

Weekly Newsletter

12th May 2023

Message from the Head of School

A big well done to Year 6 who completed their assessments this week. I'm sure parents will have seen new stories about the reading paper, but please be assured that all the children made us proud and did their absolute best. They are a credit to you all. A big thank you to parents who ensured that our Year 6s were in every day on time. We have a treat afternoon planned for next week (we have already received lots of requests for pizza!) so the Year 6 team will contact parents with more details. Thank you also to the Year 6 parent who kindly brought cake to celebrate everyone's hard work!

Year 2 start their assessments next week. Staff purposely haven't referred to these assessments as tests – they are work booklets that the children are used to seeing and completing. Again, there is no need for parents to do anything to prepare children for these assessments apart from ensuring that they sleep well and are in school each day 😊

We are sorry to be saying goodbye to Mr O'Neil, our premises manager and Miss Stubbs, our sports coach, who will both be leaving us at half term. Their personal circumstances have changed, and both have expressed how much they have enjoyed being part of the Ditton team. We wish them every success as they move on to new adventures.



Diary Dates

Summer Term

MAY

23rd – Y2 trip to Staircase house

23rd – EYFS Sports day

24th – KS1 Sports Day

24th – MHST transition workshop

25th - KS2 Sports Day

26th – School Closes for Half term

JUNE

5th – Fit 4 Life workshops

Y3 7th – Fit 4 Life workshops

Wb 12th – Phonics Screening Check Week

14th – Fun Food Chef Y5

19th – First Aid Training Y6

19th – 23rd – National School Sports Week

27th – Tobacco Awareness Workshop Y6

30th – INSET day (School closed to pupils)

JULY

3rd – 6th – Y6 Transition Days at high schools

4th – Year 2 Science Trip

5th – Year 2 Science Trip

17th to 19th – Year 5 Residential 21st – Leavers Assembly (9.30am)

Attendance

Whole School Attendance target is
96%

Half the classes in school met or exceeded our target this week

Reminders for attendance

Last week I went to vote in the local elections. I experienced a very moving situation. An African mum had accompanied her son to the polling station for him to place his very first vote. She was taking a photograph of this proud moment. I wondered if she originally came from somewhere in Africa where there were no free elections, I thought of some of my friends who couldn't be bothered going out to vote in the cold on polling night - taking their privileges for granted. It also made me think of education and how many people take the opportunity to have an education for granted and how there are thousands of locations around the world where boys and girls cannot access an education. Education prepares people for life, for the world of work, for how to enjoy leisure and can be a place where young people make friends for life. Don't take education for granted. Remember every day at school missed is a missed opportunity.

Well done to Y6 who have had the best attendance for any week in school so far this year. Well done!

Mr Gornell

CLASS	%	CLASS	%
RRL	90.9	RWP	92.2
Y1RD	96.3	Y1LD	99.0
Y2CH	91.1	Y2AP	92.2
Y3LA	97.6	Y3LW	99.1
Y4AL	94.7	Y4AM	96.0
Y5ML	94.3	Y5AS	91.9
Y6GB	99.5	Y6DW	99.0

This week's winners are Y6GB !

They win 15m extra playtime

Note % is for Friday to Thursday









Delighted to be Ditton!

We are proud of all our children who contribute to groups and organisations outside of school. Annie is a Brownie and has shared some of her achievements so far – including winning a teddy for a quiz and some of her badges that she has earned – well done Annie!



See what we've been up to!

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

Reception	Year 1	Year 2
<p>Reception have had another wonderful week of learning.</p>  <p>We have come to the end of our instructions writing unit, and children have written their instructions to plant seeds, ready to use them to plant seeds of their own. In Maths, we have been learning about composition of 10, and beginning to work systematically to consider how to make 10 in various ways. We enjoyed learning Roar, by Katy Perry in Music and have learnt about parts of the body, drawing around Mrs Stephenson and labelling her body parts. We have also been using watercolours to paint observational artwork of flowers.</p> 	<p>Art Year 1 has created some beautiful artwork this week, inspired by William Morris' natural form. The children applied their pencil techniques, such as side stroke, scumbling, linear, etc. The children then added water colours to bring their prints to life!</p> 	<p>Year 2 designed some wonderful sculptures, inspired by the artist Andy Goldsworthy. We went to the forest to collect some natural materials and brought them back to class to use as inspiration.</p>   <p>Children created some wonderful designs in their sketch books using the materials they had found.</p>  <p>They then had a little go at creating some sculptures as part of a team. They worked well together and made some great designs.</p>
<p>Year 3 had a lovely week back after the long weekend! We really hope they enjoyed the celebration of the King's Coronation last Friday!</p>  <p>We have been getting up to all sorts this week! During our Forest School sessions, the children were able to have a go at toasting marshmallows around a firepit with Kev from MSE! They have really enjoyed getting to know all about the world around them and are really starting to foster a love of the outdoors! It has been lovely to see their love of the world grow!</p> 	<p>Year 4 have had a great week looking further into decimals and how to use them. We have also started to look at our new writing and explored the language features of our new text, which has allowed us to understand the emotions of the characters. In art we began to create our own mosaic designs in the style of Antonio Gaudi and we have investigated how adding heat to solids changes their states of matter.</p>	<p>Year 5 have been working hard to write their first-person survival narrative. We have been impressed with how they have applied lots of the learning ideas we have looked at over the last few weeks. In maths, we have looked at converting between metric and imperial measurements and volume. We are just starting our unit on time. Please remind your child to use TT Rock Stars at home each week. In music, we have been learning and starting to perform the song 'Roar'. Check our Twitter to see how we are getting on.</p>
<p>Year 6</p> <p>Congratulations to all Year 6 pupils for completing SATS this week. It's been a long and tough journey but they have surpassed themselves with a superb effort and it was particularly pleasing to see everyone in early each day. Thank you to all parents and carers for your support throughout the year. Away from SATS the children have been getting stuck into the Art collages, reusing materials to form their individual pieces. In Computing they have been planning and designing their own 3D model.</p>	<p>Kai has made a great start to his 3D house design on Tinkercad.</p> 	



Certificate winners!



Name	School Value	Reason
Daisy R	Resilience	Being more resilient when coming into school in the morning!
Eva P	Resilience	For persevering with her writing, trying hard to form letters in the correct position and direction on a line.
Lewi F	Children First	Continuing to set an amazing example for the class in all areas
Patsy D	Pioneering	Some amazing haiku poems
Benji L	Resilience	For coming into school with a positive attitude and a lovely smile on his face each day.
Gracie L	Pioneering	For creating a beautiful sketch in art inspired by William Morris' natural form.
Elliot M	Resilience	An incredible effort and display of resilience during SATS week.
Zackary B	Children first	For a great effort with his narrative writing.
Roel G	Pioneering	For working really hard in math, participating in class discussions very well.
Isabella T	Children First	For always trying her best and also being a fabulous friend, helping others to achieve their best.
Freddie Mc	Pioneering	For offering great strategies for working out calculations in Maths
Paige R	Resilience	For becoming an independent writer and taking great pride in her work.
Darcie S	Pioneering	For suggesting accurate and efficient methods in maths and being a great help to adults and her friends.

Coping with anxiety



Feeling anxious can happen when we feel nervous, frightened, or uneasy about something such as starting a new school, waiting for exam results or friendship issues.

It's perfectly normal to feel this way from time to time, as it's our body's natural response to a situation we are not comfortable with. But sometimes our anxiety gets the better of us and it can start getting in the way of the things we enjoy.

We've shared some advice below.



Name it to tame it

It can be useful to know how anxiety shows up for you. It might be, for example, that you get butterflies in your stomach, or feel sweaty or tongue-tied. In these moments, it can be useful to say (aloud or in your head) 'oh, hello anxiety, you're here to let me know you think something might threaten me – thank you'.



Remind yourself of when you've overcome anxiety in the past

Think back to a time when you've felt anxious about something, but eventually overcame these feelings. For example, if you're feeling anxious about returning to school after the weekend, think back to a time you overcame these feelings by going to school. It can sometimes help by saying something like "thanks anxiety, but I've got this!"



Tell a friend or a grown up

Think about whether you can tell a friend, or a grown up at home or school. Everyone experiences anxiety from time to time and people are there to help you, so it's important to reach out and connect with others. It could be good to share things that help you to feel less anxious – and even to practise some of them together.



Keep a diary

If you're feeling anxious, it can sometimes be helpful to write some of your feelings down in a diary or on your phone. Make notes of things that you find helpful, or things that seem to make you feel worse.



Get active

When we feel anxious, our bodies get ready to cope with something that may threaten us. This is called the 'fight or flight' response. Our hearts beat faster, we sweat more, and our muscles become tense. To release these feelings, it often helps do something active. You may want to go for a walk, play football with friends, or go swimming.



Practise strategies that work well for you

Try different strategies that may help you to manage your anxiety. Finding and practising what works best for you can help reduce your anxiety quicker.

If you have tried these tips and still feel overwhelmed by your anxiety, then it is important to tell you parent or carer and to ask whether you need to get a GP appointment.

If you're feeling overwhelmed and need to talk:



Text **CONNECT** to **85258** for free to speak to Shout



Call **0800 1111** to speak to Childline, or visit childline.org.uk for their free online chat



Visit place2be.org.uk/help for more advice