 during this week. We encourage you to pay the sponsorship money online via ParentMail (this will be available from Friday 11th from 12.00pm) 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 18th November. Thank you for your support!

Please make sure your child comes suitably dressed for the walk as it is a non-uniform day!

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 2025 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 16th October

Friday 8th November

Monday 25th November

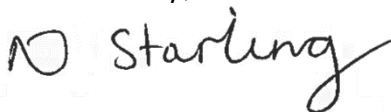
More information can be found on our website.

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,



Ms Nicki Starling
Headteacher

Dates for the Diary

Autumn Term: Monday 7th October - Friday 20th December

W/b 7 th October	NSPCC Kindness Challenge
Monday 7 th October	Parent Forum Meeting - 9.00 a.m.
Wednesday 9 th October	9.00am Meeting regarding Volunteering in school Curriculum Evening (Reading and Key Literary skills) 7.00 p.m. - 8.00 p.m.
Thursday 10 th October	Caterpillars Assembly - 2.30 p.m.
Wednesday 16 th October	Open Morning for Prospective Parents - 10.00 a.m.-11.30 a.m.
Thursday 17 th October	School Photos
Friday 18 th October	Harvest Festival Assembly - 9.00 a.m. (No parents)
Thursday 24 th October	Fireflies Assembly 2.30 p.m.
Friday 25 th October	PTA Non Uniform Day - children to come dressed appropriately for the sponsored walk Sponsored Walk Nasal Flu Vaccine for all Year Groups End of Half Term - 3.05 p.m. finish
Monday 4 th November	INSET Day school closed for all children
Tuesday 5 th November	Children return to school
Friday 8 th November	Open Morning for Prospective Parents - 10.00 a.m. -11.30 a.m.
Monday 11 th November - Friday 15 th November	'Inclusive Individuals' Week incorporating anti-bullying week.
Monday 11 th November	Parent Forum Meeting - 9.00 a.m.
Thursday 14 th November	Grasshoppers Assembly 2.30 p.m.
Monday 18 th November	Parents Evening - 3.30pm - 6.00pm
Wednesday 20 th November	Parents Evening - 3.30pm - 6.00pm
Thursday 21 st November	Dragonflies Assembly 2.30 pm
Monday 25 th November	Open Morning for Prospective Parents - 10.00 a.m.-11.30 a.m.
Week beginning 9 th December	Whole School Christmas Productions
Friday 13 th December	Bike it Breakfast - Bling your bike for Christmas
Tuesday 17 th December	Pantomime for the children - am Party - pm
Wednesday 18 th December	Christmas school lunch
Friday 20 th December	Non Uniform Day End of Autumn Term - 1.15 p.m. finish

Spring Term: Monday 6th January - Thursday 4 April

Monday 6 th January - Friday 17 th January	'Confident Communicators' week.
Monday 6 th January	Start of Spring Term
Monday 13 th January	Parent Forum Meeting - 9.00 a.m.
Wednesday 22 nd January	Maths Curriculum Evening
Thursday 23 rd January	Bumblebees Assembly - 2.30 p.m.
Thursday 3 th January	Caterpillars Assembly - 2.30 p.m.
Friday 31 st January	Non Uniform Day
Week beginning 3 rd February	Cultural Cooking Week
Tuesday 6 th February 2024	Fireflies Assembly - 2.30pm
Tuesday 11 th February	Safer Internet Day
Thursday 13 th February	Grasshoppers Assembly - 2.30 p.m. End of term for the children - 3.05 pm finish
Friday 14 th February	INSET day - school closed for children
Monday 24 th February	Children return to school
Monday 3 rd March - Friday 7 th March	Book Week
Monday 3 rd March	Parent Forum Meeting - 9.00 a.m.
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day
Thursday 13 th March	Dragonflies Assembly - 2.30 pm
Monday 17 th March	Parents Evening - 3.30pm - 6.00pm
Wednesday 19 th March	Parents Evening - 3.30pm - 6.00pm
Thursday 20 th March	Butterflies Assembly - 2.30pm
Friday 28 th March	Reception children only Mother's Day Assembly - 2.30 p.m.
Friday 4 th April	End of Spring Term - 1.15 p.m. finish

Summer Term: Monday 21st April - Tuesday 22nd July

Monday 21 st April	Children return for Summer Term
Monday 28 th April	Parent Forum Meeting - 9.00 a.m.
Thursday 1 st May	Red Ladybirds Assembly 2.30 p.m.
Monday 5 th May	Bank Holiday
Thursday 8 th May	Yellow Ladybirds Assembly - 2.30 p.m.
Thursday 15 th May	Blue Ladybirds Assembly
Friday 23 rd May	Non Uniform Day End of Half Term - 3.05 p.m. finish
Monday 2 nd June - Friday 6 th June	Environmental Explorers Week
Monday 2 nd June	Children return to school
Friday 7 th June	Bike it Breakfast
Monday 9 th June - Friday 13 th June	Phonics Screening Week for Year 1 and some Year 2 children.
Monday 9 th June	Parent Forum Meeting - 9.00 a.m.
Friday 27 th June	Non Uniform Day
Thursday 3 rd July	Sports Day Parents are invited to join for a picnic lunch at 12.00pm followed by races
Friday 4 th July	INSET day for staff. School closed for children
Monday 7 th July	Annual School Reports home
Wednesday 9 th July	Summer Celebration
Tuesday 15 th July	Year 2 Leavers Assembly
Friday 18 th July	Non Uniform Day End of Term - 1.15 p.m. finish
Monday 21 st July	INSET Day - School closed for children
Tuesday 22 nd July	INSET Day - School closed for children