

Dunchurch Infant School

Friday, October 22, 2021



A message from Mr Andrews

What a half term we have experienced. Since returning in September, the children have continued to demonstrate a great enjoyment when at the Infants and nursery. Whether it has been the return of after school clubs, enjoying assemblies and lunchtime in the hall or playing with the children from the other year group classes, the children have continued to smile throughout.

That being said, the term has not been without its challenges. COVID cases and staff and pupil absence has led to some challenges across the Federation. All of this, we appreciate, does impact on those involved with the school: pupils, their families and our staff. Reflecting on this, it has still been a positive and progressive seven weeks.

Children's learning continues to build, and those potential gaps as a result of last year are becoming smaller. Children new to the school have settled well and now understand the routines. This we hope will allow them to thrive this year and beyond.

We felt that ending the half term on a positive was the only place to finish. For that reason, the teachers have put together their Half Term Highlights on the following pages to summarise all that has been achieved.

We hope you enjoy the read and would like to wish you an enjoyable (dare we say restful) half term.

Best wishes,

Mr Andrews

PTA Christmas Cards

All the children will have brought home with them their order from . Please can you check the spelling is correct for their name and amend if needed. The deadline for orders is Wednesday 3rd November.



Stars of the Week

Rainbow Room

Lunchtime

Rory W

Red Room

Lunchtime

Joelle A

Blue Room

Lunchtime

Henry S

Elf Owls

Lunchtime

Evelyn B

Meerkat

Karlis K

Little Owls

Lunchtime

Austin C

Meerkat

Mimi J

Barn Owl

Lunchtime

Daya R

Meerkat

Sam T

Snowy Owls

Lunchtime

Dmitry KS

Meerkat

Evie R

Spectacled Owls

Lunchtime

Eli F

Meerkat

Rowan B & Charlotte S

Tawny Owls

Lunchtime

Edith N

Meerkat

Cole M

PARENTS' EVENING CONSULTATIONS

This term the appointments are going to be evening telephone consultations on the following days:-

Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd November - NURSERY ONLY

Appointments can be booked online through our Parents' Evening system and is live from Thursday 21st October at 8pm until Sunday 31st October at 8pm.

To log in you will need your first name and surname, plus your child's date of birth.

Please add your preferred contact telephone number for the appointment in the 'Appointment Messages' option on the booking screen. The on-line booking system is available here:

<https://dunchurchinfants.parentseveningsystem.co.uk/>

Each appointment is 10 minutes long and will be a telephone consultation between parents and teachers and no meetings will be face to face.

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Half Term Highlights

Nursery

All the children have settled really well into the routine of Nursery this half term! They have really enjoyed developing their peer interactions and imaginative play in Red Room, exploring and acting out being doctors. In Blue Room, the children have had a brilliant time in PE, using the parachute to practise their listening and gross motor skills. Our youngest children in Rainbow Room have been using pumpkins with golf tees and small hammers to improve their fine motor skills and control using tools and equipment. We hope you all have a lovely half-term break.



Reception

Wow! What a half term! The Reception staff are delighted with how well the children have settled into school life. We have concentrated on Relationships, Rules and Routines. It has been lovely to see the children from both classes mixing in the unit and getting on so well together. The staff have enjoyed getting to know all children. We have been encouraging the children to be more independent by letting them have a go at putting their sweatshirts and coats on. Many children have been surprised that they can do it all by themselves!

The children have worked on strengthening their core muscles as well as their handwriting muscles. We are getting ready to write and are making sure we are using our 'baby shark' fingers to hold pencils. We have written letters, words and captions. Phonic learning is progressing well and the children are excited to be bringing home a reading book on Friday. In Maths the children have enjoyed making patterns with concrete resources and joining in with songs and rhymes. They have thoroughly enjoyed learning the story "We are Going on a Bear Hunt" and learning the actions to retell the story. The children were really engaged with exploring their environment around them and spotting signs of Autumn.

Have a very happy half term holiday!



Could all Reception children bring in a named picture of when they were a baby or a toddler for our first week back. This will be a part of our RE lesson when we return. If possible, could it be a copy of a picture as we will be looking at them as a class and we don't want them to get ruined.

Half Term Highlights

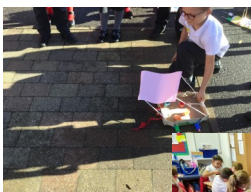
Year 1

This half term in Year One has seen the children working on the Topic 'I am An Artist'. They have thoroughly enjoyed learning about famous artists such as Van Gogh, Seurat, Kandinsky and Andy Goldsworthy. They have used a range of media to explore the subject and have created their own representations of famous pieces of art. They became immersed in the 'Katie and the...' series of books where we explored vocabulary and sentence structures. We have been impressed with their Literacy skills and enthusiasm with which they have started Year One. Maths has seen us understand and use the part whole model to complete addition fact families. Their ability to use concrete materials to solve problems is developing brilliantly. Rules and routines have been embedded and the children have settled in nicely. We are looking forward to our next topic of 'Toys'!



Year 2

This half term, Year 2 have been learning about inventors. During topic lessons, the children have learnt about the inventors of the first car and train, as well as exploring and understanding the properties of materials to use when designing and creating their own moving vehicle. Furthermore, the children have written a retell, a letter and a poem all relating to fictional inventors in the stories/texts read in Literacy. It has been a wonderful half term!



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Woody's Been Busy!



Woody's treat time



TAKING THE REGISTER

I'm sure there's a treat up here



Hairdressers



Walkies



At the doctors



Woody's Buddies



FUN IN THE GARDEN

PIC•COLLAGE

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DIARY DATES

CHILDREN IN NEED - Friday 19th November - Non Uniform day (as agreed by School council)



Monday 1st	Tuesday 2nd	Wednesday 3rd	Thursday 4th	Friday 5th
PARENTS' EVENING CONSULTATIONS – BLUE & RAINBOW NURSERY 3.30pm - 6pm	PARENTS' EVENING CONSULTATIONS – RED NURSERY 3.30pm - 6pm			PTA Hot Chocolate Friday
Martial Arts Collection from the back of the Hall	Violin lessons 9.25am - 11.25am French Club Collection from the school playground	Performing Arts Collection from the back of the Hall Football Collection from the back of the Hall	Football Collection from the back of the Hall	Performing Arts Collection from the back of the Hall

Our school is working with a team of researchers at the University of Oxford on a research project called MY-CATS. The MY-CATS team are testing out a new way of identifying and supporting young children who might benefit from help to build confidence and reduce the chance of problems with anxiety, now and in the future.

We are inviting all parents/carers of children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes to take part.

We would love it if all families in the participating classes got involved! As this project is to help reduce problems with fears and worries now and in the future, your child does not need to be experiencing difficulties with anxiety to take part.

We've attached more information about the project, and you can watch a short video about the project here: [MYCATS video](#)

You can also watch a longer, more detailed video about the project here: [MYCATS parent video](#)

If you would like to take part, please follow the link below to complete the consent form and provide your contact details. [MYCATS parent consent](#)

You will then receive an email with a link to the screening questionnaires.

Please complete the consent and screening questionnaires by 7th November. We ask one parent/carer to complete the consent and questionnaires for a child.

If you have more than one child across the participating classes, you can complete the consent and screening questionnaires for each child.

[Click here for Children and Family Newsletter](#)

