

Weekly Newsletter

13th October 2023



Diary Dates

Message from the Head of School

I wanted to take a moment to update you on the exciting rewilding project that our school is now a part of. This project aims to make our school more eco-friendly and encourage more wildlife to thrive within our grounds. Our dedicated pupil group, the Ditton Rangers, will be leading this project, but we encourage everyone to get involved. We will be working closely with various organisations to ensure the success of this initiative.

I would like to extend my thanks to all the parents who attended the Attendance Coffee morning. It was a great opportunity for us to discuss the barriers to attendance and find effective solutions together. Please remember that we are here to work with families, and we look forward to seeing more parents at our next coffee morning!

This week, our Year 2 students had a fantastic visit from the firefighters. They were able to explore a real fire engine and learn about the changes in firefighting equipment over time. This experience greatly enhanced their learning about the Great Fire of London.

I am pleased to inform you that we have been working in partnership with the English Hub, and this week a member of the Hub visited our school to work with us on our phonics delivery. She was highly impressed with the hard work and dedication of our staff and students.

In other news, we have a Spooky film night planned for Thursday 19th October, exclusively for KS1 and KS2 students. Tickets are now on sale at the school office, so be sure to secure yours for a frightfully fun evening. Additionally, flu immunizations will take place on the same day, Thursday 19th October.

Please note that school will close for Half Term on Friday 20th October and will reopen on Monday 6th November. We hope that everyone enjoys a well-deserved break.

After the Half Term, we are excited to announce that we will be working with ICECATS, a company specializing in children's safety training. They will be helping us with our critical incident response and evacuation plans. ICECATS will be working with each class over two days, Monday 6th November and Tuesday 7th November. To find out more about this important training, please join us for a coffee morning on Monday 6th November at 9am.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our school community.

Autumn Term

OCTOBER

- 19th – Flu vaccinations
- 19th – Y1/Y2 Phonics/Reading meeting for parents 9am
- 19th – Spooky Film Night
- 20th – School Closes for Half Term

NOVEMBER

- 6th – School re-opens
- 6th and 7th – ICECAT training
- 6th – ICECAT coffee morning 9am
- 20th – Parent Surveys
- 22nd/23rd – Parent consultations

DECEMBER

- 12th – KS1 Nativity Performance (1:30pm)
- 13th – EYFS Nativity (1.30pm)
- 13th – KS1 Nativity Performance (5pm)
- 14th – EYFS Nativity (9.30am)
- 14th – Christmas Disco
- 19th – Christmas Fair
- 20th – School Closes for Christmas

Attendance

Class	% Attendance	Lates	Class	% Attendance	Lates
RMWLB	89.6	1	RRL	88.0	1
Y1RD	92.9	2	Y1LD	91.6	2
Y2CH	95.5	3	Y2AP	95.2	3
Y3LA	92.7	6	Y3TP	86.2	2
Y4AL	89.6	3	Y4AM	95.8	2
Y5ML	89.6	5	Y5LW	93.3	3
Y6DW	94.5	5	Y6GB	95.7	4

KS1 Attendance winners this week are Y2CH with 95.5%. They will have a prize draw. KS2 Attendance winners this week are Y4AM with 95.8%. They will have a prize draw.

2 lucky children won tickets for 2 for Jellybeans Playcentre in Widnes who kindly donated prizes.

The classes with the fewest lates in Lower School were our Reception classes. They win an extra 15m playtime. The classes with the fewest lates in Upper School were Y3TP and Y4AM. They also win an extra 15m play time this week.

REMINDERS

There have been a lot of absences this week due to tummy bugs. Please remind your children about hand hygiene to be practised both in school and at home.

When to wash hands:

- ALWAYS before Eating
- Before putting your hands near mouth
- After play
- After touching pets
- ALWAYS after sneezing or coughing
- ALWAYS after going to the toilet
- When they get home from school
- Remind children to use gel around school when no water is readily available. Especially after touching doors, surfaces, floors, footballs etc.

See what we've been up to!

Look at our twitter page (@ditton_ps) to see even more!

<p>Reception</p>  <p>Reception have continued their learning this week on our Dan and the Dark Hole story. We have been enjoying learning the songs for the parts of the story, and I am sure they are singing these at home!</p> <p>We have learnt 'h, b, f, and l' in Phonics and in Maths, we have been learning about 'more, fewer, most and least'.</p> <p>The children have enjoyed their PE sessions with Mr Ireland and are looking forward to their dance party as their Ditton Dot reward this week. We enjoyed looking at the harvest vegetables from our school allotment in our key groups.</p>	<p>Year 1</p> <p>Year 1 have made a fantastic start to writing their stories this week. We are really proud of the children's efforts and we can't wait to read them once completed.</p>  <p>The children have also continued to deepen their understanding of numbers within 10. They have been working on number lines and ordering numbers. We finished the week with some art. The children enjoyed creating different textures and making rubbings using crayons.</p> <p>Next week, we have a Parents Phonics/Reading information meeting in the hall. This will hopefully support you with helping children at home and preparing for the Phonics Screening Check in June. The meeting is on Thursday 19th October at 9am.</p>	<p>Year 2</p>  <p>On Tuesday, Year 2 enjoyed a special visit from local Firefighters. We were given the opportunity to explore the fire engine and look at the specialist equipment they use to carry out their rescues.</p>  <p>We discussed how these tools were different to what was available back in 1666 during the Great Fire of London and agreed that we are much safer in 2023 and are thankful for the Fire and Rescue service.</p>  <p>Some of us even had the chance to try on some of the firefighter's uniforms, which was lots of fun!</p>
<p>Year 3</p> <p>This week, Year 3 enjoyed taking part in a 'resilience' workshop to mark World Mental Health Day. The message is important and it is always encouraged that we try our best and work together...and never give up! In Maths, we have started our work on addition and subtraction and this will continue next week. In Science, we have been learning about the function of our skeleton and naming different bones. In English, we have completed our 'threat narrative' and the children should be proud of their efforts –well done all!</p>	<p>Year 4</p> <p>This week we have finished analysing our newspaper report and we are now writing our own. In maths we have moved past place value and have now started to look at addition, starting with building and securing some of our mental skills and moving onto using written methods. In PSHE we looked more into resilience and continued to explore Hinduism in RE. A big well done to everyone who is completing 30 minutes on TT Rockstars, improving your mental multiplication recall will have a fantastic impact on later units in Maths.</p>	<p>Year 5</p> <p>In English this week, the children have been looking at the key features of biographies. Next week, they will use this to help them write their own biography. In maths, we have explored strategies for adding numbers. We joined a Zoom meeting on 'resilience' to mark World Mental Health Day. In art, the children have been creating 3D Picasso style portraits.</p> 
<p>Year 6</p>		
<p>Year 6 have been busy writing Bravery Award speeches this week, having researched Anne Frank. In Maths we have been multiplying 4 digit by 2 digit numbers while in Science we have created our own branching trees to classify animals. The children have been very active in PE and looked at reconciliation in RE. In Computing, we have discussed plagiarism and in History we have explored the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand.</p>  <p>There have been two virtual visitors we have heard from this week – Adam from One Goal held a session about resilience on Tuesday, while on Thursday we heard all about the Wilding School project that will be happening next year and see 30% of our grounds be used for nature, including lots of tree planting.</p>		



Certificate winners!



Name	School Value	Reason
Violet	Children First	For always offering help to her friends
Junior-James	Pioneering	For fantastic independent reading in group reads this week.
Reegan	Resilience	For coming into school straight away with a smile and working hard
Ella	Pioneering	Setting a positive example for other children, particularly in our focus behaviour of tidying up.
Lyssia	Children First	Being a source of positivity in class
Connor	Pioneering	For displaying confidence when explaining his thinking in Maths.
Holly B	Pioneering	For working hard to produce a 3D Picasso portrait in art.
Nanci	Children First	For a great improvement in her learning this week. Well done!
Caitlin C	Resilience	Showing a positive attitude to learning, even when faced with challenges!
Oliver	Children First	For showing great listening skills during carpet time!
Caiden F	Resilience	Excellent effort in all subjects!!
Ada B	Children First	Being an excellent friend and helping her peers with their work.
Oscar P	Pioneering	For being an excellent role model and mathematician. Even solving Mrs Pyne's math's challenge!
Maison S	Resilience	A truly excellent effort in improving multiplication knowledge.
Saraya W	Pioneering	For using her initiative and working well independently.

We're launching on Facebook!



Parents have let us know through our parent surveys that sometimes news and celebrations aren't seen due to a lot of parents not using twitter. We have therefore decided to launch an official Ditton Primary Academy Facebook page in the hopes that this will reach more parents. We are just beginning to use this platform so please be patient with us! Twitter updates will continue as usual.

Direct messaging is not enabled on the page. As ever, if parents have any worries or concerns, we would ask that you do not share these on social media but rather come in and speak to us directly.

Our Facebook page can be found at [@dittonprimaryacademyschool](#)