

Ditton Primary Newsletter



10th January 2025

Message from the Headteacher

I am writing to thank you for your understanding and support during what has been a challenging week due to the adverse weather conditions.

At our school, we have worked hard to remain open throughout the disruptions for several important reasons. We firmly believe in the value of education and the impact it has on your children's learning and development. Additionally, we are mindful of the needs of our vulnerable pupils and the pressures faced by parents who work and rely on the school for stability during these times.

Throughout this week, our top priority has been the safety and well-being of your children, families, and staff. We have consistently communicated that we understand and respect the decisions you have made regarding whether it was safe for your child to travel to school. These decisions are deeply personal and depend on individual circumstances, and we appreciate your thoughtful consideration.

We would also like to thank you for your feedback provided through the link sent on SchoolPing. Your comments and opinions are invaluable to us and will be taken into account to inform changes to our practice should similar circumstances arise in the future.

We understand that timely communication is crucial during such events. We made every effort to inform you as early as possible about any disruptions to the school day. However, some decisions, such as the availability of staff, could not be finalized the night before, and we appreciate your patience and understanding in this regard.

We would also like to clarify that we are not responsible for the gritting or maintenance of the Frank Myler car park or the footpaths leading to our school site. This has understandably added to the difficulties faced by some families, and we appreciate your patience and cooperation in navigating these challenges.

Once again, thank you for your continued support and understanding. It is a testament to the strength of our school community that we have been able to work together to prioritize both safety and learning during this time.

Reception

What a strange first week back. The weather is due to improve, so hopefully we can get back to normality next week!

English - We introduced our new text, *Juniper Jupiter*, by Lizzy Stewart. We started thinking about what would make a perfect super sidekick, and what traits we would have as a superhero.

Maths - We have been learning 'one more' to numbers to 10. We have been using number tracks and resources to show this in our learning.

Topic - Sticking with the weather theme, we explored freezing and why it happens. We looked at the effects of the weather on our local area.

Thank you again for your support this week, have a great weekend, and we will see you on Monday, when the weather will hopefully let up!

Year 1

What a crazy week it has been for all! Thank you for your support during this uncertain week. The weather is due to improve, so hopefully we can get back to normality next week.

English - This week we have introduced our vehicle text for this half term. We will be reading 'Hermelin the Detective Mouse' as told by Mini Grey. The children have enjoyed immersing themselves in the story this week and have come up with some wonderful predictions.

Maths - This week we have recapped number bonds within 10. The children have been exploring a number a day and finding different ways of making the number using two groups. We will continue this next week before moving on to addition.

RE - This week we have been discussing the faith Christianity. We looked at the holy book (Bible), religious symbols (cross, fish, dove), Christian festivals (Christmas, Easter), God and much more.

Again, thank you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing all children back again on Monday. Please stay safe over the weekend.

Year 2

Wow what a week!

A huge well done to those that battled the elements to get here, we know it's been very difficult.

In Science we did some research about animals and learnt about the lifecycles of some different creatures, which ranged from 5 minutes up to 10,000 years!

In Music the children were lucky enough to engage with a brand-new scheme and learnt some new skills on the keyboard.

In Spanish we learnt about Christmas and how they celebrate in Spain, which is quite different to how we do it here! We enjoyed exploring the differences in the two cultures.

We look forward to having the children back in next week. Enjoy your weekend, please stay safe!

Year 3

Year 3 have had a brilliant first week of term, given the unfortunate circumstances regarding the weather and having new teachers. They have settled in very well.

In maths we have continued learning new methods for addition and subtraction with three digit numbers. In English, we have been focusing on producing an information report on foxes, which coincides with their model text 'Fox'. In science we have started our new topic: Light. We are looking forward to completing this topic over the next few weeks. We are very excited to continue completing our Forest School activities in the upcoming weeks (hopefully the weather is our friend).

Miss Banlin and Miss Doherty are very excited to properly start the term with Year 3 next week, stay safe!

Year 4

This week, we have continued to learn new methods for addition and we have been using number lines to add ones to a 4 digit number.

In English, we have been continuing to read 'Leaf' and we have been planning our outsider narrative. We have also been thinking about the features of an information page.

In PE, we have enjoyed our sessions of forest school and we have started to learn some striking techniques in badminton.



Year 5

What a crazy week it has been!

- The year 5 team have been very appreciative of the children's resilience this week regarding the change in routine due to the weather conditions!
- This week, during maths, we made a start on learning how to use the short method for division. We were very impressed with their knowledge of this method!
- In science we have started our new unit: Forces. We are looking forward to the hands-on experiments that come with this unit!

We are looking forward to having all the children back in class next week, but until then, stay safe!

Year 6

YWell done to everyone who has battled through snow and ice to get to school, and those who have worked at home. While we don't have any pictures from this week's learning, we have covered both multiplication and fraction work in Maths and brushed up our knowledge of properties of shapes as well as arithmetic skills. In Writing, we have completed setting descriptions and using the dash in sentences, while in Reading we have looked at World War 2 information texts. In Science we have started the Living Things unit and began by recalling the features of the five animal kingdoms while in Computing we have been studying search engines and how to use them effectively. We are hoping that booster sessions will be up and running again next week.

Certificate Winners!

Name	School Value	Reason
Year 1	Resilience	For working hard in school and at home this week. Superstars!
Year 2	Resilience	For working hard in school and at home this week. Superstars!
Archie	Pioneering	For setting a great example through our new behaviour system, Track-It Lights. You were awarded lots of green points for excellent behaviour!
Grace	Pioneering	For setting a great example through our new behaviour system, Track-It Lights. You were awarded lots of green points for excellent behaviour!
Year 5	Resilience	For showing great resilience despite many changes in routine due to the weather!
Rinaya R	Children First	Working incredibly hard in maths at long multiplication - we are so impressed by your improvements!
Henry J	Resilience	For enthusiastic spelling work and applying himself in History!



Attendance!

Class	Attendance
Mrs L-Byrne/Mrs Till	96.72% FANTASTIC!! Well Done!!
Mr Longworth	98.28% FANTASTIC!! Well Done!!
Miss Dixon	92.22% This is below the school target of 96%
Mrs Driscoll	86.52% This is below the school target of 96%
Miss Alderton	82.01% This is below the school target of 96%
Miss Powell	79.43% This is below the school target of 96%
Miss Doherty	97.32% FANTASTIC!! Well done!
Miss Banlin	90.32% This is below the school target of 96%
Mr Paul	82.68% This is below the school target of 96%
Mrs Hubball	90.36% This is below the school target of 96%
Mr Linaker	93.63% This is below the school target of 96%
Miss Woodward	93.6 % This is below the school target of 96%
Mr White	92.11% This is below the school target of 96%
Mr Bourque	82.01% This is below the school target of 96%

Thank you for all your efforts to ensure children attend school each day, especially since we've been experiencing such extreme weather. The forecast indicates that everything will return to normal next week!

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 launched our new Behaviour reward tracker this week, and we are pleased to say we've been blown away by the number of green points being earned by pupils in our school. Out of all the behaviour logged, 92% (3395 points) are positive which is fantastic!!



Top classes this week

- 1st - Y4TP (588 points)
- 2nd - Y4CH (477 points)
- 3rd - Y3AB (267 points)



Top pupils this week

- 1st - Gabriella T (34 points)
- 2nd - Oliver L (28 points)
- 3rd - Taylor O (28 points)

