

Ditton Primary Newsletter

9th May 2025

Message from the Headteacher

As we approach SATs week, I would like to take this opportunity to express how proud we are of our Year 6 pupils. They have worked with focus, determination, and maturity throughout the year, and they are now ready to take on the challenge ahead. The SATs are a chance for children to demonstrate what they have learned in their time at primary school, but they are only one part of the broader picture of each child's development.

To support pupils during this time, we will be offering a SATs Breakfast Club from Monday 12th to Thursday 15th May, beginning at 8:00am each day. All Year 6 pupils are warmly invited to attend. The breakfast club will provide a calm, supportive environment where pupils can enjoy a light breakfast, spend time with friends and staff, and prepare themselves for the day's assessments. We strongly encourage all pupils to attend, as this can make a real difference in how settled and confident they feel.

Please ensure that your child arrives no later than 8:35am each day during SATs week. This is essential to allow time for children to get settled and ready before the assessments begin. If your child is not in school by this time, we will begin contacting parents to ensure they arrive promptly.

We recognise that SATs can feel like a daunting experience for some pupils, and we are committed to making the week as calm and positive as possible. At home, you can support your child by ensuring they get a good night's sleep, eat a healthy breakfast, and receive plenty of encouragement and reassurance. Remind them that their best effort is what matters most, and that we are proud of each and every one of them.

Thank you 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

This week we have continued to enjoy the warmer weather, taking as much of our learning outside as possible!

English - We have enjoyed starting to plan our instructions for growing a plant. Children will follow these instructions at the end of the half term, to plant their own seed to look after.

Maths - We have been learning about Odd and Even numbers. We started this by looking at Numicon and identifying the 'flat' and 'pointy' tops, and how if we folded one in half, would it be the same on both sides.

Topic - We learnt about VE day, and looked at what life was like for children in World War 2.



Year 1

This week, Year 1 have had another exciting and engaging week of learning!

In Science, the children explored the topic of Energy and Electricity. They learned about different sources of energy and began to investigate how electricity powers everyday objects. The class enjoyed identifying electrical items and discussing how we use electricity safely.

In Maths, we continued to develop our subtraction skills using a number line. The children are becoming more confident in using this method to count backwards and solve subtraction problems independently.

In Art, the focus was on Paper Sculptures. The children had great fun experimenting with folding, rolling, and twisting paper to create their own 3D artworks.

Well done to all the children for their hard work and enthusiasm throughout the week!



Year 2

This week, Year 2 have had another interesting and engaging week of learning and contributing to class discussions.

In English year 2 have been writing persuasive letters to the king who banned the dark. We have used writer techniques such as interesting sentence starters, commas in a list and co-ordinating and subordinating conjunctions.

In Maths we have started to learn subtraction methods when subtracting ones from a 2-digit number. We can explain that our knowledge of subtracting ones helps us to calculate the answer when given a 2-digit calculation. We can also confidently use number lines to show our subtraction methods.

In Geography we have explored the continent of Europe. We looked at the climate, population, and countries as well as its location in comparison to other continents. We have enjoyed looking at a globe and using atlases to source our information.

Well done Year 2 on another week of hard work!

Year 3

In maths, we have started our new unit on 'Fractions'. We have recapped one half, one quarter and one third and we can't wait to delve into it further next week.

In English, we are completing our 'Return Narrative' and we look forward to completing our new unit next week.

In Geography, we have started our new topic which is based on a comparison study between Europe and Greece. We looked at the three main climate zones in Europe; temperate, Mediterranean and polar.

As part of our Sculpture topic in art, we have studied the artist Hector Gonzales, whose work often features eyes.

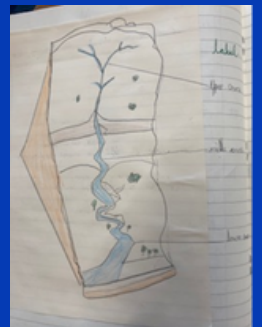
They designed and sketched their own mythical creature eyes. They have done a fantastic job!

In PE, the children have been thoroughly enjoying their swimming lessons. It's been fantastic seeing their confidence grow each week as they learn new skills and become more comfortable in the water.

Year 4

Year 4 have had a very busy week. We have continued our work on times tables by consolidating the 6, 7, 9, 11 & 12 times tables. We looked for patterns and hints to help us with our recall. We have used this knowledge to continue our practice for the Y4 multiplication check and we are pleased to see a growing number of Y4 children receiving their Gone Green badges through TT Rockstars.

In English, we have researched a range of traditional tales to support our work on twisted narratives. We chose our favourite villain and wrote a character study on them using fronted adverbials and expanded noun phrases. We have continued to develop our knowledge of direct speech and have written dialogues between good and evil characters. In Music, we moved on to singing and we continued our work on Rivers and Electricity as well as developing our swimming and cricket skills.

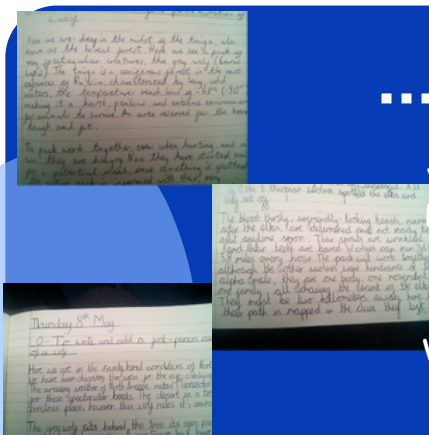


Year 5

Year 5 have had another exciting week, learning and contributing in lessons. In English, we have started making predictions about our new text 'The Lost Book of Adventure'. We have also explored the setting, using new vocabulary and phrases to write a setting poem. In Maths, children have been continuing their learning on prime numbers and factorising. They can recall prime numbers up to 19, as well as drawing factor trees to support their learning of prime factors. Children in Mr Linaker's maths class have been consolidating their understanding of multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 and 1000. In Science, we have started our new topic on light. Children enjoyed experimenting with torches and mirrors to investigate how light travels. In Geography, children have started their topic on Central America. They have used an atlas to locate the countries and capital cities within Central America, enabling them to label their own map. We have also looked at the differences between lines of latitude and lines of longitude. Children have continued to thoroughly enjoy their swimming lessons this week, with some fantastic skills and techniques used in the water!

Year 6

This week has been the final week of revision leading up to next week's SATs examinations. We will be providing breakfast from 8am on Monday to Thursday for all year 6 children. Booster sessions have also finished for year 6s now. Additionally, we have been writing first-person narrations about wolves in the wild, where the children have put themselves in the shoes of the great David Attenborough himself! We have also had fun swimming in PE, and playing the acoustic guitars in Music. The above written pieces, and more, can be found on our X page. These pieces have been created by Alek, Amberley and James.



Certificate Winners!

Name	School Value	Reason
River	Resilience	For trying really hard in maths this week when working on subtraction. Keep it up!
Olly	Resilience	For improving punctuality and attendance
Deandre	Children First	For having a much better attitude to learning this week, working hard with your peers and adults.
Harry	Resilience	For your contribution in lessons and always trying your best.
Ollie	Children First	For good progress in Maths, improved behaviour in class and great enthusiasm in Music!
Cyra	Children First	For trying hard to develop her handwriting and presentation.
Christopher	Pioneering	For designing and making the most wonderful clay pot in Art.
Charlie	Pioneering	For always looking for ways to challenge himself and improve his work.
Alina	Children First	For being such an understanding and mature friend
Kai O	Resilience	For contributing ideas to our English lessons

Attendance!

Class	Attendance	Number of lates
Mrs L-Byrne/Mrs Till	94.15% This is below the school target of 96%	4
Mr Longworth	98.13% FANTASTIC! Well done!	3
Miss Dixon	87.11% This is below the school target of 96%	1
Mr Ireland	96.4% FANTASTIC! Well done!	2
Mrs Pauls	87.62% This is below the school target of 96%	6
Miss Powell	94.17% This is below the school target of 96%	4
Miss Doherty	97.78% FANTASTIC! Well done!	2
Miss Banlin	90.77% This is below the school target of 96%	2
Mr Paul	97.12% FANTASTIC! Well done!	6
Mrs Hubball	92.98% This is below the school target of 96%	0
Mr Linaker	96.06% FANTASTIC! Well done!	2
Miss Edwards	90.55% This is below the school target of 96%	3
Mr White	97.6% FANTASTIC! Well done!	3
Mr Bourque	93.15% This is below the school target of 96%	7

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 - Y2DP/LF

3rd - RRJL

KS2

1st - Y4CH

2nd - Y4TP

3rd - Y3KD



Top pupils this week

YRRLJ - Harry M

Y1RI - Odin B

Y2DP - Ezra K

Y3AB - Cooper K

Y4CH - Alfie T.

Y5ML - Eva B.

Y6GB - Oscar M/George T/Ronnie W

YRKLBN/LT - Jalissa A/Jesse C

Y1RH - Ellie L

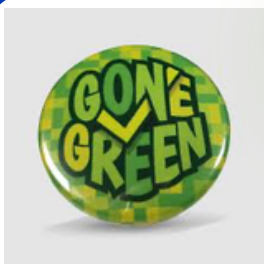
Y2AP - Evelyn H

Y3KD - Jacob B

Y4TP - Oliver W

Y5FE - Anastasia A

Y6DW - Olly E



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 - 20

Y6DW - 11

Y5ML - 8

Y5FE - 6

Y4TP - 15

Y4CH - 11

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.