



6th May 2024

## **DODFORD FIRST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER**

### **Achieve, Believe, Create and Fly High**

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

At last, we have dry weather and warm sunshine which means we have taken up lots of opportunities for the children of Dodford to take their learning outside! Dodford has some super outdoor learning areas and it's been wonderful to see the children exploring, planting, and using the space for their physical development this week - read the Class News below to find out what has been happening across the school indoors and out.

**Polite Remainder: see below our messages about water bottles, sunhats and suncream.**

Other work in school this week has focussed on more staff recruitment - we have had some excellent applications for our office administrator role, the interviews for this take place next week. This appointment will really help the school to run more efficiently for parents, pupils, and staff.

The advert for wrap around care is now live, the governors are happy to see this as a shared role - perhaps you can offer morning or evening sessions only - please apply and state this, we are willing to be flexible to get the right people into the school. The closing date for applications is 31st May 2024.

Actual salary: £25,119- £31,364 (FTE)

Hours of work: Monday - Friday 07.15 - 08.45 and 15.00- 18.00

Contract: Permanent

Opening our own wrap around care provision is such an exciting opportunity for the school - it will support working parents and those of you who may need occasional ad hoc care due to busy lives. Please ask Miss Salisbury about this opportunity if you want to find out more.

The school newsletter is for parents so please do let us know if there is anything else you would like to see included here, you can do this by emailing [office@dodford.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@dodford.worcs.sch.uk).



**Our School Values - Week 5 - Independence**

Why is independence important? Independence is an important skill for children to learn as they move through Dodford. Encouraging children to be independent promotes confidence and self-esteem. When they learn to do things on their own, they feel a sense of accomplishment and pride, which contributes to their overall well-being. We support our children at Dodford to become independent learners as they grow which is supported by our motto of achieve, believe, create and fly high.

### Class Weekly News

**Weekly News from Wren Class:** This week in Wren Class the children were delighted to see how big the chicks had grown having returned from the bank holiday. The children have helped to clean the chicks out and change their food and water. They have also taken turns across the week to hold them. They are super at looking after them! In our Kapow sessions, tissue paper flowers were made by tearing, scrunching and sticking tissue paper onto a flower shape. The children added their flowers to a grassy scene they had created in the role-play area. The children have been practising their number bonds within the maths sessions and have focused on-ing, -ed, -est endings in phonics **Miss Stanley**

**Weekly News from Robin Class:** It has been a short but busy week in Robin Class with lots of productive learning opportunities. Robin Class have made the most of the warmer weather and have been exploring local habitats around the school grounds in search of living things. In Maths lessons we have been adding and subtracting using efficient strategies and in our English lessons we have been writing letters to the prince, in role as the 'real princess'. In Geography we are continuing to find out about our local area and have started to learn all about our local church, Holy Trinity and St Mary's Dodford. Robin Class are looking forward to meeting the local vicar during their class trip to the church on Monday afternoon. **Miss Underhill**

**Weekly News from Owl Class:** A shorter but busy week has been had by Owls. In maths both year groups have begun to look at shapes, using lots of language connected to angles. In English we have been walking through the wardrobe and into Narnia using lots of senses language and meeting a very strange character called Mr. Tumnus. On Thursday, Year 4 took part in Bike-ability (in two groups) as well as fitting in our usual curriculum subjects alongside creating our art piece based upon the work of Vincent Van Gogh for the exhibition at Worcester Cathedral (a very busy day had by all!) We look forward to sharing our masterpiece with you. **Mrs. Eggleton**

Whole School Attendance is currently 95.2% which is just above the national attendance figure of 94% 😊



#### House Points w/c 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Teme - 53

Severn - 103 😊

Avon - 67



#### Stars of the Week Awards



Well done and congratulations for being chosen for the Star of the Week awards by your teachers!

Nancy for her super writing using the sounds to spell.

Thomas for his brilliant letter writing skills.

Lochlan for his fantastic maths work adding two-digit numbers

Sennen for her enthusiastic, reliable, and helpful attitude in class

Frankie for his helpfulness and kindness to others

We are so proud of all you have achieved this week 😊

Keep working hard and persevering to do your absolute best.



### Keeping your children safe online

The NSPCC provide lots of information to support school, families and children. The link below will take you to their Keeping Children Safe Online workshop for parents - it provides parents and carers with information about how to support their children in their online world. It's a 40-minute pre-recorded presentation and covers topics such as online bullying, mental health, and social media, as well as signposting to parents to resources and organisations for help and support. We hope you find it helpful.

### Author of the Month - May

Each month we introduce the children to an author and share some of their books around the classes. It is wonderful way to ensure the children can explore new genres and find out about writers they may not have heard of. This month we are celebrating the brilliant stories by ... Jacqueline Wilson. She wrote her first novel when she was nine years old, and she has been writing ever since. She is now one of Britain's bestselling and most beloved children's authors. More than forty million copies of her books have been sold. As well as winning many awards for her books, including the Children's Book of the Year, Jacqueline is a former Children's Laureate, and in 2008 she was appointed a Dame.



Please ensure you check the reading age on Jacqueline's books as she writes for a wide range of ages and some books include some challenging subjects such as teenage issues, adoption and divorce.

<https://www.penguin.co.uk/puffin/jacqueline-wilson>

### PTA News

The Parents Association are currently planning the School Fete which is being held on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024. We would like to ask if anyone would like to volunteer to help out on a stall or with refreshments etc on this date. Any help would be really appreciated.

If you are able, please drop us an email [friendsofdodfordfirstsch@outlook.com](mailto:friendsofdodfordfirstsch@outlook.com)

Or come and speak to either Nicola or Jen in the playground. **Thank you for your support.**

### Spring Arrivals in Wren Class



Following Easter, we received 7 chicken eggs. We incubated the eggs within school for 21 days and, although not as successful as last year, we are delighted to announce that two healthy chicks have hatched. The first hatched Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April and the second Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May. The chicks may be little but they have big characters! The eldest is much more confident and can be identified by its slightly bigger size and dark wing colouring. The smaller chick has light wing colouring and is quite timid. The children

have been observing, reading stories and talking to the chicks every day. They are fond members of the class! **Miss Stanley**



### **Bike-ability**

The children in Year 4 had a fantastic Bike-ability session on Thursday learning the skills needed to ride safely out and about. At lunchtime we had a quick visit from our local police officer who provided the children in Year 4 completing their bike-ability with some fluorescent back packs, lights and reflective strips to ensure that they are clearly visible if they are riding on the roads.

We are very proud of the resilience and independence shown by the children learning their new skills. Well done Year 4!



### **Mental Health Awareness Week/ World Mental Health Week**



#### **What is Mental Health Awareness Week/World Mental Health Week 2024?**

Mental Health Awareness Week, also known as World Mental Health Week 2024 is a week of events and learning designed to raise awareness of mental health conditions and treatment.

#### **When is Mental Health Awareness Week/World Mental Health Week 2024?**

Mental Health Awareness Week/World Mental Health Week 2024 is held on the week beginning May 15th. It concludes on May 21st.

#### **What is the history of Mental Health Awareness Week?**

Mental Health Awareness Week has been running for the past 20 years. It was, and still is, organised by the Mental Health Foundation, a UK-based mental health charity.

#### **The theme for Mental Health Awareness Week/World Mental Health Week 2024 is anxiety.**

According to the CDC in the US, around 7% of children between the ages of 3 and 17 have been diagnosed with an anxiety disorder.

Anxiety can cause physical symptoms. It's not surprising to hear that these can include stomach complaints, a loss of appetite, diarrhoea and other intestinal issues, but it can also cause things like cold hands and feet. This is due to an incorrect triggering of the "fight or flight" response, which causes blood to be drawn away from the extremities.

#### **What will we be doing in school?**

Discussions in school will mainly centre around what to do if they need help when they are worried, who their trusted adults are, techniques to help when they feel worried (mindfulness, meditation, breathing techniques).

If you wish to read more about anxiety in children and how to support your child, a useful website is:

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-a-z-mental-health-guide/anxiety/>

**Don't Forget - Year 4 Residential Meeting Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 6pm.**



Mrs Eggleton will be sharing all the information regarding the residential trip to Boundless Outdoors (West Malvern) 10<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> July, on this evening. Forms and a trip pack to include a kit list and activity agenda will be provided on the night. It's also a chance to ask questions and share anything you are concerned about regarding the trip. If you are unable to make the evening a pack will be given to your child at school.

Please contact Mrs Eggleton at school if you have any concerns regarding the trip.



**Water Bottles**

We've noticed a number of children coming to school without water bottles this week. Please make sure that you send your child into school with a full water bottle, particularly now that the sun is shining so that they stay hydrated. Children can fill up their water bottles in school when they need to.



**Sun -hats and Suntan Lotion**

After months of rain the weather has certainly taken us by surprise this week! Please ensure that your child has a sun hat in school as there is little shade on our playground.

Unfortunately, we are unable to apply suntan lotion to your child. Please ensure you apply a high factor, 8 hour suntan lotion to your child at home before school.

**Future Diary Dates - (Please note these may be subject to changes.)**

Date	Event
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Mental Health Awareness Week Robin Class Local Church Visit (pm)
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 4 Malvern Information Evening - 6pm
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Family Reading session 2.30pm
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 2 Assessment Week
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	New Reception Induction Eve 6pm
	<b>National Children's Gardening Week 22<sup>nd</sup> May - 2<sup>nd</sup> June</b>
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	<b>Empty Classroom Day</b>
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Feel Good Friday Golden Tea with Miss Salisbury Last day of half term Achievement Assembly at 9am NO FOOTBALL

	Young Voices New Visions Exhibition Worcester Cathedral Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> May to Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 - please go along and see Dodford First School's artwork.
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> May - Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Half Term week
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	TE Day - school closed to children
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Children return

**Summer 2<sup>nd</sup> Half Term**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2024	TED DAY
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	First day of 2 <sup>nd</sup> half term BRITISH VALUES DAY <b>3<sup>rd</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> June - Year 4 - Multiplication Times Tables Check Assessment Period</b>
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Multi skills club starts back
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Football club starts back
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	Phonics Screening Week 10 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> - Year 1
<b>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Family Reading Session 2.30 - 3pm</b>
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	School Fete - 3.30-5.30 - all welcome
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Stay and Play 1.30pm-2.30pm (Reception intake 2024) and current Wren Class</b>
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	School Games including Family Picnic - all welcome
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Feel Good Friday Golden Tea with Miss Salisbury
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Robin Class Victorian Workshop - in School Parent Open Afternoon, Robin and Owl Class 2.30-3pm
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Moving Up Day
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Reserve School Games Day (in case of wet weather on the 27th of June)
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Dodford Church Fete 2pm (School Choir)
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 4 Residential Trip
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 4 Residential Trip Wren Class Stay and Play
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 4 Residential Trip Annual Reports to Parents
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Leaver's Assembly 6pm
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Term ends Feel Good Friday Values and end of term assembly NO FOOTBALL
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	School closed TED Day