

# Dunchurch CofE Infant School and Nursery

*Forgiveness ... Honesty ... Kindness ... Patience ... Respect*

Friday, 31 March 2023



## A message from Mr Andrews

Dear Families,

What a fun-filled final week it has been, drawing an incredibly busy term to a close. Despite the ever-changing weather, it hasn't dampened children's spirits, particularly today with our fantastic PTA Easter bonnet event and parade, egg hunt and celebration assembly. This was a wonderful way to celebrate Easter and to wish Mrs McConnell a fond farewell.

On Monday, it was great to welcome our Year 2 parents/carers to a SATs information session. Thank you to Mrs Owen for leading and answering the questions. Thank you to parents who were able to join us.

We were also delighted to welcome Reverend Pat and her parrot, Cedric, to school on Thursday afternoon for our Easter service. The Year 2 readers were very confident and read clearly, and all children sang fantastically. We were extra-specially impressed with all the nursery children who came and joined us and sat beautifully. A lovely experience all round.

On a leadership update, Mrs Miller is continuing at the junior school in her role as co-head of school for the first half term in the summer. So here at the infant school, I will be working as Head of School Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and Mrs Marson will be here all day Wednesday and Friday.

We wish to share that it isn't just Mrs McConnell leaving us. Mrs Nicholls (Tracey) only has a few weeks left with us (last day is April 28<sup>th</sup>), after successfully being appointed as part of the new David Lloyd team in Houlton. It is a really exciting opportunity and we know she'll be great!

I've already asked for a gym membership and have been declined so please don't try! We would like to thank Mrs Nicholls and Mrs McConnell for their passion and support of children, staff and families and wish them both well in their new adventures.

We all want to wish you and your families a peaceful and enjoyable Easter.

**Best wishes,  
Mr Andrews**

## **Collective Worship**

As part of our collective worship on Thursday, we welcomed Reverend Pat into school. We explored the story of Easter and sang our three songs that we had prepared. Over the past two weeks we have explored different parts of the Easter story such as Jesus riding in Jerusalem, the Last Supper, the crucifixion and the resurrection.

We are finalising our plans for the King's coronation. On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May, we are planning to have a whole school celebration day. Children are invited to come into school wearing red, white and blue on this day. There will be some learning about the Coronation, along with some celebratory activities and a whole school tea party at lunch time.

## Stars of the Week

### Rainbow Room

Lunchtime

All Children

### Red Room

Lunchtime

All Children

### Blue Room

Lunchtime

All Children

### Elf Owls

Lunchtime

All Children

Learning Behaviour of  
the week

All Children

### Little Owls

Lunchtime

All Children

Learning Behaviour of  
the week

Whole class

### Barn Owls

Lunchtime

All Children

Learning Behaviour of  
the week

Whole class

### Snowy Owls

Lunchtime

All Children

Learning Behaviour of  
the week

Whole class

### Spectacled Owls

Lunchtime

All Children

Learning Behaviour of  
the week

Glennisha P

### Tawny Owls

Lunchtime

All Children

Learning Behaviour of  
the week

Reina PG

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## NURSERY

It has been a shorter but busy Spring Term! There have been many highlights and moments of incredible learning over the term!

In January children celebrated Chinese New Year, which involved the children taking part in Chinese dancing, trying Chinese foods, and creating lanterns. Children learnt about the story of Chinese New Year, naming animals, retelling the story, and predicting who they thought would win.

The children celebrated World Mental Health Day and painted stones like beautiful fish to reflect the story. They learnt about and reflected on all people being different but equally important. Children talked about their own differences & similarities.

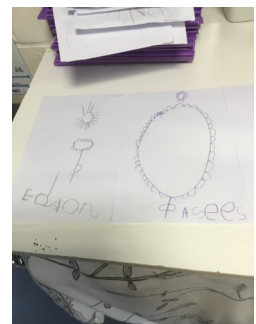
Over the whole term, children and families have taken part in home learning, with pre-school children baking or cooking and the rising 3's children going on a walk and developing their understanding of being healthy.

Children in pre-school have been learning to rhyme and started learning about initial sounds through our phonics scheme of Little Wandle. Playing fun games, helps children to listen and recognise initial sounds at the beginning of words. Rising 3's children have also been accessing Little Wandle but taking part in games that encourage them to make different sounds and use their oral motor skills.

All children have been spending time consolidating their knowledge around numbers. Children have counted day-to-day objects, fingers, blocks and each other! Children are showing their progress and understanding of numbers and have been able to start using numbers beyond 5.

In very recent weeks, staff and children have started thinking about signs of Spring and planting in the nursery garden. Children have noticed and talked about the buds growing, describing what is happening. Going forward, the children will be helping to develop this area of the garden.

We wish everyone a lovely Easter break, and look forward to seeing you for an action-packed Summer Term!



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## RECEPTION

A short but busy term. The past 5 weeks have been based on our Jigsaw topic of 'Healthy Me' about making healthy choices. We have talked about exercise, eating healthy, getting enough sleep and keeping clean. We have had a pancake café, a pizza café and a healthy food café in role play to encourage the children to make healthy food choices. The children have had a go at brushing giant teeth in the water area. We hope that the children will continue to make healthy choices for life.

We are delighted with the progress that the children have made in their phonics lessons. It has been important to recap Phase 3. We have seen the children grow in confidence with their phonics, they are trying to read longer words containing 2 or more digraphs. Lots of Tricky Words have been learnt. The children are becoming more independent with their writing and are trying hard to think of a sentence, remember it and attempt to write it whilst also thinking of spelling and letter formation – there's a lot to learn! We are looking forward to starting Phase 4 phonics after the Easter holidays.

The children have worked hard in maths and are able to verbalise their thinking using mathematical language. We have worked on learning the number bonds to 10 so that the children can automatically recall the answers without using fingers or rhymes. The online game Hit the Button helps the children with this –

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

We will be applying a lot of our number knowledge to numbers to 20 next term.

The Summer Term is a time for the children to apply all of the skills and knowledge that has been learnt and experienced during their time in Reception.

This week we have read the book 'Now Was Your Hands' and talked about germs. In maths we have continued to work on naming and describing 3D shapes as well as recognising, continuing, describing and creating patterns.

The Reception staff wish you all a very Happy Easter!

We are sad that Mrs McConnell is leaving us and are very thankful for all her support in nurturing the children. We wish her well in her new job and hope that she keeps in touch.



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## YEAR 1

Here we are again, the end of another term. We certainly have made the most of our time together, we have packed it full of fun, learning and exploration.

Our highlight has to be, and what better way to end it (although wet) than with a trip to one of Britain's finest medieval fortresses. Our trip to Warwick castle was a day full of awe and wonder, smiles, laughter, and singing.

We not only impressed adults with our spectacular behaviour, but also our recall of our castle learning from this term. We were able to spot all of the castle features and recall their functions, as well as use them in our imaginative play.

Many thanks to all of you for your support of making this day happen and a huge thank you to the staff and parent helpers who chaperoned us for the day.

Wishing you all a wonderful well-earned break everyone! I cannot quite believe I am saying this already... See you in the summer term!



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## YEAR 2

The end of another busy of term! The children have really earned their two weeks of rest, relaxation and most importantly... chocolate!

The children really enjoyed a visit from Reverend Pat on Thursday who conducted an Easter service for us in school. A special well done to; Albie, Glennesha, Eliana, Matilda, Sia, Jian, Giovanna, Louie and Maisie who bravely stood at the front and delivered readings within the service. We were all very proud of you.

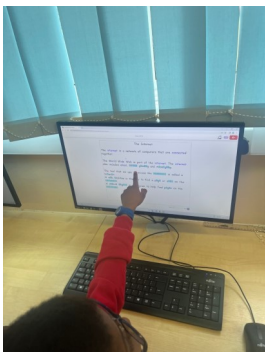
As writers this week, the children have all written a character description about Fantastic Mr Fox. The children really impressed us with their use of expanded noun phrases and similes- their progress this half term has been terrific!

As mathematicians, the children have completed their work on money and have begun looking at statistics. This week we have focused on gathering data and created tally charts- our favourite question was definitely finding out what everyone's favourite Easter eggs are!

As scientists, the children have completed our 'Living things and their habitats' unit and scored impressively on the end of unit assessment. We are now looking forward to starting our 'Transport' topic next half term which will link to our History and Geography learning.

A huge thank you to all of the parents who attended the Y2 SATs information morning. We hope that you found this useful. For anyone who was unable to attend, the slides and corresponding handouts have been uploaded to the school website. Next half term will see the children sitting their SATs tests (how is it that time of year already?!) so we have an extremely busy one ahead but it will be filled with lots of excitement, our rescheduled trip to the Leamington Gurdwara and lots of hard work!

Well done for a brilliant term, year 2. We can't wait to see you after the Easter holidays.



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Dunchurch C. of E. Infant  
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## WOODY'S SPRING BLOG



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Dunchurch C. of E. Infant  
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## EASTER FUN



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## DIARY DATES

Monday 17th

Tuesday 18th

Wednesday 19th

Thursday 20th

Friday 21st

### **Martial Arts**

Collection from the  
back of the Hall

### **Spanish Club**

Collection from the  
back of the Hall

### **Performing Arts**

Collection from Yr1  
doors

### **Football**

Collection from the  
back of the Hall

### **Performing Arts**

Collection from Yr1  
doors

### **Football**

Collection from the  
back of the Hall

## VACANCIES

### **DUNCHURCH INFANT SCHOOL AND NURSERY**

**PLAYWORKER** Infant School- Monday - Friday 3.15pm - 4.45pm, term time £10.98 - £11.18 per hour, plus holiday pay. (7.5 hours per week)

### **LUNCHTIME SUPERVISORS**

We are looking for Midday Supervisors to join our hard working lunchtime teams.

**Hourly rate £10.60 - £10.79, plus holiday pay, plus Local Government Pension Scheme**

**Hours - Infant School - 11.50am - 1.10pm Monday to Friday, term time only**

**Hours - Nursery - 11.30am - 12.30 pm Monday to Friday, term time only**

**Start date - ASAP**

If you are interested, please email [office@dunchurchinfants.co.uk](mailto:office@dunchurchinfants.co.uk) or pop into the school office for an application pack.

## **Paw-some Easter—Saturday 1-15 April 2023**

A fun-packed Easter programme inspired by dogs.

Get creative in our workshops making animal origami, clay creatures, pom-pom pets, and have a go at drawing with a 3D pen! Plus don't miss our family yoga session and fantastic theatre shows.

### **Plus...**

Enjoy a FREE hunt around the building to find all the hidden Easter baby animals. — [https://](https://www.ragm.co.uk/easterfun)

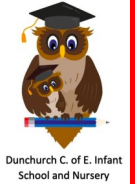
[www.ragm.co.uk/easterfun](https://www.ragm.co.uk/easterfun)

Allsorts Easter issue magazine link — [https://](https://bit.ly/ALLSORTS_MARMAY23)  
[bit.ly/ALLSORTS\\_MARMAY23](https://bit.ly/ALLSORTS_MARMAY23)



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## FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 17th April	School and Nursery reopens
Wednesday 26th April	Yr2 Gurdwara trip (rearranged)
Monday 1st May	May Bank Holiday (school & nursery closed)
Friday 5th May	King's Coronation day
Month of May	Year 2 SATs
Monday 8th May	King Charles III Coronation Bank Holiday (school & nursery closed)
W/C: 12th June	Year 1 Phonics
Wednesday 21st June	Class photos
Monday 26th June	Teacher Training day
Wednesday 5th July	Warwickshire schools Induction day
Tuesday 25th July	School and Nursery finish for Summer

## OWLS BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL AND NURSERY PLACES

***Summer term Owls & WOOSH Club sessions are now available to book on the Magic Booking system.***

***If you have any problems booking these, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.***

We only have 40 daily places available for our Before & After School Club. Due to an increase of children attending Owls this school year, we are currently very busy on most days & we may not be able to accommodate your request if last minute bookings are trying to be made.

If you require places on a regular basis (weekly) and for the next term, it would be advisable to book in advance. If there are no spaces available, Magic Booking will not allow you to book and we cannot override the system to accommodate your child.

**Please do not assume your child will be able to attend owls without prior agreement.**