



# DODFORD FIRST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

**Achieve, Believe, Create and Fly High**

15<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy week we have had at Dodford First School – there is so much good learning going on here inside and outside the school – we hope you enjoy reading all about our learning in the Class News sections below. We have also updated the 'Future Diary Dates' section with **NEW dates** for an extra Family Reading session and an Open Day. Please put these additional dates in your diaries and come and join us to see our wonderful learning community in action.

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](mailto:office@dodford.worcs.sch.uk).



## Curriculum Spotlight – Design Technology

It seems we have some future designers, architects and engineers at Dodford First! The Children have been talking to Miss Underhill about their learning in Design Technology (DT). Miss Underhill leads this area of the curriculum and has worked hard with the teachers to plan the school's DT curriculum so the children can learn and apply new skills in this subject as they progress through the school.

**Here are some of the things the children said about their DT lessons;**

**Wrens Class – YR:** We looked at the design projects in the class memory book. Using the photographs to prompt discussion.

'We made paint brushes with sticks and then painted a picture I painted a firework.'

'This is when I was making a robot. I made it out of cardboard and yoghurt pots. I had a box for my body and a box for my head'

**Robins Class – Y1 and Y2**

'I've learnt that the moon buggies have different features like, flags and satellites.'

'The teacher is helpful. She checks our work and gives advice on what to make better.'

'We were learning about bridges. We needed to make a strong structure and we used sugar cubes to stick them together.'

'I have learnt skills from DT. You can make anything, but you have to try hard.'

**Owls Class – Y3 and Y4**

'I liked making the soup because we got to eat it. In the soup café! We sold the soup to the other year groups and made some money.'

'I think I know how to attach things together and make them more secure.'

'I am proud of my Viking long house. The finished design looks quite good. Sometimes we evaluate with our friends.'

'We were learning about shell structures. A shell structure is like a 3D item that keep something safe inside of it. We used cuboids and a triangular prism.'

'I think my designs are getting better now.'



### Our School Values - Week 2 - Diversity

Why is diversity important? Diversity is essential for creating a world where everyone feels safe, included and respected. It is especially important in places such as schools and workplaces, where everyone deserves the same opportunities as everyone else. Diversity helps to improve understanding - for example diversifying the books that we read allows us to understand one another more. If a child reads a book about a festival that is celebrated in a different religion or belief from their own, they will gain a better understanding of a friend who celebrates that festival with their family. This will also give children the opportunity to talk about these differences with each other, allowing them to build a friendship.

No two people are the same, and that is something to be celebrated! At Dodford First School we have a welcoming environment that is respectful of people of all backgrounds.



### Class Weekly News

**Weekly News from Wren Class** - This week Wren's carried out a minibeast hunt with equipment in the school grounds. They worked in small mixed class groups, and each had a magnifying glass, bug pot, net and identification sheet. The children were excited to find a centipede, millipede, pill woodlouse, butterfly and bumble bee to name just a few! Did you know the brown centipede has 15 pairs of legs, one on each segment of its body? Our key text this week is *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle. The children sequenced the story before creating their own story maps and have used their story maps to retell the story with actions to their friends. We have started to create minibeasts in the style of Eric Carle using paint, paper and tissue paper. We have also listened to and discussed the story *St George and the Dragon* and watched a short clip of Scouts and Girlguiding organisations on St George's Day Parade. **Miss Stanley**

**Weekly News from Robin Class:** On Monday, Robin Class started the week by getting messy in their art lesson. The task was to shape clay using their hands. We had some fantastic 3D models created including snails, snowmen and an ice cream! In our English lessons we have started a new learning sequence all about traditional tales. Our key text this term is *The Pea and the Princess* by Mini Grey. I have challenged Robins to read traditional tales at home or bring in their favourite fairy tale to share with their friends in our daily Storytime. In our maths we have been learning about money. Pupils had to recognise, sort and order coins and notes. **Miss Underhill**

**Weekly News from Owl Class:** Owls have had a busy week! We started by revising our geography skills, using an atlas to start our local area topic. On Tuesday, Owls explored the work of the English sculptor Anthony Caro in DT, in particular the London footbridge he helped to design! The children then worked in small groups to build an abstract sculpture with careful consideration as to how they could join shapes together using various taught strategies. In maths, children in Year 3 have been learning about mass and capacity, reading from scales, and using the terms kilogram and gram. Year 4 has just begun a short unit on decimals. On Wednesday, Year 4 had a fantastic but tiring day learning how to paddle and work as a team on a Bell-boat. We got a little wet but had a fantastic time! **Mrs. Eggleton**

Whole School Attendance is currently 95.2%



**House Points w/c 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

Severn - 91

Teme - 63

Avon - 53



**Stars of the Week Awards**



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

Pippa - super silent blending in reading

Josie - excellent efforts in handwriting

Mieila - improved stamina in her writing

George B - great enthusiasm in Maths

Year 4 - Bellboating stars!

We are so proud of all you have achieved this week

Keep working hard everyone and persevering to do your absolute best.

**Bell Boating Visit to Droitwich Canal - Year 4**

Year 4 enjoyed a morning of Bell-boating on Droitwich canal with Andy Train, an Olympic canoeist, Mrs Eggleton and Miss Burgess. We bravely faced the surprisingly cold (but dry) weather to learn how to correctly use a paddle, working together as a team to travel in our Bell-boat down the canal, navigating the various low bridges and tricky corners, including under the M5 motorway under Andy's expert guidance. A tiring but enjoyable morning was had by all. We are very proud of the children's resilience and teamwork.



**Our best bits:**

Sophie, 'Going through the locks as we went up and down in the boat because the water levels changed.'

Bailey, 'Going under the bridges because we had to duck!'

Nieva, 'We met a swan who wasn't keen on us!'

Frankie, 'When we all got to stand up on the boat.'

Most of the children stated that their favourite part was being chased by a swan who wasn't keen on us being there! Great memories of a wonderful morning, and the weather was kind!

### Author of the Month



Each month we introduce the children to an author and share some of their books around the classes. It is a 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 ... Dick King- Smith OBE.

Dick King-Smith was a soldier, a farmer, a family man and a primary school teacher. His stories are mostly about animals and their adventures. He writes stories for everyone from picture books to books for adults. You may have heard of him for his exciting tales of the Sheep Pig or Ambrose Follows his Nose. Miss Salisbury's favourite Dick King- Smith book is *The Hodgehog*, the story of Max the little hedgehog who dreams of reaching the park. But no one has ever found a safe way of crossing the very busy road. Young Max, who is brighter than the average hedgehog, is determined to solve the problem.

**To find out more about our author of the month more follow the link here:** Home - Dick King-Smith ([dickkingsmith.com](http://dickkingsmith.com))

### Wrap Around Care Vacancy

We are currently seeking to recruit a caring and creative individual to work with our super children who need before and after school care. As Four Seasons wrap around care are moving out of the village at the end of this school year, we would LOVE to run our own in-house before and after school care. Do you know someone who would like to work from 7.15am - 8.50pm and then 3pm - 6pm each day to provide a playful and nurturing care club for our children? Please contact Miss Salisbury on [office@dodford.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@dodford.worcs.sch.uk). All recruitment will follow the Worcestershire Children First rigorous safer recruitment process. Dodford First School is committed to the promotion of equal opportunities and diversity. It is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

### Young Voices, New Visions 2024

We are delighted to be taking part once again this year in the Young Voices New Visions annual art exhibition at Worcester Cathedral. This event displays visual artworks created by children and young people across Worcestershire. Next week during 'Feel Good Friday' all pupils will be given the opportunity to get creative! They will be working with their class friends and teachers to produce artwork ready for the exhibition.

Artworks selected will then be exhibited in the cloisters of Worcester Cathedral from Sunday May 26th until Sunday 23rd June. We will let you know further details of how you can view our artwork creations at the cathedral later in the summer term.

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

**\*\*Note NEW added dates in BOLD\*\***

Date	Event
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 4 - Olympic Transition Event at Parkside
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Feel Good Friday Golden Tea with Miss Salisbury
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday - school closed
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> May	Bike-ability Year 4
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Mental Health Awareness Week Robin Class Local Church Visit (pm)
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 4 Malvern Information Evening - 6pm
<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Family Reading session 2.30pm</b>
<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Year 2 Assessment Week</b>
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	New Reception Induction Eve 6pm
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Feel Good Friday Golden Tea with Miss Salisbury Last day of half term Achievement Assembly at 9am NO FOOTBALL <b>Young Voices New Visions Exhibition Worcester Cathedral Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May to Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024 - please go along and see Dodford First School's artwork.</b>
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> May - Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Half Term week
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	TE Day - school closed to children
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Children return

**Summer 2<sup>nd</sup> Half Term**

Date	Event
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2024	TED DAY
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	First day of 2 <sup>nd</sup> half term BRITISH VALUES DAY <b>3<sup>rd</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> June - Year 4 - Multiplication Times Tables Check Assessment Period</b>
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Multi skills club starts back
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Football club starts back
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	Phonics Screening Week 10 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> - Year 1
<b>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Family Reading Session 2.30 - 3pm</b>
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	School Fete - 3.30-5.30 - all welcome
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	School Games including Family Picnic - all welcome
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Feel Good Friday Golden Tea with Miss Salisbury
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Robin Class Victorian Workshop - in School Parent Open Afternoon, Robin and Owl Class 2.30-3pm
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Moving Up Day

Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Reserve School Games Day (in case of wet weather on the 27 <sup>th</sup> of June)
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Dodford Church Fete 2pm (School Choir)
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 4 Residential Trip
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 4 Residential Trip Wren Class Stay and Play
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 4 Residential Trip Annual Reports to Parents
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Leaver's Assembly 6pm
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Term ends Feel Good Friday Values and end of term assembly NO FOOTBALL
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	School closed TED Day