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 28th February 2025

Headteacher's Thoughts

Welcome back, I hope you were able to have a great half term! The weather certainly seemed to be changeable throughout the week especially in temperature. Hopefully the weather continues to warm up slightly as we head into the Spring. There are still several children across the school that are suffering with Chicken pox – please be mindful that the required period from school is 'at least five days from the start of the rash and until all the blisters have crusted over' Also a reminder about sickness bugs and the need for to wait 48 hours from the last episode. This is to ensure that the infection does not spread around the rest of the class – we appreciate your support in this matter.

Just as a reminder, we will be celebrating World Book Day next Friday (not Thursday). There will be activities during the school day and, if they would like to, children can choose to come in dressed as their favourite fiction character and bring the book related to their chosen character to share with their class. As always, I am looking forward to seeing the variety of characters.

The future diary dates section below includes some key dates for this half term including parents' evenings and the Year 3/4 Easter performance for your information

The Year 6 children and staff are getting excited ready for their adventure in a weeks time to the Pioneer Centre for their residential. I am sure next weekend will be spent getting their bags sorted with the variety of different clothes they need. Fingers crossed for good weather for their week away.

Near the end of the newsletter is an invitation from Oxfordshire's **Local Area Partnership**, in collaboration with **OxPCF**, to **SEND Together: Connect, Learn & Share** – a **free event** designed to provide valuable information, insights, and support on key SEND topics – this is aimed at parents and carers.

Mr. Leigh

Our Christian Value for this half term is:

Joy

We will think about our own personal happiness - *inner contentment, enjoyment of life, laughter, at peace with the way things are, having a ready smile, deep joy.* The happiness of others - *making other people smile, putting others at ease, spreading a good mood, sharing a joke, relieving other people of worry or fear*

'Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!'
Philippians 4:4

Future Diary Dates.

Monday 3rd March – Y5 Street Dance Festival
Tuesday 4th March – Y3 Netball/Football Festival
Friday 7th March – World Book Day in school
W/b 10th March – Y6 Pioneer Residential
Thursday 19th March - Y5 – Jonathan's Jungle Roadshow
Wednesday 26th March – Parents Sharing Afternoon – 2:15pm
Monday 31st March – Prayer Space in school
Tuesday 1st April – 2:15pm Y3/4 Easter Performance
Tuesday 1st / Wednesday 2nd April –Parents Evenings

Achievements Assembly

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

Ducklings	Adelaide Boxer, Aya Hoare
	India Blackwell, Henry Bond
Owls:	Elise Bishop, Ignacio Beards, Tobias Campbell
	Gideon Ma, Kai Fisher
Mandarins	Remi Howard, Ernie Lloyd
	Rosie Dickinson, Olivia Parker
Eagles:	Toby Hemming, Eve Jackson
	Jamie Goodchild, Esperanza Villafana
Robins:	Whole Class for Drama day at Cokethorpe
	William Lloyd, Esmae Woodley, Ted Mercer
Kingfishers:	Whole Class
	Tom Curtis, Indigo Ivory
Red Kites:	Ollie Spolander, Bill Appleton
	Gillon James, Alexea Timms

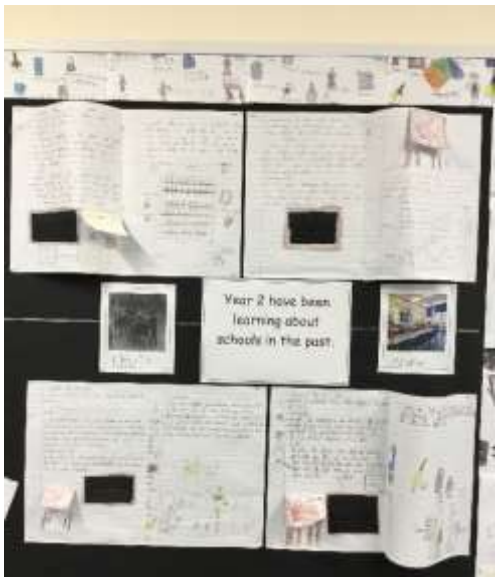
Around the School

Hello from Year 2

We have been busy since our last newsletter entry. This term we have completed two different writing genres. The children practised their narrative writing skills by retelling a story about a Lighthouse Keeper and then they learnt all about Grace Darling, writing a simple biography of her life. This week children have been writing a biography about the life of Mary Anning.

Last half term the children enjoyed learning about school in the past and became very interested in Victorian Schools. One afternoon we tried working in silence, standing up

when a teacher entered the room and not speaking unless spoken to. The children's comments were interesting and most thought working quietly, without distractions meant they did their best work. The adults in the room also enjoyed the quiet! We are looking forward to our trip to Woodstock Museum in March as an end to this interesting topic.



In maths, we have been learning about multiplication and division. The children have been working very hard to understand grouping, repeated addition and arrays. They are beginning to see the link between multiplication and division and are busy learning their multiplication and division facts x2, x5, x10 and x3. Well done to all those children practising their skills on Times Table Rock Stars, it really makes a difference to helping children recall their times table facts.

Reception

Reception class have been busy over last term and the start of this term. Here are some examples of their learning.

Working together and persevering until they had the perfect sandcastles

Using their imagination pretending to go on a journey driving their vehicle.

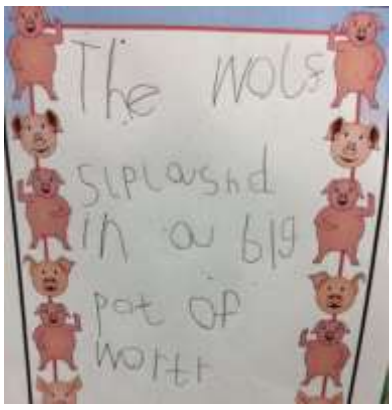
Making a nest in Forest school

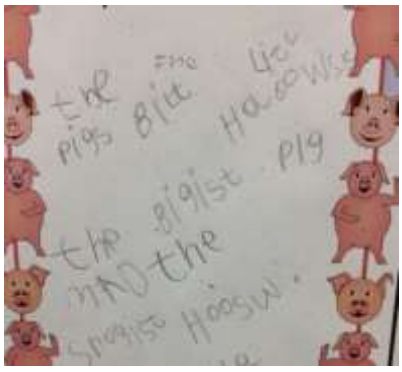
Using their imagination

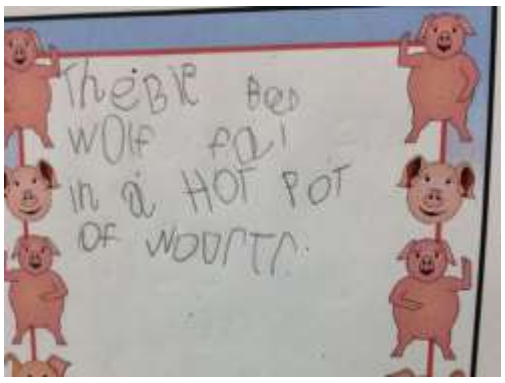
One of our favourite books that we shared this term was Leon Neon. The children found out some facts about Chameleons. They really enjoyed drawing their own Chameleon. Their drawings are in their learning journals.

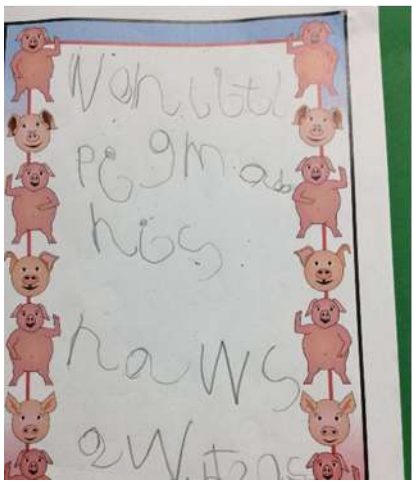
Another story that we have revisited this term is a favourite of many in the class is The Three Little Pigs. The children cut and sequenced pictures in story order and some children cut up words and had to put them in the correct order to make a sentence which they then read. They had to remember to leave spaces in-between the words.

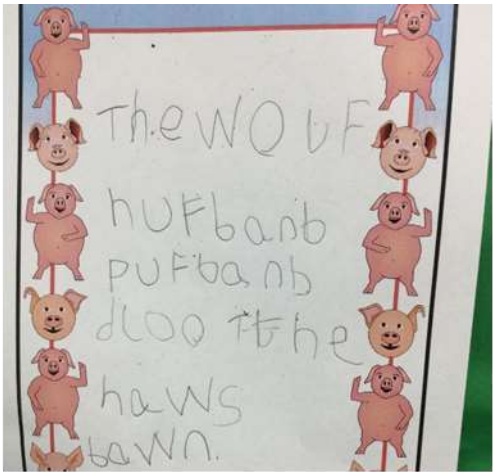
Here is some of our writing applying the phonics we know.



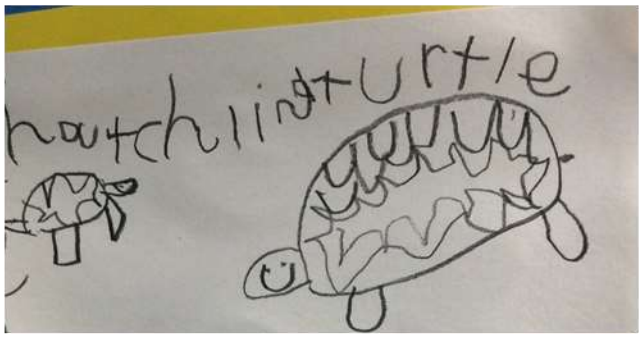


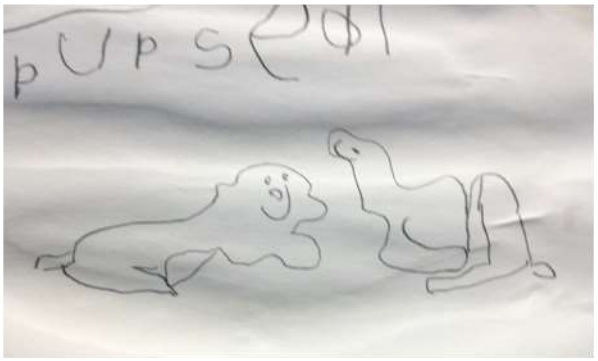






We have created pencil drawings of baby animals and their parent.





In explore time we may choose to draw our own pictures and write about them.

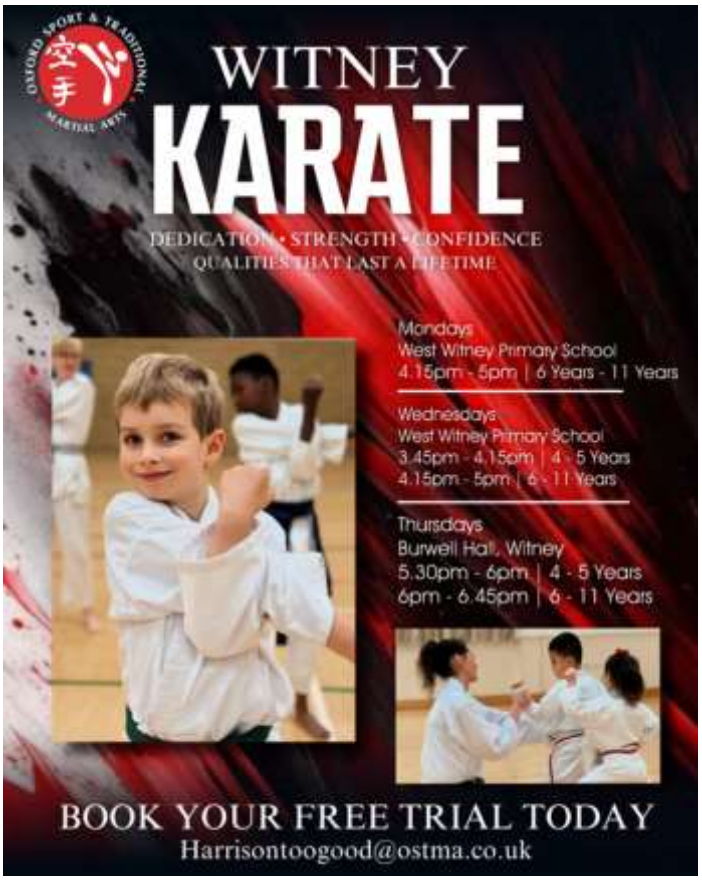
St Bartholomew's Church

Pancake Party

in the
Village Hall
Tuesday 4th March
From 3pm until 4.30pm

£1 person

All children must be accompanied by an adult
No booking required although numbers will be limited if too many attend.



Better Health Let's do this

NHS

Top tips to keep your family healthy and happy

Sugar Swaps — Swap fizzy drinks, juice drinks and flavoured milks for water, lower-fat milks and no added sugar drinks.

Re-sized Meals — Remember kids are smaller than adults so give them a smaller portion to begin with, if they're still hungry they'll ask for more.

Snack Smart — Sugary snacks can all add up! Fruit and veg are a good snack choice, but if the kids are having packaged snacks, just remember to aim for 2 a day max.

Eating Out — When eating out look for child-friendly options that include fruit and vegetables. Try to avoid bigger portion sizes such as "go large" or "supersize" deals.

Get going Every day — Kids need 60 active minutes each day. This can be in short 10 minute bursts throughout the day. Try scootering to school, skipping to the shops, or dancing to a song. Keep track of screen time - many parents find it helpful to set a daily limit.

Want more tips to help your kids stay healthy?
Search Better Health Families

Better Health Let's do this

NHS

Better Health Families is here to help

Sign up for NHS Healthy Steps emails

Sign up for 8 weeks of Healthy Steps emails to help your family make small changes to make a big difference. We'll send you lots of budget-conscious, simple family recipes, fun games and healthy swaps!

Visit **healthysteps.uk** or scan the QR code to get started!

Want to know what's really inside your food and drink?

Food scanner

See for yourself and download our FREE Food Scanner app to find healthier options. Use the 'traffic light' labels to choose more greens and ambers, and cut down on reds.

App Store Google Play

Search Better Health Families for lots of healthier snack ideas, tasty recipes, easy lunchbox ideas, fun activities and much more!

We're on Facebook and Instagram too @betterhealthfamilies
and want to hear from you!

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Oxfordshire's **Local Area Partnership**, in collaboration with **OxPCF**, invites you to **SEND Together: Connect, Learn & Share** – a **free event** designed to provide valuable information, insights, and support on key SEND topics.

Date: 13th March 2025
Location: The King's Centre, Oxford
Time: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Register now: [www.tinyurl.com/SENDTogether]www.tinyurl.com/SENDTogether

The day will include:
✔ **Workshops & Information sessions** to inform and support families navigating the SEND system
✔ **Meet professionals & services** supporting children & young people with SEND
✔ **Marketplace area** – discover services, organisations & resources for families

This **FREE** event will provide **practical support, valuable insights, and the opportunity to connect** with others with shared interests.

Don't miss out – book your place today