



DODFORD FIRST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Achieve, Believe, Create and Fly High

29th April 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful week we have had at Dodford - the newsletter is full of our learning

The school newsletter is for parents so please do let us know if there is anything else you would like to see included here, you can do this by emailing office@dodford.worcs.sch.uk.



Curriculum Spotlight - History

It seems that children are very enthused by events of the past at Dodford First! The children have been talking to Miss Stanley about their learning in history. Miss Stanley leads this area of the curriculum and has worked hard with the teachers to plan the school's history curriculum so that the children grow a love of learning about the past.

Here are some of the things the children said about HISTORY:

Reception Class - Wren Class children were able to tell Miss Stanley that Victorian toys were made from wood or metal and now most toys are made from plastic. The children could recall the names of some Victorian toys including cup and ball, Jacob's Ladder and pop-up toys. They used the phrase 'a long time ago.'

Robins Class - Y1 and Y2 Robins excitedly recalled the famous words Neil Armstrong spoke as he walked on the moon "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind" The children could recall significant people including Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Micheal Collins as well as the year 1969.

Owls Class - Y3 and Y4 Owls were very knowledgeable about the Vikings. They were quick to tell Miss Stanley that Vikings were not as vicious as many people believe; they farmed cattle, and they didn't wear horned helmets. Vikings spoke a different language and wrote on stone and wood.



Our School Values - Week 4 - Independence

Why is independence important? Independence is an important skill for children to learn as they move through Dodford. Encouraging children to be independent promotes confidence and self-esteem. When they learn to do things on their own, they feel a sense of accomplishment and pride, which contributes to their overall well-being. We support our children at Dodford to become independent learners as they grow which is supported by our motto of achieve, believe, create, and fly high.



Class Weekly News

Weekly News from Wren Class: This week in Wren Class, we welcomed Pedro the cockroach into our classroom. We listened to our key text *The Little Cockroach* and discovered Pedro had visited Italy. Using a globe, the children were supported to find England and Italy, looking at the distance and discussing ways of travel. The children made travel tickets to board makeshift aeroplanes and trains. We went on an aeroplane to travel the world visiting different rainforests to look for exotic minibeasts. We discovered the Goliath Beetle in Africa, Giant Centipede in South America, the Cobalt Blue Tarantula in Southeast Asia, Comet Moth in Madagascar, and White-Lipped Tree Frog in Australia! Look out for a postcard from our travels! We are delighted to announce that our first chick hatched on Wednesday! The children have closely monitored the incubator looking for eggs that have been pipped.

Miss Stanley

Weekly News from Robin Class: This week Robins have had great fun finding out about habitats in their science lessons. We have been exploring habitats in the UK and predicting what animals and plants might live there. Robin Class have also been working hard improving their reading skills in their phonic and group reading lessons. We have been trying hard to 'blend in our head', read with improved fluency and use some expression. In maths lessons we have been pretending to go shopping and using our number skills to calculate money, pay for items and give change. Robin Class have been set their next Chilli Challenge all about real-life maths which can be found in their homework books. **Miss Underhill**

Weekly News from Owl Class:

In geography this week the children have been using digital maps to look at areas of interest around their school and where they live. They have also been using ordnance survey maps and learning how to use 2 and 4 figure grid references. In maths children in Year 4 have been learning about hundredths, writing them as fractions and decimals. Year 3 have been using the terms capacity and volume to read scales, compare measures, add and subtract volumes. In art this week children have been enthusiastically creating their 3D sculptures. In English we have been using our senses to describe a setting and experimenting with prepositional sentence starters. **Mrs. Eggleton**

Golden Time with Miss Salisbury

It was a great treat to meet with the year group representatives chosen by their teachers last week. Bethany, Ella, Lochlan, Skylar and Teddy told me all about their brilliant learning at Dodford and shared some impressive pieces of work. Bethany shared her sketch book showing her Lowry pictures and talked about the importance of cooperation, especially in PE. Ella told me all about 'Artist of the Month' and talked enthusiastically about being in Year 3 and how much she enjoys school. Lochlan talked about History; he knew and remembered a lot about the first men to the moon and the moon buggies. Skylar told me there was no life, no air and no fun on the moon! She also said she'd really enjoyed a story Miss Underwood had read to the class about astronauts. Teddy really impressed me with his re-telling of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* - what a wonderful recall of a brilliant the story!

Thank you, children, for sharing your learning and enthusiasm for your super school with me!

Writer of the Month Awards

Inspired by our love of reading at Dodford First, we love to recognise those children with a flair for writing and those who are making extra efforts to improve what they write. The winners writing will be displayed in school for everyone to read and admire. Awards this month go to ...

Emilija
Jessica K
Oscar B
Zack
Bea

**We are so proud of all you have achieved in your writing.
Achieve, Believe, Create and Fly High!**

Whole School Attendance is currently 95.2%



House Points w/c 29th April 2024

Teme - 64

Severn - 62 and Avon - 62



Stars of the Week Awards



Well done and congratulations for being chosen for the Star of the Week awards by your teachers!

Gracie- Rose for your excellent effort with your spelling in writing tasks

Oliver M for your super phonics skills decoding unknown words

Leila for your wonderful enthusiasm in writing

Noah For your fantastic effort in English lessons

Bethany for your eagerness to participate in class discussions

We are so proud of all you have achieved this week

Achieve, Believe, Create and Fly High!

Feel Good Friday / Earth Day

Last Friday children participated in a variety of art activities for 'Feel Good Friday' based upon the value of diversity. We hope to take these art projects to Worcester Cathedral for the Young Voices, New Visions exhibition (26th May - 26th June).

As part of Earth Day the children were also invited to enter a plastic vs planet competition. Entries included bird feeders, a watering can, a minibeast hotel, a bull and even a Star Wars space ship that were all crafted from plastic and other materials - well done to all that entered. It was lovely to see so many children taking part in our Earth Day by wearing non-uniform. We managed to raise £26 to buy some plants for our school garden. Thank you for your support.

Green Team News!

The Green Team have been working hard behind the scenes this half term preparing for a marine life vs plastic themed whole school assembly. So far they have crafted marine creatures from junk and created marine vs plastic posters to use within the delivery of an assembly. We are a glitter free school and minimise our use of laminating to reduce plastic waste.

Did you know glitter contains microplastics, which can find their way into rivers and oceans, taking many years to degrade? All of these activities will be used as evidence towards achieving our next Green Flag, but ultimately our main goal is to help raise awareness across the school community and hopefully reduce

plastic waste.



Author of the Month - May

Each month we introduce the children to an author and share some of their books around the classes. It is wonderful way to ensure the children can explore new genres and find out about writers they may not have heard of. This month we are celebrating the brilliant stories by ... Jacqueline Wilson. She wrote her first novel when she was nine years old, and she has been writing ever since. She is now one of Britain's bestselling and most beloved children's authors. More than forty million copies of her books

have been sold. As well as winning many awards for her books, including the Children's Book of the Year, Jacqueline is a former Children's Laureate, and in 2008 she was appointed a Dame.



Please ensure you check the reading age on Jacqueline's books as she writes for a wide range of ages and some books include some challenging subjects such as teenage issues, adoption and divorce.

<https://www.penguin.co.uk/puffin/jacqueline-wilson>

Wrap Around Care Vacancy

Our vacancy is now LIVE on West Midlands jobs.

We are currently seeking to recruit a caring and creative individual to work with our super children who need before and after school care. The hours are 7.15am - 8.50pm and then 3pm - 6pm each day.

We may also be able to split this for morning and afternoon shifts if two people want to join us in this exciting opportunity. Please contact Miss Salisbury on office@dodford.worcs.sch.uk. All recruitment will follow the Worcestershire Children First rigorous safer recruitment process.

Online Safety.



Keeping our children safe online is of prime importance to us at Dodford First School. We use filter systems which not only filter what they can access online but also monitor children's use whilst in school. If you have concerns about how you can protect your child whilst online, please follow this link to a highly informative workshop for parents.

[Free online safety virtual workshop | NSPCC](#)

Advice to parents and carers if their child says that someone is trying to trick, threaten or blackmail them online:

Don't pay, do stop contact and block: you may be tempted to pay, but there is no guarantee that this will stop the threats. As the offender's motive is to get money, once you have shown you can pay, they will likely ask for more and blackmail may continue. If you have paid, don't panic but don't pay anything more. Help your child to stop all communication with the offender and block them on any accounts that they have been contacted on.

Avoid deleting anything: try not to delete anything that could be used as evidence such as messages, images, telephone numbers, and bank account details.

Report to the police or CEOP: call 101 or 999 if there is an immediate risk of harm to your child. Or you can use the CEOP Safety Centre to report any online blackmail attempts.



Sponsored Read

On behalf of our Parents' Association, we would like to congratulate the following children for their valiant effort in raising money over the Easter Break completing a sponsored read:

Oscar B

Evie W

Kaalayah S

Keziah S
 Thomas R-T
 Sophie S
 Gracie - Rose D

The children raised an amazing £196 which will be used to provide those fabulous extras at Dodford.
Thank you parents for your continued support.

Year 2 Gardening Club

Mrs Currier has been working hard with the Year 2 gardening club this week in their outdoor space. They have been taking responsibility for cleaning the playground, digging out weeds as well as planting new flowers and herbs. How lovely do our flower beds look now? Thank you Mrs Currier for you hard work with Year 2.



Future Diary Dates - (Please note these may be subject to changes.)

Date	Event
Monday 6 th May	Bank Holiday - school closed
Thursday 9 th May	Bike-ability Year 4
Monday 13 th May	Mental Health Awareness Week Robin Class Local Church Visit (pm)
Tuesday 14 th May	Year 4 Malvern Information Evening - 6pm
Thursday 16 th May	Family Reading session 2.30pm
Monday 20 th May	Year 2 Assessment Week
Wednesday 22 nd May	New Reception Induction Eve 6pm National Children's Gardening Week 22nd May - 2nd June
Thursday 23 rd May	Empty Classroom Day - we will be taking our learning outside so please ensure you ahve coats and jumpers at the ready!
Friday 24 th May	Feel Good Friday Golden Tea with Miss Salisbury Last day of half term Achievement Assembly at 9am NO FOOTBALL

	Young Voices New Visions Exhibition Worcester Cathedral Sunday 26 th May to Sunday 26 th June 2024 - please go along and see Dodford First School's artwork.
Monday 27 th May - Friday 31 st May	Half Term week
Monday 3 rd June	TE Day - school closed to children
Tuesday 4 th June	Children return

Summer 2nd Half Term

Date	Event
Monday 3 rd June 2024	TED DAY
Tuesday 4 th June	First day of 2 nd half term BRITISH VALUES DAY 3rd - 21st June - Year 4 - Multiplication Times Tables Check Assessment Period
Thursday 6 th June	Multi skills club starts back
Friday 7 th June	Football club starts back
Monday 10 th June	Phonics Screening Week 10 th -14 th - Year 1
Thursday 13th June	Family Reading Session 2.30 - 3pm
Friday 21 st June	School Fete - 3.30-5.30 - all welcome
Tuesday 25 th June	Stay and Play 1.30pm-2.30pm (Reception intake 2024) and current Wren Class
Thursday 27 th June	School Games including Family Picnic - all welcome
Friday 28 th June	Feel Good Friday Golden Tea with Miss Salisbury
Tuesday 2 nd July	Robin Class Victorian Workshop - in School Parent Open Afternoon, Robin and Owl Class 2.30-3pm
Wednesday 3 rd July	Moving Up Day
Thursday 4 th July	Reserve School Games Day (in case of wet weather on the 27 th of June)
Sunday 7 th July	Dodford Church Fete 2pm (School Choir)
Wednesday 10 th July	Year 4 Residential Trip
Thursday 11 th July	Year 4 Residential Trip Wren Class Stay and Play
Friday 12 th July	Year 4 Residential Trip Annual Reports to Parents
Tuesday 16 th July	Leaver's Assembly 6pm
Friday 19 th July	Term ends Feel Good Friday Values and end of term assembly NO FOOTBALL
Monday 22 nd July	School closed TED Day