DITCHINGHAM PRIMARY ACADEMY

31st January 2025

Executive Head

This weekend in many churches will be the celebration of Candlemas. Candlemas, or Candlemas Day, is also known as 'The Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord Jesus', it commemorates the presentation of Jesus at the Temple of Jerusalem, referring to him as the light of the people of Israel. The name Candlemas means festival or 'mass' of the candles and comes from the tradition of blessing all the candles used in the church for the upcoming year. In school each day, I am always struck by the children's enthusiasm to take part in the lighting of the candle as part of their class or whole school worship and their understanding of why we do so.

Over the past few weeks, we have had a variety of visitors into school, such as governors, student teachers or colleagues from the trust. It has been wonderful to hear them sing the praises of our children, how well they speak about their school and their positive attitudes to learning. Well done everyone!

Mrs Brand

Robins

Robins have finished off learning about 3 D shapes this week and then started to learn about addition towards the end of the week. In History we have continued learning about Louise Braille and how what he did has helped so many people in the world. In Science we have been looking at different fabrics and what they are used for. We really enjoyed having Mrs Hutton (Chair of Governors) in with us on Thursday afternoon and sharing our learning with her.

Barn Owls

This week Barn Owls finished their story writing based on 'Nail Soup'. We had lots of excellent ideas and versions. We have also started the next piece which is writing instructions to make soup. In maths we have been working on our division skills which has proved a challenge, but which has also shown the children that they can do it. In Science we have looked at magnets and ow trey work, in history we debated whether slaves built the pyramids (they didn't - it was free people!) and in PSHE we have discussed howe to make a 999 call and what information will be asked for.

Golden Eagles

It has been ‘Test week’ for both Year 5 and Year 6 this week in Golden Eagles. The students have worked their way through tests in Spelling and Grammar, Reading Comprehension, Arithmetic and two Maths Reasoning papers. We have been very impressed with their commitment and focus –well done all!

In Geography, we have continued to delve into the fascinating world of Volcanoes and Earthquakes. This week we were challenged to take on the role of researchers and to find out about a particular volcanic event in history. We could present our findings in whatever way we felt would be most informative.

We have continued to develop our skills on the recorder in Music and have begun to compose our own music on Charanga which we can also access at home. We created our own 4-bar compositions using quavers, crotchets, semi-breeves and rests in the notes of G,A,B and then played these to the class on our recorders.

Don’t forget, on Wednesday 5th February at 8:20, we will be holding a SATS information session for Year 6 parents and students. In this session we will explain when the SATS will be held this year and how best to prepare for these tests. You will get to look through past SATS papers and, of course, if any parents would like to take one home to sit in their free time, you will be more than welcome! If you are unable to come, we will share the information with you by the end of next week.

Parent Share

Reminder that our Parent Share sessions are next week

- **03/02 - Barn Owls Parent Share 2.30pm**
- **04/02 - Robins Parent Share 9.00am**
- **05/02 - Golden Eagles Parent Share 9.00am**

NSPCC Number Day

On Friday 14th February we will be taking part in NSPCCC Number Day. Children can wear non-uniform, with one item of clothing containing numbers!
Donate here - https://www.justgiving.com/page/dpsnumberday2025

Smart Watches

We would like to remind you that pupils are not permitted to wear smartwatches equipped with gaming features, cameras, or SIM cards in school. However, standard pedometers are acceptable!



School Prayer

Mighty God from up high,

You are the Lord of the earth and sky,

We know we sometimes get things wrong,

We're sorry for those things we've done.

We thank you for our families, friends and school,

We thank you for loving us all.

Please can you let our lights shine,

In all our work,

including mine.

Amen

Whole School Attendance

Year to date

97.11%

Ditchingham Academy Friends

DAFS is set to hold its annual AGM on Monday, February 24th at 9:00 AM. This will be a brief meeting where we aim to appoint our new Chair and Secretary, as well as a new Treasurer. If we are unable to fill all three positions on this date, we will have no choice but to close the Ditchingham Academy Friends. We would greatly appreciate it if any parents could attend the meeting to help 'vote in' the new members.

Parents Evening

Parents evening will take place on Wednesday 26th February. Booking forms will be available in reception from Monday 3rd February.

KINGFISHER FEDERATION

Kingfisher Reading Wings Award

This week

Golden Eagles

Attendance Award

This week

Robins



Important Dates

Red dates have been added/updated since previous newsletters

- 03/02 - Barn Owls Parent Share 2.30pm
- 04/02 - Robins Parent Share 9.00am
- 05/02 - Golden Eagles Parent Share 9.00am
- **05/02 - SATS information session 8:20 (Year 6 parents)**
- 10/02 - Barn Owls Norwich Castle Ancient Egyptians visit
- 14/02 - NSPCC Number Day - donation link *wear non-uniform with numbers*
- 14/02 - Last day of Spring Term 1
- 24/02 - First Day of Spring Term 2
- **24/02 - DAFS AGM 9.00am**
- 25/02 - Robins Sea Life Centre visit
- **26/02 - Parents Evening**
- 05/03 - Y1 & Y2 to Dance Festival at Hobart
- 31/03 - Easter Service, St. Mary's Church Ditchingham 2.15 pm Parents Invited
- 04/04 - Last Day of Spring Term 2
- 23/04 - First Day of Summer Term 1
- 05/05 - Bank Holiday
- 06/05 - Tempest Y6 Leavers Photos & Class Photos
- ~~07/05 - Y1 & Y2 Multskills at Hobart~~ - Cancelled
- 09/05 - Bikeability Level 2 (Year 5)
- 23/05 - Last Day of Summer Term 1
- 02/06 - First Day of Summer Term 2
- 10/06 - Horstead Residential
- 07/07 - Y6 Road Safety Session
- 22/07 - Last Day of Summer Term 2 (end of Academic Year)

Helpful Information

School Website - https://www.ditchingham.dneat.org.org/
School Calendar - https://www.ditchingham.dneat.org/calendar/
Term dates 2024 / 2025- https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/38151
Term dates 2025/2026 - https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/57134/Term-dates-and-school-holidays-2025-2026
Office email - ditchinghamoffice@kingfisherpartnership.org
Support Resources - https://padlet.com/senco134/kingfisher-federation-6tczryp0bt0pjcu7
Office Phone - 01986 893 277

Community



Tuesday 18th 10-12 (The Final Third) ⚽

https://forms.gle/4cDAcedgWKGqdFa8A

Thursday 20th 10-15 (The Finisher) 🥅

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeFwJCDzYBd8ZRmaRFP_GE8fnvjI8cdGBM7Lu6b0CSI6ileqg/viewform







Indoor Car Boot Sale

Ditchingham Village Hall
Saturday 22nd Feb
9am - 12pm

6 foot table pitches available, contact on the details below to secure a space

07922 089 699
stacey.heartofthematter@gmail.com



