

# Ditton Primary Newsletter

25th April 2025

## Message from the Headteacher

I hope you are all keeping well. We're delighted to let you know that our school swimming pool is now up and running! Our Key Stage 2 children have just begun their swimming lessons, and it's been wonderful to see their excitement as they take to the water.

As we head into the final part of the school year, we're also sharing details of this year's summer trips with parents. To help make things as easy as possible, we're offering the option to pay in weekly instalments.

Provisional dates for Sports Days have now been added to the diary dates section, and more information will be shared with parents in due course.

A big thank you to everyone who has embraced the new Arbor Parent App—we really appreciate your support in making this transition so smooth. Please remember, however, that the app should not be used for safeguarding-related messages. If someone different is collecting your child or if there is anything urgent or sensitive to share, please call the school office directly.

Finally, a polite reminder that dogs are not allowed on the school playground. Thank you for helping us keep the environment safe and comfortable for everyone.

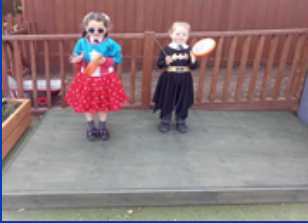


## Diary Dates

12th – 15th May – Y6 Sats Breakfast club  
12th – 15th May – Y6 Sats Assessments  
9th May – Provisional Date for Sports Day KS1  
20th May – Provisional Date for Sports Day LKS2

21st May – Provisional Date for Sports Day UKS2  
22nd May – Provisional Date for Sports Day EYFS  
23rd May – Half term holidays  
2nd June – School Reopens  
13th June – Y1 Trip – Safari Park  
27th June – INSET day: School closed to pupils  
11th July – End of Year reports to parent  
16th July – Year 6 trip to Gulliver's World  
18th July – Year 6 Leaver's Assembly @9.30am

## Reception



It has been a lovely first week back in reception. We have loved hearing all about the children's Easter holidays and they have settled back into school brilliantly. Our new English unit got off to an exciting start as we received a mysterious letter from a boy called Joe, containing some seeds alongside a package of gardening tools.

We used these clues to make predictions about our new story and the children impressed us with their interesting thoughts and ideas. We then discovered our new book, 'The Extraordinary Gardener'. We loved listening to our new vehicle text and have already created some fantastic sentences about it.

In maths we have been exploring numbers to 20. We have been practicing counting accurately and confidently. We also practiced using a hundred square to plot numbers and spot patterns.

We have also enjoyed using our brand new stage in our outdoor area. We have loved dressing up, exploring the instruments and performing for our friends and teachers!

## Year 1

Welcome Back, Year 1!

It has been a pleasure to hear about all the exciting activities the children enjoyed over the holidays.

This week, pupils have been actively engaging with our new English topic, The Secret of Black Rock. They have particularly enjoyed using role play to explore and predict how the narrative might develop.

In Maths, we have continued our work on subtraction within 10. The children have shown great effort in applying new vocabulary such as take away, less than, and subtract in their learning.

In Geography, the children have been learning about the world around us, with a particular focus on the United Kingdom. They explored aerial views of the UK and began identifying our neighbouring countries by name.

## Year 2

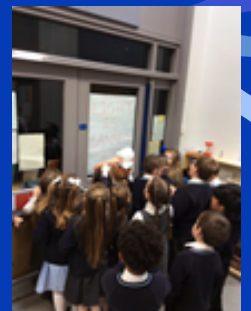
What a great start to the Summer Term! Year 2 have settled back into the routine of school life seamlessly.

English - The children are enjoying our new text, The King Who Banned the Dark by Emily Howarth-Booth. When we arrived at the classroom after breaktime we discovered a mysterious sign that said LIGHT IS BANNED! Inside all the lights were off and there was total darkness. We realised that this was a clue to our new story in English. The children then made predictions about what the story could be about before we read it together.

They have enjoyed exploring the new vocabulary and challenging themselves to use this in their writing.

Maths - The children have worked hard this week adding three 1-digit numbers together efficiently by looking for efficient ways. For example, making 10 first. The children have also begun investigating adding a 2-digit number and ones. The children have been able to make links to other calculations. For example, if we know  $5+3=8$ , then we know  $55+3=58$ , etc.

Music - Please remember to bring in any 'junk' including bottles and boxes for the children's funky junk unit of work.



## Year 3

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Welcome back year 3 to the last term before summer! I'm so proud of how well Year 3 have settled back into learning after a week off.

English - This week we have started planning our return narrative linked to our vehicle text Jemmy Button.  
Maths - Y3AB have started our new topic of time. We have recapped half past and o'clock alongside quarter past and quarter to. It would be beneficial for your child to wear a watch during this topic if available.  
Y3AB have started swimming this week and they have had such an amazing time learning this life skill. Y3KD are so excited to start swimming next week.  
In Science, we have completed our science unit of sound and cannot wait to start our new topic of animals including humans next week!

## Year 4

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Welcome back everybody to the Summer Term!

This week, we have hugely enjoyed spending time in our on-site swimming pool. What a fantastic opportunity to develop a life skill on our own doorstep! Everybody has smashed it!  
In English, we have been finishing off our guide for monster seekers and how to defeat an ungodly beast  
In Maths, we have been finishing off our work on addition and subtraction and we look forward to beginning our multiplication and division journey.  
In RE, we have started to learn about Islam by thinking about what the word 'commitment' means and in Art, we have also started to look at the work of Barbara Hepworth, who is well known for her sculpture.

## Year 5

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Welcome back Year 5!

Year 5 have enjoyed having the opportunity to spend time swimming in our on-site swimming pool. We are all very proud of you for trying your best!  
In English, children have started writing their bargain letter to a thief, using lots of modal verbs, verb prefixes, adverbs for possibility and parenthesis.  
In Maths, we have been continuing our learning on decimals and are excited to move on to percentages soon!  
In Science, we have now finished our topic 'Earth and Space'. Children really enjoyed learning about the different planets, the Sun and the Moon. In addition, children are excited to take part in the Chemistry with Cabbage workshop taking place in class today. They will be working in groups to complete science experiments.

## Year 6

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This week has flown by in a flurry of interesting activities and SATS preparation. After a tiring start, the children are now really displaying the skills that they have picked up over the course of their time at Ditton. We have also started acoustic guitar lessons in Music again (see 6DW below) which has been a welcome break from the classroom. Boosters have started again and are running at the same times and the same days. There are only two remaining so it would be appreciated if these could be attended fully for the children selected. The SATS week runs from Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> May to Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> May. The children have one or two tests in the morning on each of the four days. We also offer free breakfast club places on those days so children can enter school from 8am and can have food provided.



# Certificate Winners!

Name	School Value	Reason
James	Resilience	For having a brilliant first week back!
Luke F	Children First	For good focus in all lessons and being ready to learn!
Rebeca K	Pioneering	For exploring different ways of moving within the swimming pool – well done!
Reegan	Resilience	For shown improvement in your behaviour. Keep working on making good choices each day!
Matthew	Resilience	For working really hard to follow the golden rules all week.
Grace B	Children First	For trying hard with her letter writing in English and sharing her ideas.
Harry S	Children First	Displaying kindness and being an excellent friend.
Ola	Children First	For coming in to school positively and ready to learn this week.
Robbie R	Pioneering	Becoming more independent with his writing and having fantastic ideas!
Jesse	Children First	Having a super positive attitude to learning this week!
Liam M	Resilience	Working incredibly hard across all subjects this week!
Amelia	Children First	Having an incredibly positive attitude to her learning

# Attendance!

Class	Attendance	Number of lates
Mrs L-Byrne/Mrs Till	99.32% FANTASTIC! Well done!	2
Mr Longworth	88.28% This is below the school target of 96%	3
Miss Dixon	93.47% This is below the school target of 96%	1
Mr Ireland	96.% FANTASTIC! Well done!	3
Mrs Pauls	94.55% This is below the school target of 96%	6
Miss Powell	84.92% This is below the school target of 96%	2
Miss Doherty	100% FANTASTIC! Well done!	5
Miss Banlin	93.2% This is below the school target of 96%	4
Mr Paul	95.07% This is below the school target of 96%	6
Mrs Hubball	92.21% This is below the school target of 96%	3
Mr Linaker	97.41% FANTASTIC! Well done!	4
Miss Edwards	98.48% FANTASTIC! Well done!	5
Mr White	97.49% FANTASTIC! Well done!	3
Mr Bourque	89.8% This is below the school target of 96%	6

It's been another busy week and we are appreciative of all the efforts to ensure that children are in school, each day, on time.

We will be increasing the number of home visits when children are absent in order to fulfil our safeguarding responsibilities and ensure we are offering support to all families.

The school's attendance target is set at 96%.

Several classes have been impacted by families choosing to take vacations during term time. Please note that, in accordance with government guidelines, the Local Authority is imposing fines of £160 per parent, for each child, if there are more than five days of unauthorised absence due to holidays.

# Brilliant Behaviour

We are so proud of our pupils - out of all the behaviour logged on Track-it lights this week - 97% has been positive!



## Top classes this week

### EYFS/KS1

1st - Y1RH

2nd - Y1RI

3rd - YRRJL

### KS2

1st - Y4CH

2nd - Y3KD

3rd - Y5FE



## Top pupils this week

YRRLJ - Hallie O

Y1RI - Holly F

Y2DP - Ezra K

Y3AB - James R

Y4CH - Alfie T

Y5ML - Grace Ba/Sophie W

Y6GB - Penny B

YRKLBN/LT - Jalissa A/Rosie D

Y1RH - Leola D

Y2AP - Nathan K

Y3KD - Jacob B

Y4TP - Oliver L

Y5FE - Jack C

Y6DW - Holly B



## TT ROCKSTARS

children have been working hard to turn their heat map green!! Below is the number of children in each class who have achieved this:

Y6GB - 19

Y6DW - 11

Y5ML - 7

Y5FE - 6

Y4TP - 13

Y4CH - 7

Y3KD - 1

Y3AB - 2

Spending 3 mins a day on TT Rockstars will help your child master this essential skill!!

