

Ditton Primary Newsletter

2nd May 2025

Message from the Headteacher

It's been a busy and exciting few weeks in school, and I'm pleased to share some important updates with you.

Our swimming lessons in the on-site pop-up pool are going really well. The children are thoroughly enjoying the sessions, and it's been lovely to see their water confidence growing already.

We're also looking ahead to Sports Days, which will take place during the week beginning Monday 19th May (weather permitting). Each event will begin at 9:30am, and families are warmly invited to attend. Please check the diary dates to see when your child's Sports Day is scheduled.

As we move further into the summer term, a reminder that statutory assessments are now underway or fast approaching. These include:

- Key Stage 1 assessments for Year 2
- The Phonics Screening Check for Year 1
- The Multiplication Tables Check for Year 4
- Key Stage 2 SATs for Year 6

Teachers are working hard to ensure pupils feel confident and prepared. Please support your child by ensuring they attend school every day, on time, and well rested. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher.

Finally, a firm reminder that electric scooters must not be ridden anywhere on school premises, including playgrounds and pathways. This is to ensure the safety of all members of our school community.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.



Diary Dates

12th – 15th May – Y6 Sats Breakfast club
12th – 15th May – Y6 Sats Assessments
19th 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
10th June – Y5 trip to Bewilderwood
13th June – Rec/Y1 Trip – Safari Park
25th June – Y2 Trip to Otterspool
27th June – INSET day: School closed to pupils
3rd July – Y4 Trip to Eureka
11th July – End of Year reports to parent
15th July – Y3 Trip to Chester
16th July – Year 6 trip to Gulliver's World
18th July – Year 6 Leaver's Assembly @9.30am

Reception

Reception have been enjoying the sunshine this week! We have been careful to look after our plants in our new flower beds and made sure to give them lots of water. We have made our own dens in our camping area to create some much needed shade and we even enjoyed some ice pops!

In English we have been exploring instructions and have identified the key features of a good instruction text, ready to plan and write our own next week.

In maths we have been working hard on our number bonds to ten. We have played skittles with ten pins and worked out how many we have knocked down and how many stayed up. This has helped us to practically explore and retain number bonds to ten.

In science we have investigated what a plant needs to survive and will use this knowledge to care for our own plants in our outside area. In RE we learned about the Christian story of creation and talked about all of the wonderful things we have in our world that we are grateful for.

Year 1

English - This week, Year 1 have continued exploring the story *The Secret of Black Rock*. The children have been learning new vocabulary and using it to write some fantastic sentences – we're very proud of their creativity and effort!

Science - We have now completed our science unit on animals and their basic needs. In our final lesson, we went outside to investigate what exercise does to our bodies. The children were very enthusiastic and enjoyed observing the changes they noticed after being active!

Maths - In Maths, we've continued developing our subtraction skills. The children practised subtracting using number tracks – starting with concrete resources and then moving on to pictorial representations. They are becoming confident in using these tools to solve problems.

Important Reminder

Starting next week, library and reading books will be changed on Thursdays instead of Fridays, due to time constraints in the afternoon. Please ensure books are brought in on Thursday mornings

Year 2

English

This week we have explored the style of writing of the Example Text based on our story, *The King Who Banned the Dark*. The children have begun to write sentences in a similar style. We have also started out planning and writing process to structure our own persuasive letters to the king.

Maths

In Maths, we are continuing to build on our addition skills. We have been adding 10 to a 2-digit number by using some addition facts that we already know. For example; $5+3=8$, $50+30=80$. The children have shown great understanding and confidence and have been able to solve related word problems.

Art

We are enjoying our new topic of Sculptures and the children have created their own paper sculptures by bending, coiling, folding and twisting. You may have seen some of our masterpieces.



Year 3

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This week in Year 3 we have been busy finishing off our return narratives and completing our maths assessments.

We have been having lovely fun in the sun, which was a lovely change when we have been doing swimming and PE.

We have also been finishing off our history topic of the Romans and cannot wait to start our Geography where we are learning about the Greeks.

Year 4

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This week, the children have enjoyed immersing themselves in our new text, 'The lost happy endings'.

We have been making predictions and talking about what the story might be about.

In Maths, we have been consolidating our understanding of the 6,12, 9 and 11 times tables. The multiplication check is next month, so please keep logging in to TT rock stars and practising at home.

In Science, we have been writing a set of 'top tips' for how we can keep safe when using electrical appliances.

In Art, we have started to make our own pots, inspired by the work of Grayson Perry. We can't wait to finish them and paint them!

In RE, we have been learning all about the 5 pillars of Islam and how Muslims use these to guide their lives.

Year 5

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In English this week, the children have completed their bargain letter. They have tried to include examples of the writer's knowledge we have discussed and the standard of letters produced has been great!

This week in maths, we have re-organised our year 5 children into 2 groups, allowing us to focus our learning on the children's needs. We would encourage children to continue to use TT Rock Stars to ensure they have a deep knowledge and understanding of multiplication and division facts.

In art we have started our lessons looking at sculpture and drawing, the children tried to show a human emotion in their portrait work.

Our science unit on 'Earth and Space' is now complete. During our end of unit assessment, the children showed that they had retained lots of information.

Year 6

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This week Y6 have been busy preparing for their English and Maths SATS which are now only a week away! The children have been very resilient practising arithmetic, reasoning, reading comprehension and SPAG based SATS questions everyday! Aswell as this, they have been learning about the "Ways Of The Wolf" in English and have written a detailed description of the creature. In music, we learned to play the chords E minor and C major on the guitar so that they could play along to "We Will Rock You" by Queen. Both classes have also enjoyed swimming sessions as part of their PE lesson.

Certificate Winners!

Name	School Value	Reason
Rosa Z	Pioneering	Rosa wrote her own 'top tips' for how to keep safe when using electrical appliances and shared them with her classmates – well done!
Alfie R	Children First	For a fantastic effort in everything he has done this week. Keep it up, Alfie!
Harry S	Resilience	For continuing to try his best in maths. He has worked incredibly hard on subtraction this week. Well done!
Scarlett C	Children First	For trying her best to improve her presentation.
Zachary	Resilience	Drafting, editing and improving a detailed description of a wolf.
Ivan	Resilience	For trying really hard to improve his handwriting
Aliye	Resilience	Persevering with some very difficult maths problems and always being willing to challenge herself.
Oakley	Pioneering	For excellent knowledge of Number Bonds to 10.
Jaxon	Resilience	For having a 'can-do' attitude to his learning
Precious	Pioneering	For wonderful work in maths this week!
Jess S	Resilience	For excellent effort and progress in Maths.
Jake B	Children First	For showing understanding and maturity.
Charlie	Resilience	For showing bravery and having a fabulous time in swimming
Bella	Resilience	For always contributing to lessons and being fabulous in all subjects.

Attendance!

Class	Attendance	Number of lates
Mrs L-Byrne/Mrs Till	98.95% FANTASTIC! Well done!	4
Mr Longworth	94.38% This is below the school target of 96% but a big improvement on last week!	3
Miss Dixon	96.79% FANTASTIC! Well done!	1
Mr Ireland	97.35.% FANTASTIC! Well done!	4
Mrs Pauls	92.31% This is below the school target of 96%	5
Miss Powell	94.58% This is below the school target of 96% but a big improvement on last week!	4
Miss Doherty	96.4% FANTASTIC! Well done!	5
Miss Banlin	96.92% FANTASTIC! Well done!	4
Mr Paul	94.24% This is below the school target of 96%	6
Mrs Hubball	93.62% This is below the school target of 96%	3
Mr Linaker	96.9% FANTASTIC! Well done!	3
Miss Edwards	95.4% This is below the school target of 96%	5
Mr White	98.4% FANTASTIC! Well done!	2
Mr Bourque	95.14% This is below the school target of 96%	4

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 - Y2DP/LF

KS2

1st - Y4CH

2nd - Y4TP

3rd - Y3KD



Top pupils this week

YRRLJ - Harry M

Y1RI - Kyra G

Y2DP - Eva P

Y3AB - Phoebe J

Y4CH - Taylor O

Y5ML - Ellie ON

Y6GB - Zachary W

YRKLBN/LT - Rosie D

Y1RH - Alfie R

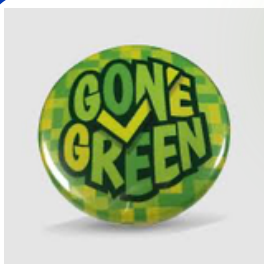
Y2AP - Savannah F

Y3KD - Rosie M

Y4TP - Rosa Z

Y5FE - Darci/Harvey/Lacey

Y6DW - Holly S



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 - 8

Y5FE - 6

Y4TP - 15

Y4CH - 8

Y3KD - 1

Y3AB - 2

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



Assessments

As we begin the summer term, we would like to inform parents and carers about the statutory assessments taking place across the school. These assessments are an important part of measuring progress and identifying areas where further support may be needed. Please see below for key information:

- Year 6 – Key Stage 2 SATs: These will take place during the week beginning Monday 12th May. Children will be assessed in reading, grammar, punctuation and spelling, and maths. We are incredibly proud of how hard the children have been working and appreciate your support in ensuring they are well-rested and arrive on time each day.
- Year 2 – Key Stage 1 Assessments: These will be carried out during May and early June. They are delivered in a low-key and supportive way within the classroom to help children feel relaxed and confident.
- Year 1 – Phonics Screening Check: This will take place during the week beginning Monday 10th June. The check assesses children's ability to decode words using their phonics knowledge. Year 2 children who did not meet the expected standard last year will also take part.
- Year 4 – Multiplication Tables Check: This will be completed during a two-week period in June. The check involves a short online assessment of children's recall of times tables up to 12 x 12.

Please speak to your child's class teacher if you have any questions or would like further information. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Reading Plus – Enhancing Reading Skills at School and Home



We are excited to continue using Reading Plus across Years 4, 5 and 6 to support and develop our pupils' reading fluency, comprehension, and stamina. This adaptive online program personalizes reading experiences, helping each child progress at their own pace.


How Reading Plus Benefits Your Child:

- Personalized Learning: Tailors reading material to individual reading levels, ensuring appropriate challenge and support.
- Engaging Content: Offers a diverse library of texts across various subjects to keep readers motivated.
- Progress Tracking: Provides real-time feedback on reading speed, comprehension, and vocabulary development.

Supporting Your Child at Home:

- Regular Practice: Encourage your child to complete at least two Reading Plus lessons per week.
- Discussion: Talk about the stories they read to enhance understanding and enjoyment.
- Celebrate Achievements: Acknowledge milestones and progress to boost confidence.

For more information on how to support your child with Reading Plus at home, please refer to the official parent guide:

 [Reading Plus Parent Guide \(PDF\)](#)

If you need login details or have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.