

Dovers Green School

March 2025 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 has suffered 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



During Book Week in KS1, we have loved reading and listening to stories in our reading den and we had great fun during our launch assembly, where we had to guess who the 'masked' teacher was, just like the 'masked singer' on tv! The teachers read part of their favourite story, whilst wearing a mask and then revealed their identity at the end! We were really good at guessing! We have read the story 'Lost and Found' and lots of our learning has been linked to this lovely story! In music, we have explored using the instruments to recreate the storm which happens in the story, and in art we have explored with different patterns and textures to create a stormy picture! Our English lessons have been focused on giving advice to the little boy in the story for how to help the penguin return to the South Pole. It has been a very enjoyable week!

Butterflies

We have had a very exciting time in 'Book Week' reading lots of different stories and learning about the characters' adventures. We started the week with a Penguin appearing in our classrooms. We did not know where it had come from or why it had chosen to come and visit us from the South Pole. We decided to make him our friend and look after him for the week. Later on in the day we read the story 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers. We found out that the penguin in the story was lost too just like ours. To help our penguin find his way home we all wrote lost tags in case anyone was trying to find him. While our penguin friend was here with us, we thought it would be nice to also watercolour some lovely penguin art work that we could also put up on display. Throughout the week we have taken part in lots of reading activities including visiting the reading den where we read a variety of books. We have also taken part in a T-shirt drawing competition, where we had to think carefully about what we love about reading.





During Book Week, the Emperor Butterflies have loved creating their own reading dens around the classroom. Their favourite den was made by draping a sheet over a table, creating a cosy space where they enjoyed reading underneath. They also worked hard on their t-shirt designs and created beautiful handprint whale and penguin artwork, inspired by the focus book *Lost and Found* by Oliver Jeffers.

Ladybirds

During Book Week we enjoyed our first visit to the outside classroom which had been transformed into a Reading Den. We all enjoyed sharing books and listening to stories in there. We enjoyed listening to the story 'Lost and Found' and creating penguins using various techniques; collage, paint and combining materials together. We each wrote a lost luggage label to go with our penguin and learnt facts about penguins and their habitats and enjoyed looking at video clips and photographs of different species of penguins.



School disco



As teachers, we have felt that the children have missed out on some social events due to the small number of parents who are involved with the PTA. We are therefore inviting the children to attend an end of term disco on Thursday 3rd April between 4.30pm - 6.00pm. Put the date in your diaries and more information will follow shortly.

Thank you to the PTA for supporting us with this event.

Attendance

MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

At Dovers Green, our attendance has traditionally been above National Average, but we have now dropped to below which is concerning.

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.



No energy hour

On the 21st March Dovers Green School will take part in a "No energy hour" to celebrate Earth Hour which is taking place Internationally on 22nd 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, 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. We will be taking part during the week beginning 24th 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.



Big Walk and Wheel challenge

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.

This year the challenge will run from **24 March–4 April 2025**. It is free and easy to take part in Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel. You can register your school for the challenge from January 2025 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 and badges

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. All schools that participate in Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel will also have the opportunity to earn virtual badges.

In 2024,
2,691kg
of nitrogen oxide
avoided as a result
of the 10-day
challenge*

In 2024,
**1,730
tonnes**
of CO₂ avoided as a
result of the 10-day
challenge*

In 2024, pupils at
1,727
schools made
2,389,015
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.

Building works

The new building for our Butterflies children will be finally ready for them to learn and play in after the Easter holidays. We will invite you to come and have a look once it is fully up and running.



The children will be all going to have a look during the afternoon of Wednesday 19th March. Exciting times!

Parents Evening



With the exception of Butterflies, this term's Parent's Evening consultations are taking place on 17th & 19th March. It is important that you attend these meetings, so please sign up for an appointment which you can do online. If you are struggling to make an appointment, please call the school office who will be able to do this on your behalf. Please note all appointments are face to face, however if you prefer a telephone consultation, please let the school office know.

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 21st 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. A QR code will be send via parent mail for you to make a donation.



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



Spring term

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 21 st March	Red Nose Day Wear something red for a donation of £1 - Please use QR code to make a donation.
Monday 24 th March	Class Group Photo All this week we are taking part in the national 'Big Walk and Wheel' event. Walk, cycle or scoot to school if you can.
Friday 28 th March	Reception children only Mother's Day Assembly 9.00 - 9.30am Non-Uniform Day.
Thursday 3 rd April	School disco 4.30 pm - 6.00pm
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	Easter Bank Holiday
Tuesday 22 nd 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