DUCKLINGTON C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dare Discover Do

Tel. (01993) 703651 Website: https://ducklington.oxon.sch.uk/

Headteacher: Mr R. Leigh Chair of Governors: Mrs R. Buckland

Friday 24th January 2025

Headteacher's Thoughts

This year, we are making one change to our reporting system. We have decided to move the full school report from the end of the spring term to the more usual summer term report – to give the overview of the whole school year. The parents evening at the end of the Spring term will continue as usual with the chance to talk about current progress of your child.

This week has seen a few cases of chicken pox within school and we wish those children a speedy recovery. At the very end of this newsletter, I have attached the UKHSA guidance 'Should I keep my child off school' which gives information about the common illnesses that affect children and is a good reference when needed.

A reminder that next Friday is the FODS school disco with the various sessions for the different age groups. I will look forward to seeing the various dance moves. Details about the disco are later on in the newsletter with more information about forthcoming fundraising activities from FODS. Please also consider whether you are able to join the FODS committee to help to support the school.

We are certainly experiencing the joys of the January weather, which does mean that there is often a cold chill out on the playground – please could I remind everyone about ensuring that coats are in school every day (with possible added hats and gloves). This will help as we do try to get the children out for most break times.

There have been many occasions recently, where several children in each class are not bringing in their PE kit on their usual PE days. Please could you support them in making sure PE kits are in school regularly as this is part of our school uniform. Thank you.

Mr. Leigh

Our Christian Value for this half term is:

Courage

We can think about the importance of **standing up for what is right** against the odds, **sticking by one's convictions** and **not being swayed as well as strength of will**. We can also think about how we can encourage each other to do so too.

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go" Joshua 1:9

Future Diary Dates.

Monday 27th/Tuesday 28th January – Artists in school Y1 – Y6

Friday 31st January – FODS School Disco

Monday 3rd February – Y3 Art Morning at Cokethorpe

Tuesday 11th February – Y6 & Reception Height and Weight checks

Wednesday 12th February – Y4 Corinthian Drama Day

W/b 17th February – HALF TERM BREAK

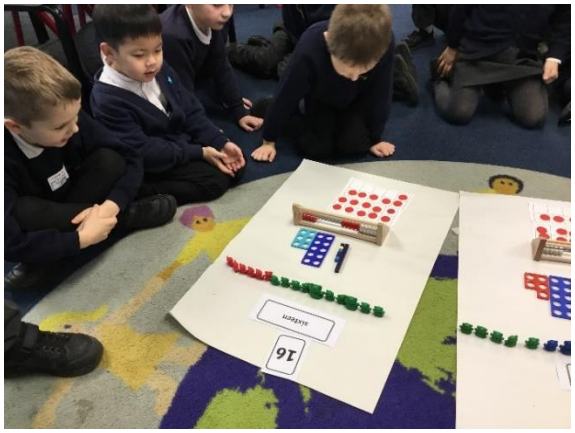
Achievements Assembly

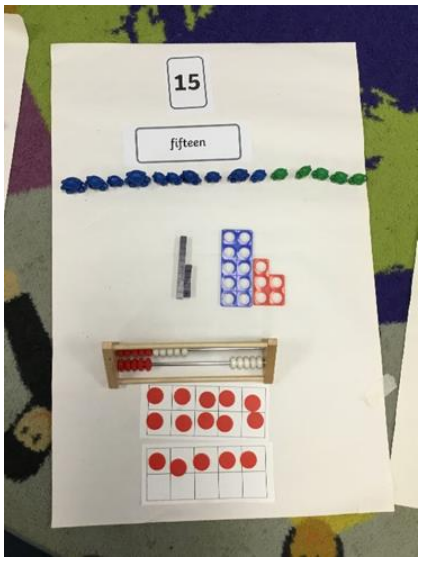
Well done to the children mentioned in our achievement assembly over the last few weeks.

Ducklings	Edward Townsend, Manaris Alnazi
	Madeleine Caton, Alessia Rahmany
Owls:	Tobias Campbell, Arthur Bosworth
	Ignacio Beards, Joel Wright
Mandarins	Ben Wilton-Powell, Harley Emery Graves
	Sebastian Kinch, Yusef Ali Yildirir
Eagles:	Renee Rogers, Daisy Brooks, Eve Jackson
	Jack Mason, Ben Pells
Robins:	Esmae Woodley, Ruby Milner
	Nathanael Wa, Jingyi Shi
Kingfishers:	Tess Jackson, Cami Mccay
	Sam Kendall, Elliot Dunsby
Red Kites:	Oliver Dickinson
	Francis Carlisle, Jacob Moss

Around the School

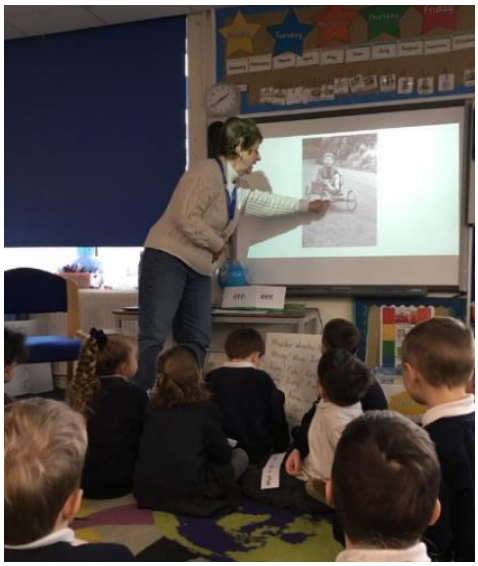
Year 1 have been very busy since returning to school after the Christmas holidays. We have been learning about 'teens' numbers and how many tens and ones each contains.





As Forest School began again this week, we noticed many changes in our outside area as it is now fully in the season of winter. The weather was certainly a bit chilly and we were glad to be wrapped up well in our Forest School clothes! We enjoyed some delicious snacks that Miss Mortimer prepared for us and then we set about exploring! The newly renovated pond looked as if it was the same as always until we looked closely and saw that the surface of it was frozen. Underneath the ice, we saw toads who were resting as if they were frozen too! When exploring, we saw lots of different examples of ice!

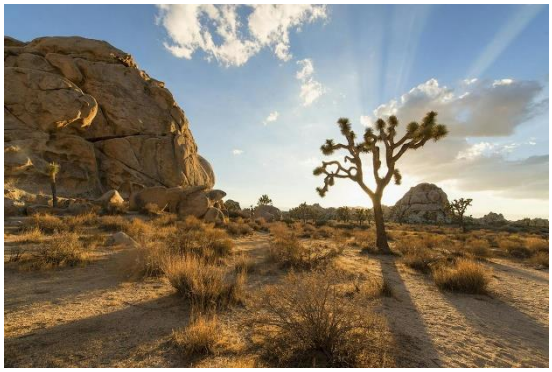
This term, in our learning for History and English, we are finding out about toys that our parents and grandparents may have played with and comparing them with the toys we play with today. We were lucky enough to have a visitor come to school and share with us what her favourite toys were when she was a little girl. We enjoyed asking her questions and finding out that her toys were fun to play with like our ones are! It was interesting to hear how she played games with her friends and so we took the chance to have a playtime with our friends, playing with our own playground equipment!



Year 5

This term we have been doing gymnastics in the hall. We have been learning how to do forwards and backwards rolls safely and progressed to putting these movements into a spy routine. It can be very fun but you have to be careful because you could easily injure yourself by putting pressure on your head and neck! We have enjoyed our warm ups where we get to sneak around like spies playing games like stuck in the mud with bridge balances. By Indigo and Mia.

In PE we have started hockey. We have been learning how to dribble with the ball and how to manoeuvre the hockey stick to control the ball. We have also been working towards the girls' hockey tournament next week. By Tess and Nancy.

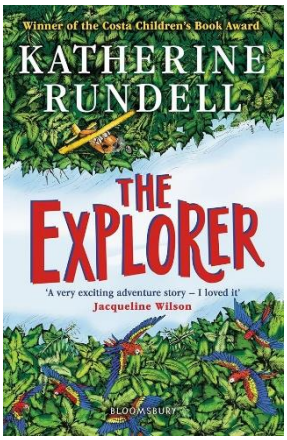


In geography we are learning about the Mojave Desert. Here are some facts we have learned:

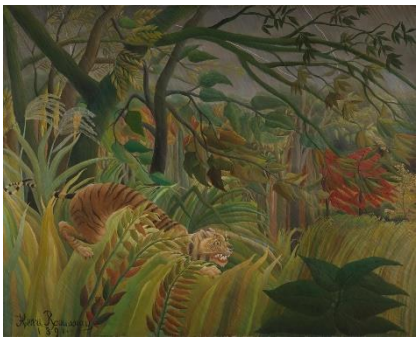
- In the day time, the temperature can reach 48.8 degrees (highest ever recorded is 57 degrees!) and at night it can drop to -4 degrees.
- Some plants that can be found there are the Joshua tree and the barrel cactus.
- There are animals such as coyotes (the top predator!), the slow moving desert tortoise, jack rabbits, burrowing owls and western diamondback rattlesnakes.
- Badwater Basin is a salt flat where the water evaporated a long time ago and left behind salt minerals!

We're looking forward to finding out more!
By Alana and Evie.

In science we've been learning about Earth and space. We've learned about the different planets, including their order from the sun and the size of each planet. We also found out that the moon is a natural satellite because it orbits the Earth! By Leo and Noah



In English we are reading The Explorer by Katherine Rundell and writing a story based on these adventures. The book is about four children whose plane crashes and leaves them stranded in the Amazon jungle and left to survive alone. We definitely recommend this book to others!
By Theo and Cerys.



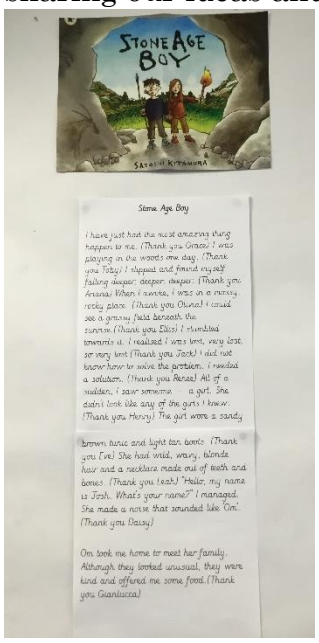
In art we are creating oil pastel pictures inspired by The Explorer front cover and the painting 'Surprise!' by Henri Rousseau. We sketched out our design and layered colour using oil pastels using lots of peach, brown, orange, greens and blues. In 'Surprise!', there is a tiger hiding in the jungle. Some of us included hidden animals in our art too.
By Grace and Orla.

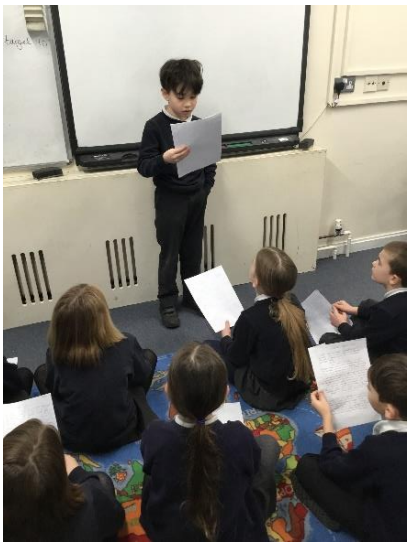
In maths we've been learning how to add and subtract fractions and know that we need to remember to make the denominators the same before we can add or subtract. We have also learned how to convert between improper fractions and mixed numbers. We were worried about fractions at the start but now we're feeling much more confident!
By Cami and Elliot.

Before Christmas, Year 5 and 6 held an inter-house football tournament. Most of the games were quite even, the games were interesting and fun to play and watch. In the first game, Zack (Y5) scored a jaw-dropping free kick just inside the opposition's half! That wasn't the only good goal as Mo (Y6) scored a great goal for Windrush who ended up winning the tournament.
By Harrison and Zack.

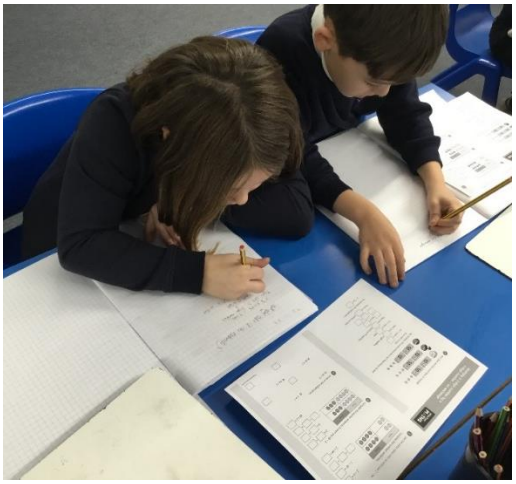
Position	Team	Games won	Games Lost	Goals for	Goals against	Goal difference	Points
1st	**Windrush**	3	0	11	2	+9	**9**
2nd	**Bartholomew**	2	1	5	3	+2	**7**
3rd	**Glebelands**	1	2	2	10	-8	**5**
4th	**Chalcroft**	0	3	1	4	-3	**3**

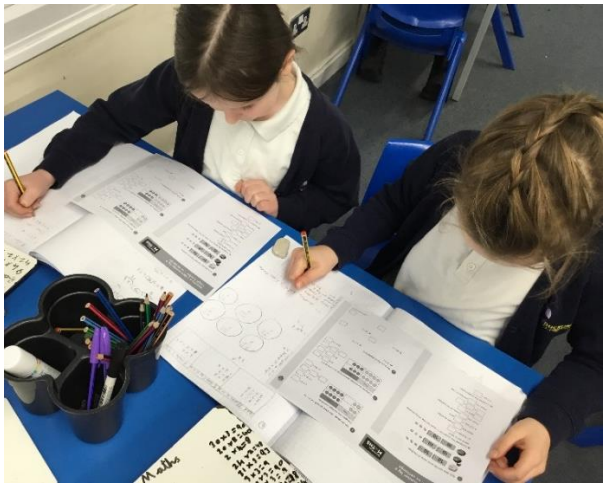
In **Year 3**, we have been immersed in our new topic about the Stone Age. We have been reading Stone Age Boy and learning to compose effective sentences. We have enjoyed sharing our ideas and reading our stories so far,





In Maths, we have been extending our multiplication skills to start multiplying larger numbers - 2 digit numbers times 1 digit numbers. There is so much enthusiasm for Maths from learning times tables to explaining how to work out answers!





Sports Page

DUCKLINGTON VS QUEEN EMMAS

Ducklington kicked off the match on Tuesday 21st of January. As we took kick off, we immediately began an attack in their half which resulted in a tackle leading Queen Emma's 1-0. However, we fought back as Francis took a halfway line shot, it deflected off the keeper's hand and then went top left of the goal. The score was 1-1. Yet again they struck another goal in. Duck were now losing 2-1.

Though it was tough and with no substitutions we scored goal after goal. After a tough battle we were leading 6-2. With goals from: Mo, Francis, Ryan M, Ryan O, and Corin. Next half we came on the pitch confident as Mr Mahony gave us an inspiring team talk. Although they scored 3 more goals, our teamwork was no match for them as we stood out winning the match 9-5. Everyone played a starring role. Due to Corin's physicality, he won man of the match. The game ended 9-5. We shook the players hand as we left with pride. Bring on our next game away at Aston.

FODS Update

FODS met for our AGM in January and are looking forward to a positive year of fundraising in 2025. Our lovely chair, Claire, along with committee members Kat and Jodie decided to step down this year after years of FODS membership. We are really grateful to all of them for their hard work and commitment over the years, and the brilliant handover to the new team.

We now have 2 co-chairs, Gemma and Elsa, who were voted in this year along with new members Hannah, Amy and Ruth and we're ready to hit the ground running with a full programme of events for the rest of the academic year! New volunteers are always welcome so please get in touch if you would like to help us at chairfods@hotmail.com

Our current fundraising focus in on Literacy and we are working to contribute new resources to the school to give every child the chance to develop excitement around reading.

Reminder of our ongoing Kids Just Recycle clothes bank – please continue to donate any of the following items in the bin outside the office entrance.

There is also a new Beaver section open and there are spaces available.

UK Health Security Agency

NHS

Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

	Until...
Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek

SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, **search for health protection in schools** or scan the QR code or visit https://qrco.de/minfec.

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