

Dovers Green School

December 2023 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe that I am writing the last newsletter of the year. My thanks go to the entire school community - the children, teachers, teaching assistants, the office team, our premises manager and the cleaning team, our governors, the catering team and you - for making this such a successful term.

Staffing news

Mrs Lucy Richens will be returning to work following her maternity leave on 11th December and will be teaching in Red Ladybirds. This means that Miss Anna Hill will be returning to teach in year 1 and sadly we will have to say goodbye to Mrs Rosie Mehmood who has been teaching Owls class. I hope that you will join me in wishing her every success and happiness in the future.

The Children's Learning

In Badgers, we learnt about the festival of Diwali. We made and then tasted Chapattis and learnt a Diwali dance. Some of the year 1 children joined the mainstream creepy critters workshop. We have also been working hard with our Maths - recognising numbers and adding 1 more to a group.



In Ladybirds, our topic this term is called 'Fall into Fairytales' and we have loved listening to and acting out a variety of different traditional tales, including 'The Three Little Pigs' and 'Little Red Riding Hood'. We have had excellent fun searching for the villain in these stories: The Big Bad Wolf! He has left clues absolutely everywhere! We started Forest School after half term, which we are really enjoying! We have learnt all of the Forest School rules, and we are especially good at holding sticks correctly, and walking back to base camp when the whistle blows. We have been busy searching for special treasures, making homes for the woodland animals, and of course, digging for worms and other minibeasts!



In year 1 we have continued our learning about 'Amazing Animals'. As scientists we have been learning to ask scientific questions and we were able to ask some of these questions during our amazing Animal Critters workshop. We were able to hold a banana snake, a tortoise and a bearded dragon, but the highlight was meeting Mr Poppy, a giant tortoise who roamed happily around the room during our session! In history, we have learnt that we can use different sources of information to learn about the past, such as fossils. We all pretended to be famous palaeontologists like Mary Anning, where we looked closely at several different fossils.



In year 2 the children have really enjoyed learning how to use a hand drill during Forest School sessions. They have been making Christmas decorations which will be completed in the coming weeks, ready to sell on our enterprise stall. Recently we were invited to Reigate Methodist Church to attend some Sparkfish sessions where the children were treated to an interactive Christmas story experience, they absolutely loved it, particularly the talking animals!



Confident Communicators 'Week' - 3 - 12 January

When the children return from their Christmas holidays, we will be holding our Confident Communicators week which will also link with the children studying The Umbrellas by Renoir. The year 2 children will be working with an artist on 9th and 10th January which has been funded by the PTA and all the children will be involved in workshops facilitated by The Magic Lantern charity to help them explore the themes and their feelings about the painting. More information about the work of this charity can be found here: [Magic Lantern | Art Education Charity | Visual Learning in Schools \(magiclanternart.org.uk\)](http://magiclanternart.org.uk).

Attendance

I have attached our attendance policy to this newsletter for your information. 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.

Follow us on social media!

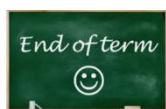
Dovers Green is now on social media!
Facebook @DoversGreenInfantSchool
Instagram @doversgreenschool



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. Please can I also remind you that our school carpark is **not** to be used to park your car when picking up or dropping off your child between 8.15 a.m. - 4.15 p.m. unless you have been given permission to do so.

End and Start of term



The last day of term is **Friday 15 December, finishing at 1.15 p.m.**
Tea-Time Tigers will be open until **4.15 p.m.**

We look forward to seeing the children back in school on **Wednesday 3rd January 2024.**

Sponsored walk

You and your children have raised an amazing £1904.55 from the sponsored walk.
Thank you!



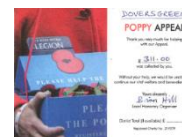
Children in Need



We are very pleased to confirm that we raised a fantastic £363.57 for Children in Need. Thank you to everyone for their support in raising money for such a worthy charity.

Poppy Appeal

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Poppy Appeal, we raised a brilliant £311.



Christmas Activities

The tickets for our Christmas production of 'Everyone Loves a Baby' seem to be the hottest in town! With nearly all the children in the hall, it does make the capacity of the hall limited, hence the initial limit of two tickets per family and sadly, no younger siblings. If there are any tickets left, we will let you know the day before and offer them out on a first come, first served basis.

We will be having a collection at the end of each performance. We all recognise the tough times in which we are living (and I'm aware that I have asked you several times in this newsletter for monetary donations), but if you can spare anything, monies raised will be given to Just 4 Children who are raising money to support Millie, whose brother is in Owls Class. I'm sure you'll agree that Millie's story is an inspirational one and it would be lovely to think that the Dovers Green Community have supported her and her family.



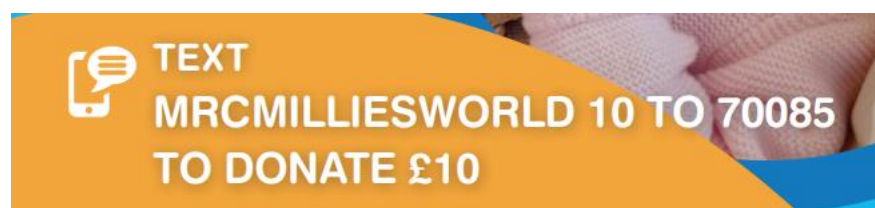
Millie is one part of twin girls and **lives in the local community in Salford's**, she needs your help! Our Princess Warrior was born at 29 weeks and was getting stronger every day in NICU to come home to her older siblings who were eagerly waiting. Unfortunately, at 8 weeks old, Millie required a simple procedure due to Hydrocephalus which went ahead at St George's hospital Jan 2022. The operation went well and she started to recover.

A few days later Mille became extremely unwell and they found **she had caught an E.coli infection from hospital which had travelled to her brain**. The E. coli infection caused meningitis and cranial cysts as her tiny body tried to fight off the infection. **It took 5 months and 20 brain surgeries** before Millie was safe to come home where everyday she inspires our family to keep going.

Because of the brain infection, Millie now has **Cerebral Palsy and is visually impaired**. Millie requires **physio, groundbreaking therapies, adjusted everyday living, sensory and medical equipment and possible overseas corrective surgeries**. So far the NHS has been fantastic however cannot give Millie all the support she needs to get moving.

Message from Millie - "I would love to be able to walk, crawl and see the world with my twin. My mummy has set up this charity as **she believes in me** but doesn't have the funds to support my needs. Please **donate big or small** to help me live a better life."

www.justgiving.com/campaign/mrcmilliesworld



To donate we have a QR code, a text to donate number, a JustGiving page and collection tins! If you cannot share funds could I please ask for you to share Millie's social media pages! **M.R.CMilliesWorld** on Instagram and Facebook

Bling Your Bike for Christmas and Bike-It Breakfast - Friday 8th December

We have had 180 responses to our Bling Your Bike for Christmas event! I'm afraid if you have not replied, we cannot accommodate anymore, so look out for the next event if you have missed out! We are asking for a £1 donation per person to partially cover the cost of breakfast which can be paid through Parentmail.

Pantomime and Christmas lunch - Tuesday 12th December

We have organised for a company to come into school to perform a Pantomime called, 'The Snow Queen' for the children on Tuesday 12th December. We are asking for a voluntary donation of £2.25 to cover the cost of this please. No child will be excluded from this show if you are unable to pay, but unfortunately, our budget is such that we will be unable to provide experiences like these in the future without your continuing support. Your donation can be made on the payments section of ParentMail up until 12th December.

Our excellent cook will be cooking Christmas lunch on Tuesday 12th December and we would like all children to make a hat at home to wear on this occasion. Children who are having packed lunch are also invited to make and wear a hat.



Party Day - Wednesday 13th December



On this day the children are invited to wear their own clothes and/or a Christmas jumper to school. During the afternoon Father Christmas will be visiting us. Please could your child bring in some cakes, biscuits, crisps or vegetable sticks to share at the party. Please remember that the children will have had their lunch so just a small contribution is all that is needed!

Christmas Cards

Please can children not bring Christmas cards into school. It can be a very time consuming task for teachers to hand them out! We made a decision a few years ago to encourage children to send one Christmas card to the whole class rather than individual ones as part of our commitment to sustainability and reducing waste. If you would like to send individual cards, please can you organise this between yourselves.

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 2024**.

Children who were born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020 will be able to start school in September 2024 and those currently in Year two will transfer to Junior school at the same time. You can [apply online](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/admissions/primary-junior-and-infant/apply) for a September 2024 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 2024, or even later.



Are you looking for a fulfilling volunteer role in a local organisation serving children in our local community?

Do you have expertise and experience in any of the following areas?:

- Education
- Business Management
- HR
- Legal
- Finance
- Marketing
- IT
- Risk

Greensand Multi-Academy Trust is a locally based trust consisting of six schools in Redhill, Reigate & Crawley. Our governance community have a common goal to enrich the lives of every child in our Trust by providing inspiring and transformational learning, cultural and life experiences.

We are currently looking to recruit individuals to sit on our dynamic Trust Board. This is an exciting time to be joining the Trust, as we are in the process of growing.

We want to create a diverse and fully inclusive Board which reflects the communities that the Trust and our schools serve.

Please see the Governance Vacancies page on our website for details about the Trustee role, responsibilities and time commitment, and where you will also find an application form:

<https://www.greensandacademytrust.co.uk/page/?title=Governance+vacancies&pid=24>

If you have any questions, or would like to explore the role further, please contact Emma Salisbury, the Trust's Lead Governance Professional

(Email: e.salisbury@reigate-school.surrey.sch.uk , Tel: 01737 948186) who would be happy to assist you.

All that remains is for me to wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas.

Yours faithfully,

N Starling

Nicki Starling
Headteacher



Dates for the Diary

Autumn Term: Monday 4th September - Friday 15th December

Week beginning 4 th December	Whole School Christmas Productions
Friday 8 th December	Bike it Breakfast - Bling your bike for Christmas
Tuesday 12 th December	Christmas Lunch Pantomime for children in school
Wednesday 13 th December	Christmas Party Day
Friday 15 th December	PTA Non Uniform Day End of Autumn Term - 1.15 p.m. finish

Spring Term: Tuesday 2nd January - Thursday 28th March

Tuesday 2 nd January	INSET DAY / Start of Spring Term
Wednesday 3 rd January	Children return for Spring Term
Wednesday 3 rd - Friday 12 th January	'Confident Communicators' week.
Monday 8 th January	Parent Forum Meeting - 9.00 a.m.
Thursday 18 th January	Foxes Assembly - 2.30 p.m.
Wednesday 24 th January	Maths Curriculum Evening 7.00 p.m. - 8.30 p.m.
Thursday 25 th January	Rabbits Assembly - 2.30 p.m.
Thursday 1 st February	Squirrels Assembly - 2.30 p.m.
Tuesday 6 th February	Safer Internet Day
Thursday 8 th February	Otters Assembly - 2.30 p.m.
Friday 9 th February	End of Half Term - 3.05 p.m. finish
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
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day Badgers Assembly 2.30 p.m.
Friday 8 th March	Reception children only Mother's Day Assembly - 2.30 p.m.
Thursday 14 th March	Owls Assembly 2.30 p.m.
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 22 nd March	PTA Non Uniform Day
Thursday 28 th March	End of Spring Term - 1.15 p.m. finish

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
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.
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.
Friday 19 th July	PTA Non Uniform Day End of Term - 1.15 p.m. finish
Monday 22 nd July	INSET Day
Tuesday 23 rd July	INSET Day