

Dovers Green School

October 2021 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 Badgers, have settled into the routines of school.

This is rather a long newsletter, with lots of information so you might want to settle down with a cup of tea! As always, we will start by celebrating the learning that the children have been doing.



Ladybirds

We have been having great fun, as always in Ladybirds! We have been spending our time learning about all the new routines and rules that we have at Dovers Green, and we are getting really good at remembering them! We have learnt the 'Give Me 5!' rule, which helps us to sit nicely and to be able to listen well when we are on the carpet. We have loved playing outside on the bikes and in the sandpit and making lots of new friends!



Badgers

Badgers we have been on an autumn walk in forest school to look for signs of autumn. We have found different coloured leaves, conkers, pine cones, berries on bushes and even spotted some squirrels jumping from tree to tree! We have made life size paintings of ourselves as part of our "I am Amazing!" topic and we have been discussing who is in our family. We have enjoyed sharing photos and creating family trees to show who is in our family. In PE we have been strengthening our muscles and improving our coordination skills as we have explored different ways of moving our bodies to negotiate different obstacles.



Year 1



The children in year 1 have settled back into school brilliantly. In maths they have been learning about place value and how to partition numbers into tens and ones. They have really enjoyed having allocated sessions in the school library and choosing a book to explore further at home. The children have also been working together towards a shared goal during a Commando Joe mission.

Year 2

Year 2 have had a fantastic start to the school year. To launch our topic, 'Around the World' we held our very own Mini Olympics which was great fun. In English the children have been learning lots of new vocabulary which they included when they wrote their own sports commentaries! This week they have included nouns, adjectives, verbs and even adverbs to write amazing Olympic poems. In Geography they have learnt to identify the different continents and oceans in the world and in Forest School we recapped the countries in the United Kingdom. In maths we have been focusing on improving our confidence in solving problems with number. This includes representing numbers in different ways, comparing numbers, extending sequences, doubling, halving and recognising patterns.



DROP-OFFS and PICK-UPS - IMPORTANT INFORMATION

As we have returned to 'normal' and all the children are now in and starting school at the same time, I think we have all found the sheer number of parents on the playground quite overwhelming at times, especially in the morning. I know that a lot of parents favour a return to the staggered starts that we were operating during the pandemic, but this is not a long-term practical solution for us because of the impact on staff and the children's learning.

From **Monday 4 October** however, you will be able to drop your child off **between 8.40 a.m. and 8.50 a.m.** We will no longer blow the whistle at 8.45 a.m. but the children can enter their classroom as soon as they arrive from **8.40 a.m.** (no earlier please because the majority of our Teaching Assistants do not start work until then.) School will still start at 8.50 so all children must be in school by then. We will be locking the gates at 8.55 a.m. Pick-up will remain the same at 3.05 p.m.

I hope that this new arrangement can at least relieve some of the pressure on the playground and work towards a calmer start to the day for the children. We will trial this until half-term and your feedback would be much appreciated.

I also hope that it will help with the on-going issue with parking. On Monday this week, it was particularly bad as the weather was so awful and sadly I had quite a number of complaints from the residents about inconsiderate and illegal parking and sadly some quite abusive comments. Please remember that our

children's safety has to be a priority and by parking in the way that some parents do, this puts their safety at considerable risk. I have contacted the police and the Highways Agency to look into ways that the situation can be better managed moving forward and I am waiting to hear back from them. At the very least, the Zebra crossing on Lonesome Lane needs repainting!

The return of the class assemblies!

We all really enjoyed Foxes' assembly yesterday and it was lovely to see so many parents there. All assemblies start at 2.30 p.m. and please wear a face covering if you are coming along to watch your child's assembly. Entrance is via the main office.

Curriculum Evening

If you are free on Thursday 7 October between 7.00 p.m. and 8.00 p.m., please come along to our evening on, 'How we teach Reading and Phonics.' I appreciate we may not be able to compete with the new James Bond Film, but we do promise an informative and fun evening and lots of activities and strategies that will support your child's learning at home! Refreshments will be available from 6.30 p.m.

Community Saturday - Saturday 16 October

As you know, our school grounds and Forest School are vitally important to us at Dovers Green and are embedded into the curriculum for your children. Twice a year we organise a Saturday morning to work with parents to tidy, organise and improve our outdoor learning environment.



Please do come along and meet with other parents, children, staff and governors between 10.00am. - 12.30p.m. We will be tidying the grounds including our Forest School. Please bring along brooms, rakes, spades, forks, secateurs, wheelbarrows..... Light refreshments will be provided during the morning. Any help will be welcome, so just stay as long as you want to. Children can come too!

If anyone is able to get hold of tree stumps that are 25 - 30 cm wide and 60 cm long, please get in touch. I need 10 of them to complete my grand plan for improving the seating area at base camp in Forest School!

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 is being held on Monday 11 October at 9.30 a.m. in school or you can join by Zoom if you would prefer. Please let the office know if this is the case. We will be discussing communication and considering ways in which to improve. These meetings are held once every half term and we would like to have a representative from each class who is able to attend every meeting during this academic year.

The agenda has a main focus on how we can make Dovers Green even better for the children and the parents. 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.

School Ambassadors

I have been blown away by the lovely letters that the children have written expressing why they would like to be part of the Green Team, Librarians, Playground Friends and School Council. I will be letting the children know what their roles will be in due course and if they have not been selected for one of the above roles, they will be given a special monitor job in their classroom.



Jeans for Genes

Thank you for your donations to the Jeans for Genes appeal which raised £172! 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 on Friday 15th October. Unfortunately, at this time, we feel it would be irresponsible to invite parents into school to watch the assembly, as traditionally the hall has been absolutely jam-packed! Instead, we are going to film the assembly, so that you can watch it from the comfort of your own home, if you wish. We will share the video by a secure YouTube link but if you do not want your child filmed, please let us know. In the assembly, each class will share a short poem or sing a song connected with this traditional celebration.



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. 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 11 October. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Sponsored Walk - Thursday 21 October

We traditionally end this first half-term with a sponsored walk and this year will be no different, but of course we will have to organise it in a slightly different way! 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:



Ladybirds - 9.15 - 10.15 a.m. (parents to stay on site after they have dropped their child off.)

Years 1 and 2 - 1.45 - 3.00 p.m. (Parents to arrive from 1.30. Once your child has finished their walk you may take your child home but it is vital that you inform your child's class teacher so that this can be recorded.)

Badgers - The teachers will contact you individually to let you know.



Please try to get as many sponsors as possible as all monies raised will be used to provide new resources for the children. Unlike many other local schools, at Dovers Green we do not ask for contributions to the school fund, but we really appreciate the couple of parents that do make regular contributions. The sponsored walk is very important as it allows us to provide extra activities to benefit the children's learning. Last year we raised an amazing £4772, so let's see if we can beat that this year!

You will find a sponsorship form in your child's book bag next week. We encourage you to pay the sponsorship money online via ParentMail 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 22 November. Thank you for your support!

Open Morning Wanders

I am delighted that we will be able to welcome prospective parents to visit our wonderful school again. If you know of anyone who is looking for a place for their child from September 2022 please let them know that we are holding our 'Open Morning Wanders' on the following dates between 10.30 a.m. and 11.30 a.m.

Tuesday 5th October

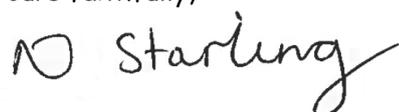
Friday 5th November

Wednesday 17th November

Monday 29th November

More information can be found on our website.

Yours faithfully,



Ms Nicki Starling
Headteacher



Dates for your Diary

October	Black History Month
5 October	Open Morning Wander for Prospective Parents
7 October	Squirrels Assembly Curriculum Evening 7-8.00pm
11 October	School Photos Parents Forum 9.30
14 October	Rabbits Assembly
15 October	PTA Mufti Day
16 October	Community Saturday 10-12.30pm
18-22 October	STEM Week
21 October	Otters Assembly Sponsored Walk
22 October	School Closed - additional holiday in lieu of the Queens Jubilee holiday which falls within half term next June
25-29 October	Half Term
1 November	INSET Day for Staff
3 November	Nasal Flu Spray for Children
5 November	Open Morning Wander for Prospective Parents
8 November	Parents Forum 9.30
11 November	Owls Assembly
15-19 November	Anti-Bullying Week
17 November	Open Morning Wander for Prospective Parents
18 November	Hedgehogs Assembly
22 and 24 November	Parents Evening
26 November	PTA Mufti Day
29 November	Open Morning Wander for Prospective Parents
Week commencing 6 December	KS1 Christmas Production
Week commencing 13 December	EYFS and Badgers Christmas Production
17 December	PTA Mufti Day End of Term - 1.00 p.m. finish