

Dovers Green School

January 2025 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very Happy New Year to you all.

It has been lovely to see the children and listen to them talking about their adventures over the Christmas holidays. As always however, routines set in very quickly and the holidays already feel like a distant memory!

Creative Arts Week

We have started this term with our *Creative Arts and Confident Communicators Week*. These 'special' weeks give us the opportunity for more in depth learning about a particular area of the curriculum and for the whole school to learn together. We are basing the children's learning around the painting, 'Tiger in a Tropical Storm (Surprised!)' by Henri Rousseau which is one of the pictures chosen by The National Gallery for their 'Take One Picture' programme which aims to inspire a lifelong love of art and learning. Every year they take one picture from the collection to inspire cross-curricular work in primary classrooms.



**We are
confident communicators**

When we talk and share ideas,
we're confident and clear!
We listen well and understand
when others need our ear.



All of the children took part in a workshop run facilitated by The Magic Lantern charity to help them explore the themes and their feelings about the painting. These workshops have been funded by the PTA. More information about the work of this charity can be found here: [Magic Lantern | Art Education Charity | Visual Learning in Schools \(magiclanternart.org.uk\)](https://www.magiclanternart.org.uk).

The children's work will be displayed along the corridor outside the offices, so please do pop in to have a look!

The year 2 children also worked alongside the artist Gordon Maclellan who ran his 'Creeping Toad' workshops. These workshops were also being funded by the PTA. Our thanks go to them and the whole school community for enabling additional extras such as these for the children.

Key stage 1 had a very exciting Arts week. The children have enjoyed exploring texture, tones and patterns and have loved being creative! They have used paints, crayons, textiles and a variety of objects to print with. These originals have then been imaginatively used to build a collage that will run the length of our main corridor, worthy of Mr Rousseau himself! We hope you will come and see it!

Ladybirds looked closely at 'Tiger in a Tropical Storm' and created their own versions of this picture with a slight twist! They began their artistic journey looking at his work and talking about why and how they thought he created this painting. They went on a hunt for natural objects, which they used for printing and for rubbings and created patterned pieces of paper, using chalk and crayon. This work was then torn up and layered to make a collaged piece, creating their own tropical storm. Each Ladybirds class added animals; Blue Ladybirds drew chimpanzees; Red Ladybirds tigers and Yellow Ladybirds elephants.

At the start of the week, Butterflies discussed the picture and thought about what they could see and what they liked or disliked about the painting. They then created their own art work in the style of Henri Rousseau by finding lots of different tools they could use with paint to create different textures which they cut, ripped and put together to create a beautiful collaged jungle scene.

Curriculum Information - Maths

I think it is really important that you know how we teach your children key knowledge and skills, especially in the basic skills of reading, writing and maths so that you are well equipped to support your child with their learning at home. This is why we hold curriculum evenings every year, usually with a focus on English and Maths.



Over the last few years, we have seen a significant decline in the number of parents who attend our Curriculum Evenings. The teachers not only give up their evenings but spend a lot of time preparing the workshops for you and I do not feel that it is fair to ask them to do this for a relatively small number of parents. This time therefore, we are going to try a different approach in the hope that more of you will be able to benefit from us teaching you!

The teachers will record the workshops that they would have delivered if the evening sessions were in person. These will be uploaded onto our website for you to view at a convenient time for you. These will go live on the website by the end of January. We will send more information about these videos nearer the time.



THIS MEANS THAT THE CURRICULUM EVENING ORIGINALY SCHEDULED FOR 22 JANUARY WILL NOT GO AHEAD.

Feedback on our mixed year 1 and 2 classes

I have attached the results from the parent survey which 75 of you kindly completed. On the whole, it paints a fairly positive parental view. I have spoken to or tried to make contact with those parents who indicated that they had some concerns through their comments on the survey. If you would like to speak to me, please make an appointment via the school office.



From a school point of view, the children continue to do really well both in terms of their academic and social, emotional and personal development. My thanks go to all staff who are working extremely hard to make sure that this 'new' arrangement continues to provide the very best that we can for the children.

Values

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



Attendance



Just to remind parents/carers that if they take their children out of school without authority for 5 or more days (which do not have to be consecutive), then the following will apply:

1. If you have not incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children in a rolling 3 year period since 19 August 2024, then the penalty notice will be charged at the rate of £160.00, **per parent/carer per child**, if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80.00 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.
2. If you have incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children since 19 August 2024, the rolling 3 year period will be activated from the date of the first penalty notice and the second penalty notice will be charged at the flat rate of £160.00, **per parent/carer per child**, if paid within 28 days. There will be no reduction for payment within 21 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.

3. If you have incurred 2 penalty notices relating to this child/children in the rolling 3 year period since the first penalty notice was issued, then you will NOT receive a third penalty notice - Surrey County Council will have no option but to consider a prosecution, **per parent/carers per child**, in the Magistrates Court under s 444 Education Act 1996.

Surrey County Council is not responsible for authorising pupil absence and therefore cannot withdraw any Penalty Notice requests without the written permission of the Headteacher.

You can find our attendance policy on the website. This sets out our procedures for tackling low attendance because there is a wealth of research that shows that poor school attendance is associated with:

- lower academic achievement including literacy and numeracy
- early school leaving
- leaving school with fewer qualifications
- reduced opportunities for students to learn and access educational resources, further limiting achievement
- further absenteeism in higher year levels
- increased alcohol, tobacco, and substance use in adolescents

If you are struggling with your child's attendance, please do get in touch so that we can work on improving it together.

NHS Pharmacy First Service

Did you know that the NHS Pharmacy First Service enables children and adults to get convenient access to healthcare advice and treatment where appropriate, for seven common conditions without the potential delay of having to wait for a GP appointment? Accessing the service may mean that can help children feel better and back to school as quickly as possible, as well as supporting parents/carers to also get better if they are unwell with one of the conditions covered under the service.



Support for the following conditions can be accessed under the service, free of charge (unless NHS prescription charges apply):

Common condition	Patient eligibility
Earache	1 to 17 years
Impetigo	1 year and over
Infected insect bites and stings	1 year and over
Sore throats	5 years and over
Sinusitis	12 years and over
Uncomplicated urinary tract	Women 16 to 64 years
Shingles	18 years and over

Parking issues



A repeated plea! Please, please park considerately when you are dropping off and picking your children up. I have had a number of complaints from local residents and also reports from parents and staff about parking that could result in a serious accident. Therefore, please obey the road markings, in particular the ones outside the school and the double yellow lines on the corners of Lonesome Lane and Weald Way.

REMEMBER - School Admissions – Applying for a Place in Reception and Year Three

If your child is due to start school or transfer to a Junior school, please do remember that the closing date for applications is **15th January 2025**.


Children who were born between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021 will be able to start school in September 2025 and those currently in Year two will transfer to Junior school at the same time. You can [apply online](#) for a September 2025 school place by visiting:



<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/admissions/primary-junior-and-infant/apply> or you can obtain a paper parental preference form by emailing schoolbooklets@surreycc.gov.uk or telephoning 0300 200 1015. Please state that you require a primary form.

If your application is submitted after the closing date you will be treated as a late applicant and therefore you are unlikely to receive an offer of a school place until the end of June 2025, or even later.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicki Starling". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "N".

Nicki Starling
Headteacher



Spring term: Monday 6 January - Friday 4 April 2025

Monday 13 th January	Parent Forum Meeting - 9.00 a.m.
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 17 th - Friday 21 st February	Half Term
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 6 th March	World Book Day
Thursday 13 th March	Dragonflies Assembly - 2.30 pm
Monday 17 th March	Parents Evening - 3.30pm - 6.30pm
Wednesday 19 th March	Parents Evening - 3.30pm - 6.30pm
Thursday 20 th March	Butterflies Assembly - 2.30pm
Friday 28 th March	Reception children only Mother's Day Assembly 9.00 - 9.30am Non-Uniform Day.
Friday 4 th April	End of Spring Term - 1.15 p.m. finish Tea Time Tigers finishing at 4.15pm
Monday 7 th - Friday 18 th April	Easter Holidays

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

Monday 21 st April	Children return for Summer Term
Friday 25 th April	Non-Uniform Day
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 26 th - Friday 30 th May	Half Term
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 - 8.00 - 8.40am
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
Tuesday 1 st July	Surrey Transition 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