

Ditton Primary Newsletter



Message from the Headteacher

I wanted to bring to your attention an important issue that has been observed in our school car park. We have noticed an increase in the number of parents parking on the yellow cross hatchings. These areas are clearly marked to remain free of vehicles to ensure the safety of our children and other drivers.

The yellow cross hatchings are there for a reason—to provide clear visibility and safe passage for everyone during drop-off and pick-up times. When these areas are obstructed, it increases the risk of accidents and makes it difficult for children to navigate safely.

I kindly ask that you refrain from parking on the yellow cross hatchings and use the designated parking spots instead. Your cooperation in keeping these areas clear will greatly contribute to the safety and well-being of our school community.

On a brighter note, I'm pleased to report that our Kindness Month is going exceptionally well. We've witnessed numerous random acts of kindness taking place across the school, both from individuals and entire classes. The spirit of generosity and compassion is truly inspiring, and it is heartening to see our students embracing the values of kindness and empathy.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.



Diary Dates

12th Feb – Valentine's Disco
14th Feb – EYFS Library Trip
14th Feb – Close for Half term
24th Feb – School reopens
28th Feb – Interim reports to parents
4th Mar – School Nurse drop in sessions
5th/6th Mar – Parent consultation meetings
6th Mar – World Book Day

12th Mar – Year 5 and 6 online science event
14th Mar – Red Nose Day
17th Mar – Spring Concert at St P and P
18th/19th/20th – Year 3 residential
21st Mar – Y5 trip to Jodewll Bank
28th Mar – Fun Food Chef
7th Apr – Y6 practise tests
11th Apr – Easter Holidays

Reception

In English, the children have been very busy planning their ideas of how to save Supertato from Evil Pea. They then put their thoughts and ideas into sentences and wrote a reply letter to Supertato, telling him how they will rescue him!

In maths we have been learning all about positional language. We placed our Supertato puppets in different positions around the room and told a partner where they were, using phrases like 'underneath, next to and to the right of.'

In RE we have been exploring the Holy Bible and thinking about why it is special to Christians. We learned about the ten commandments and came up with our own rules that we think would make the world a better place.

This week was Children's Mental Health Week and we celebrated by having a guided meditation in our dressing gowns and slippers with some cooling cucumber on our eyes, sipping lemon water. The children (and staff!) really enjoyed taking five minutes out of a busy day to relax and calm our minds.

Year 1

This week, the children have been busy completing their Detective narratives in English. The children have worked very hard and we are very impressed.

In geography this week, Year 1 have been learning about the human and physical features of our local area. They were really interested in this subject and enjoyed sorting photographs independently.

In science, the children have used their knowledge of animal diets to present and record data. They discussed their pets and decided whether they were carnivores, herbivores or omnivores. They presented this data with pictograms.

We have also started to complete practice Phonics Screening Checks, in preparation for June. Please support your child by reading their Phonics book each night at home. This will help them with their reading and ensure that they are ready for the assessment in June! Books are changed every Friday.

Year 2

In English, Year 2 have continued with their analysis of The Bog Baby story in preparation for writing their own version next week. They have written character descriptions that have been an absolute pleasure to read! The children's writing is really coming along, is lovely to see.

In Maths we have been discussing how addition is commutative and subtraction is not which has been very interesting to the children.

2LA went for a walk around the local area and discussed the human and physical features they could see as part of their Geography lesson. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

In Art, children created a piece based on the work of Gustav Klimt.

In Music we have been continuing with keyboard lessons which have been lots of fun!

Year 3

Year 3 have been extremely busy this week getting ready for our big HPAN exhibition. They have done amazing and really have enjoyed creating and making their art pieces. We have been hard at work in maths this week, still focusing on column addition and subtraction; it is a hard topic but we are getting there. We have been planning our setting narrative in relation to our vehicle text 'The Rhythm of the Rain' in English. We have been focusing on the importance of charity within RE and have come up with some lovely ideas. What a great week Year 3, Keep it up for the final week.

Year 4

This week, Year 4 have enjoyed investigating the writer's knowledge as part of our English work- we will be aiming to use new vocabulary in our own writing next week as we plan our myth narrative.

In Maths, we continue to look at methods for subtracting 10s, 100s and 1000s.

In Geography, we have located Earthquake 'hotspots' using an atlas and in Science, we have investigated 'pitch'.

In RE, we have been thinking about the theme 'love thy neighbour'. We have also been visited this week by a member of the Halton library team to talk to use about reading for pleasure - be sure to get in to a good book this weekend!

Year 5

In English this week, we read our new text Greta and the Giants. We will be using this story as our starting point to plan and write a restoring the environment narrative. In maths we have continued our work with fractions, looking at improper fractions and mixed numbers. In science, we learnt about air resistance. We also completed our art work for the local exhibition, using our previous work on cubist art as a technique.

Year 6

We have been planning an explanation text about the arctic fox in Writing this week, while in Maths we have been working with fractions, decimals and percentages and improving our arithmetic skills. In science we have been devising classification keys working in groups, and in PE the children have been practising gymnastics. We have also been creating artwork for the HPAN project, which will be showcased in Runcorn Shopping Centre from Monday lunchtime - below is a picture of the children working on it. The children are working really hard at the moment so thank who has supported that through after school booster sessions and ensuring children are completing homework. Just a reminder, please can we ensure children arrive at school with a water bottle and a winter coat.



Certificate Winners!

| Name | School Value | Reason |
|-----------|----------------|--|
| Rosie | Resilience | For always putting exceptional effort and dedication into her work. |
| Benji | Resilience | For always trying his hardest in everything he does. |
| Melody | Pioneering | For joining in with class discussions this week and sharing ideas. Well done! |
| Ivy | Resilience | For trying really hard when writing her story this week. Well done, Ivy, keep it up! |
| Oliver W | Children First | For making better choices and doing the right thing - well done. |
| Cyra | Children First | For displaying kindness and helping other children in class. |
| Penny | Pioneering | For creating an excellent piece of pop art inspired by Peter Blake. |
| Luke D | Resilience | For making great progress in Maths through determination. |
| Skyla-Mai | Pioneering | For writing a BEAUTIFUL character description this week in English |
| Jaxon | Resilience | For trying your best in English this week. The vocab used was impressive! |
| Oakley | Children First | For making better choices and doing the right thing - well done. |
| Rosie | Children First | For always spreading kindness wherever you go! |
| Olivia W | Resilience | For always trying her best |
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Attendance!

| Class | Attendance |
|----------------------|---|
| Mrs L-Byrne/Mrs Till | 100% FANTASTIC! Well done! |
| Mr Longworth | 99.89% FANTASTIC! Well done! |
| Miss Dixon | 93.02% This is below the school target of 96% |
| Mrs Driscoll | 91.85% This is below the school target of 96% |
| Miss Alderton | 94.71% This is below the school target of 96% |
| Miss Powell | 94.38% This is below the school target of 96% |
| Miss Doherty | 95.09% This is below the school target of 96% |
| Miss Banlin | 95.51% This is below the school target of 96% |
| Mr Paul | 95.65% This is below the school target of 96% but so close!!! |
| Mrs Hubball | 93.06% This is below the school target of 96% |
| Mr Linaker | 97.22% FANTASTIC! Well done! |
| Miss Woodward | 94.72 % This is below the school target of 96% |
| Mr White | 93.06% This is below the school target of 96% |
| Mr Bourque | 91.48% This is below the school target of 96% |

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 - 98% has been positive!



Top classes this week

EYFS/KS1

1st - RRJL

2nd - Y1LD.

3rd - RRKLB/LT

KS2

1st - Y4CH

2nd - Y6GB

3rd - Y5LW



Top pupils this week

YRRLJ - Lillie R.

Y1LD - Lyra D

Y2LA - Aliya K

Y3AB - Cooper K

Y4CH - Alfie T

Y5ML - Sophie W

Y6GB - Yasminne D

YRKLBN/LT - Grace H

Y1RH - Leola D

Y2AP - Evelyn H

Y3KD - Lottie W/ Finn K

Y4TP - Oliver L

Y5LW - Anastasia A

Y6DW - Ivy-Rose M



TIPS FOR FAMILIES

Place2Be's

CHILDREN'S
MENTAL HEALTH
WEEK

① Encourage journalling

Just like Riley, encourage your older children and young people to express their emotions and thoughts through journalling. It can be less confronting than speaking out loud and is a helpful way to process what is going on.

② Make space for reflection

When children and young people reflect on their different emotions, it can help them better understand themselves and what they need. Go for a walk, drive, or try some mindful colouring or baking together.

③ Be visual

Use imagery, such as emojis or flashcards to help children and young people recognise and label their feelings.

④ Practice mindfulness

Try mindful activities, and quiet family time, to enjoy being in the present moment. This can help children and young people be aware of their thoughts and emotions and learn a useful new coping technique.

⑤ Communicate

Feedback is crucial for helping us see our blind spots and gain greater insight. Children and young people are no different. Creating safe and supportive ways to share your own experience with your child can help them understand themselves and their impact on the world around them.



If you're a parent or teacher, you'll find loads of useful advice to help you support the brilliant young people in your lives – from FAQs to downloadable [resources](https://place4you.co.uk) place4you.co.uk

