

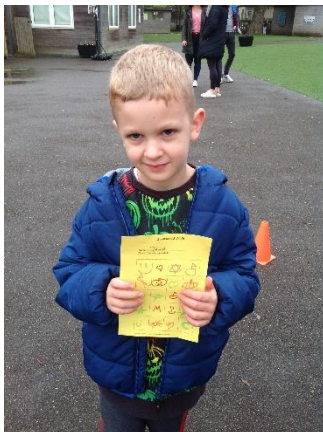
Dovers Green School November 2024 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that everyone had a lovely half-term. Sorry - this has turned out to be quite a long one!

The children's learning

In Key Stage One, we have spent time researching wolves in order to create our brilliant information posters, which are now complete and looking fantastic. Linked to our learning about how and where wolves live, we have learnt about different habitats, and in particular the different habitats of Owls. We learnt that owls live all over the world, in the Arctic, the desert and even in the Amazon rainforest! We had an amazing visit from the UK Owl and Raptor Centre and we met three beautiful owls, who enjoyed swooping right over our heads! We learnt more information such as what they like to eat and who likes to eat them. It was a great visit! In our RE lessons, we have been learning about Harvest Festival, and found out about how this festival is celebrated around the world. We all learnt some songs and poems, and performed these in our wonderful Harvest Festival assembly. We finished the term with our sponsored walk, and managed to walk 20 laps of the school. It was definitely time for a rest!



In Ladybirds we thoroughly enjoyed our first sponsored walk and showed great resilience walking in the rain and cold. We were fascinated when we had a visit from some real life owls. We saw Zarzu the African owl. He was tiny and liked mice worms and in the wild he would eat scorpions. We saw Eileen the long eared owl. They are nick named squeaky gate owls because of the noise they make! We also saw a barn owl called Haze! Barn owls like to live in barns to stay hidden and protected in the beams. The children listened brilliantly and some asked great questions. The children also enjoyed their focus story for the half term 'So Much'. This story linked particularly well, when celebrating black history month and we enjoyed retelling the story, acting it out in our role play areas, both inside and outside and, making posters and banners to celebrate 'dads' birthday party, in the story.



The pupils in Butterflies have been particularly enjoying their life skills lessons. They have been practicing putting on their coats, fastening zips, pouring drinks, and drinking from an open cup. Additionally, they have been baking gingerbread men and learning to use cutlery effectively.

During Forest School sessions, the children have explored the signs of autumn, searched for minibeasts, identified various leaves, and had a fantastic time jumping in muddy puddles.



Wearing PE kit on PE days

Following discussions with members of the Parents Forum and staff, we have agreed that **all** children will come to school in their PE kits on the days that they have PE. We hope that this will leave more time for the actual PE lessons themselves and reduce the amount of lost property!!

We felt that the children in Ladybirds and Butterflies in particular, are given lots of opportunities to practise changing their clothes for activities such as Forest School over the course of the week. I would however, encourage you to help your child be as independent as possible when dressing and undressing at home.

This new way of working will come in to play **after Christmas** to give everyone the opportunity to get organised! On PE days the children will need to wear:

Green, grey or black tracksuit trousers (or shorts when the weather gets warmer.)

Green t-shirt or polo shirt.

School sweatshirt or cardigan.

Trainers (PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT THEY HAVE VELCRO FASTENINGS)

We will send home reminders of when each class will need to come dressed in their PE kits towards the end of the term.

If providing this uniform for your child is problematic, please do get in touch because the PTA have lots of high quality second hand uniform.

Sponsored Walk

The children were brilliant during our Sponsored Walk on the last day of the half term. If you haven't yet paid in your Sponsor money, please can you do so by **Tuesday 19th November**. Thank you for your support.



Well done us!



We have achieved the Bronze award for our Travel Plan and the work we do with the children on Active Travel and sustainability. The one area of our travel plan that continues to be a massive problem is parking. 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.



Young carers



You may remember that I wrote to you last half term because as a school we are developing our support for young carers. Young carers are young people who have caring roles for family members or friends with physical or mental health problems or disabilities, or drug or alcohol problems.

On Thursday 14th November, we are going to hold the first of our Dovers Green Young Carers Club. It is my aim that this group will give the children an opportunity to meet other young carers, build positive relationships, have their voices heard and of course to have some fun! Either myself or Mrs Brewis, who is our Home School Link Worker, will run the group. We will initially meet for half an hour during lunchtime once a fortnight and see how the group develops.

If you did not contact me before and think that your child would be classified as a Young Carer, please do get in touch.

School Council, Green Team and other monitors

During next week, the children will be talking about the different areas of responsibility in school that they would be interested in.



The School Council comprises two representatives from each class (Ladybirds from after Christmas) and they meet fortnightly to talk about ways that we can improve our school. Green Team also has two representatives from each class and meet fortnightly to discuss ways that we can be more eco-friendly. Children who are interested in either of these will prepare a little talk for the class explaining why they want to be part of these teams and the children will then vote who they would like to represent them thereby reinforcing our work on the British value of democracy. These children will be part of these teams for the academic year.

The children will also have the opportunity to be Playground friends and library monitors as well as other classroom monitor jobs. This will ensure that all year 2 children have the opportunity to have an area of responsibility over the course of the year.

Parents Evenings

These will be held on **18th and 20th November between 3.30pm and 6.30 p.m.** These meetings will all be face to face. 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 11th November at 7.00 pm. Details about how you make a booking will be sent via ParentMail.

NB The meetings for Butterflies' parents will take place in Tadpoles which is in The Burrow (formerly the year 2 building.) Please check with your child's teacher if you are not sure where that is!

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.

Please also remember that you are very welcome to drop-in to the classrooms on a Friday so that your child can share with you their learning.

Book Fair

We will be holding a book fair in school from **Monday 18th November to Thursday 21st November**. This will give you an opportunity to buy children's books at a reduced price, a great idea with Christmas around the corner! Payments can be made through a QR code, which can be scanned through your phone or with cash.



The fair will be open every day after school during the week beginning 18th 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.

Inclusive Individuals Week incorporating Anti-bullying week

The theme for this year's Anti-Bullying Week, starting on the 11th November, is "Choose Respect" and will form the basis of our 'Inclusive Individuals week.'



On Monday 11th 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.

More information can be found at: [Anti-Bullying Week 2024: Choose Respect](#)

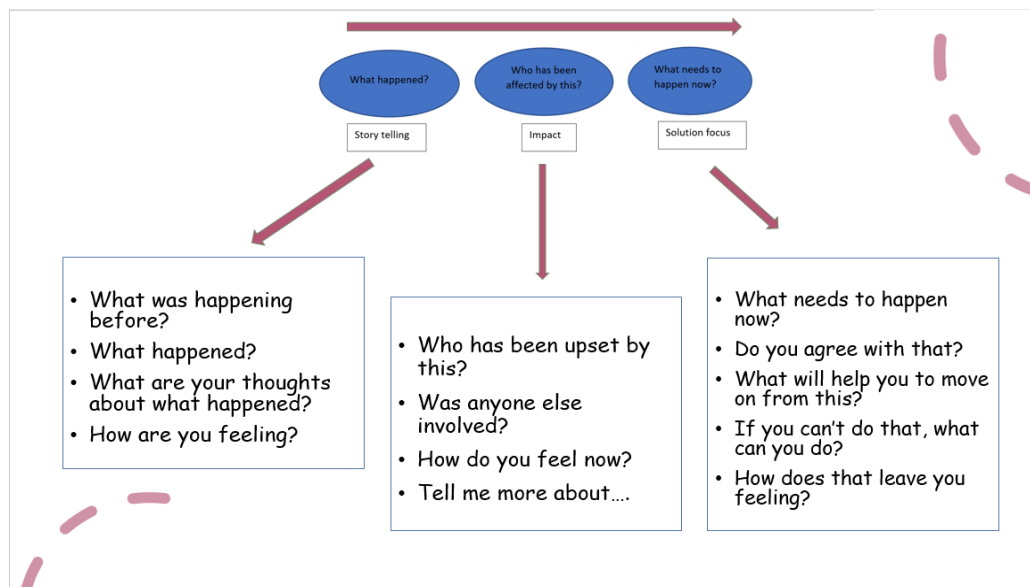
Whether it is verbal, physical, online or in-person, bullying can have a significant impact on a child's well-being. Throughout the week the children will be learning; What bullying is, the different types of bullying and most importantly, what to do if they feel that they are being bullied. All children 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. They even have their own job description



The 'Three Bubbles' is 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.



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.



Children in Need



Children in Need Day is on **Friday 15th November** and their theme this year is 'To Make Life Lighter for Children.' To support this event, the children are invited to wear their own clothes and if possible, something **yellow**. 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 an 'Open Morning Wander' on Monday 25th 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.



Important dates for your diary



For the month of December, Victoria Egerton will be alone in the Office. Therefore, please be patient, especially if it is busy in the mornings or if she doesn't answer the phone straight away!

Ms Tulian manages our Early Birds and Tea-Time Tigers clubs. **Therefore, in her absence during December, no ad-hoc bookings can be taken for these clubs unless you have previously registered.**

Christmas at Dovers Green

Our whole school Christmas Production this year will be 'The Inn-spectors.' 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 10th December - Blue Ladybirds
Wednesday 11th December - Red Ladybirds
Thursday 12th December - Yellow Ladybirds
Friday 13th 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 Butterflies' 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.

Thursday 12th 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! You will be sent details separately as to how to book for this event.



Tuesday 17th December - Pantomime for the children (there will be a small charge of £2.50 per child for this, more details will follow nearer the time). The children will have their party in the afternoon with hopefully a visit from a special person!



Wednesday 18th December - 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 and haven't already completed the form, please do so. (Please check your Parentmail account, under 'Forms.'



Friday 20th December - School finishes at 1.15 p.m.

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.

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.



Yours faithfully,

N Starling

Ms Nicki Starling
Headteacher



Dates for the Diary

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

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
Thursday 12 th December	Bike it Breakfast - Bling your bike for Christmas
NB - Change of date	
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 Tea Time Tigers finishing at 4.15pm

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 30 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 9.00 - 9.30am
Friday 4 th April	End of Spring Term - 1.15 p.m. finish Tea Time Tigers finishing at 4.15pm

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 6 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 9.00 - 10.00am
Friday 18 th July	Non Uniform Day End of Term - 1.15 p.m. finish Tea Time Tigers finishing at 4.15pm
Monday 21 st July	INSET Day - School closed for children
Tuesday 22 nd July	INSET Day - School closed for children