



Mr Kirby's Weekly News

Dear Dover Park Family,

As we reach the end of another bustling half term, I want to wish you all a very happy and restful break. Looking back on the year so far, I am reminded of how lucky I am to lead such a fantastic school community.

In school, we often talk about being "one big team," but it really feels more like one big family. Whether it's supporting one another on the playground or the collective effort that goes into our school events, your continued support makes this school a wonderful place to be.

Wishing you all a safe and happy half-term. We look forward to seeing everyone back, refreshed and ready for more adventures on Monday 23rd February!

Finding Where We Fit: Children's Mental Health Week

This week was Children's Mental Health Week, and our assemblies focused on understanding what mental health is and why self-care is a necessity, not a luxury. This year's theme was 'Belonging', which sits right at the heart of our school values.

On Friday afternoon, the school was a hive of activity as children worked with different teachers across the school. A particular highlight was seeing our Year 6 pupils head down to Reception to join our youngest learners for some mindfulness colouring. Watching them bond helped reinforce that no matter how big or small you are, everyone is a vital piece of the Dover Park team.



LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION

Year 2 Take the Stage

One of my favourite traditions is our Class Assemblies, where each year group gets the chance to show their parents exactly what they've been up to. This week, it was Year 2's turn to shine. The confidence they displayed on stage was brilliant to see. It's one thing to learn in a classroom, but quite another to showcase that learning to a room full of grown-ups. They proved that learning is, and should be, a lot of fun. Well done, Year 2!

Art Attack

Some of our fantastic artists had the opportunity to be challenged by Miss Baxter, our fabulous Art leader. They had discussions the materials they would like to work with and what they might create. The groups collaborated to decide upon clay sculptures and thought carefully about how they would make them look as life like as possible. They created frames and constructed some beautiful creatures and a volcano. They'll be meeting after half term to complete their creations, but they're off to a great start. Well done, Team Art!



Scribbles, Scripts, and Success: Writing Framework Update

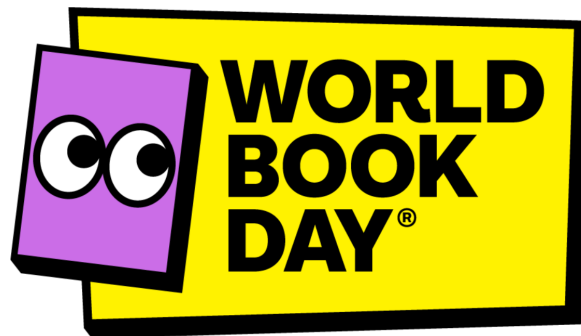
While the children were busy with their mindfulness, Mr. Gregory and Mrs. Roberts spent a full day at a professional workshop focused on the National Writing Framework.

The goal was to ensure our writing curriculum is as robust and engaging as possible. I am delighted to report that the session confirmed we are already on the right track with our current teaching methods. We've come away with some excellent "next steps" to help our pupils' creativity to develop further.

Looking Ahead: World Book Day

Mark your calendars! World Book Day is on March 5th.

This year, we are embracing an environmental theme for our fancy dress—think recycled materials or nature-inspired costumes. However, if your child has a specific literary hero they are dying to portray, traditional book characters are, of course, very welcome too. We look forward to seeing the creativity (and hopefully avoiding any costumes made entirely of glitter that will live in the school carpets forever).



Half-Term Reading Challenge

If you find yourself with five minutes of peace this week (we can dream, can't we?), please encourage your child to take part in Mr. Gregory's Half-Term Book Challenge.

We would love for every child to produce either a book review or an illustration to be entered into the Monkton Arts competition. It's a great way to keep those creative gears turning over the break. You can find the full entry details on the next page of this newsletter.



READING



Half Term Book Challenge

Over half term we would like you all to rise to one (or both) of two challenges set by the Monkton Arts Gallery.

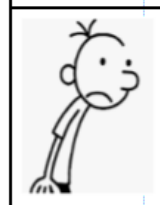
1. Write a short book review for a book you would recommend to other children in your class. Give a short overview of the story and possibly illustrate it.

2. Produce a picture/illustration from the best bit of a story you have read or have had read to you. This can be in the form of a painting, collage etc

Some entries will be displayed at the gallery or online. Prizes will also be awarded for best bits.

Entries must be submitted to class teachers on Monday 23rd February.

Good Luck



World Book Day

Thursday 5th March

This year there will be an Environmental Theme with children planning work around the book

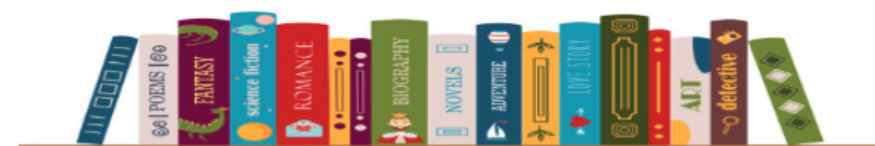
Island S.O.S

By Tim Walters

an Island based writer

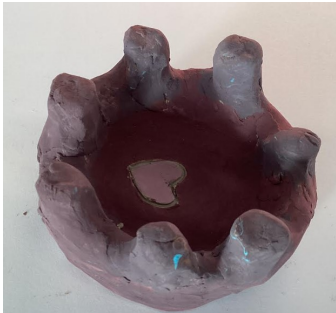
Come to school dressed as a favourite book character or wearing a costume with an environmental theme.

We can't wait to see you dressed up on March 5th.

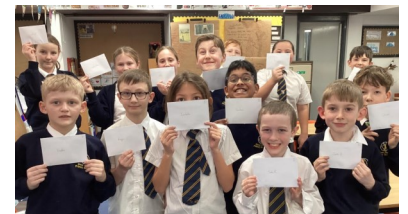


LEARNING

Year 6 have now completed their Mayan clay artefacts. They made good use of the skills taught in clay sculpture and applied them well to producing their final pieces. Well done Year 6.



This week, Year 5 have rounded off their half-termly units in style! In Geography, they took part in a lively formal debate, confidently challenging one another's views with thoughtful arguments. In Art, their self-portraits have truly come to life, and in Writing, they've loved sharing and listening to each other's wonderfully atmospheric pieces. We also celebrated pupils receiving their TTRS badges - a brilliant achievement and well deserved! A fantastic way to end the half term!



Year 4 had a great time on Monday when some of their parents came in for our DT workshop.



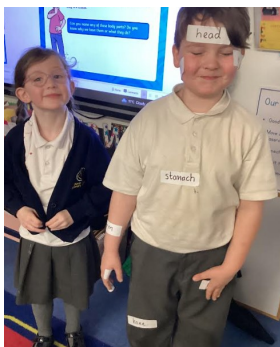
Year 3 have been enjoying the book 'The Kapok Tree'. The children used our creative skills to act out a conscience alley, where one side was against cutting down the tree, the other side was for cutting it down. The class had to try and convince the hunter (Ms.Gatcum) of their side of the argument, which they thoroughly enjoyed doing!



Year 2 have thoroughly enjoyed learning all about the lives, work and legacy of Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole. To round off our learning we placed the events of Florence Nightingale's life in chronological order.



Year 1 have been looking at the human body this week in Science. We started looking at the different body parts and 5 senses we have. The children were very good at labelling each other, working together to talk about the parts and their sense if they had them. Although the children know you feel things on your skin, when we talked about the sense of touch they were amazed the skin was one organ and they have a sense all over their bodies!



Reception have been very creative this week, making models using different materials and tools. They had to think about what material they wanted to use and how they were going to fix it together- what worked best- tape or glue.



Cloakroom Award

Hot Chocolate Friday

- Year 1— Nyomi
- Year 2— Phoebe
- Year 3— Autumn
- Year 4— Lisa
- Year 5— Morris
- Year 6— Alfie



Reader of the Week

- Year 1— Buddy
- Year 2— Raine
- Year 3— Hunter
- Year 4— Edie
- Year 5— Cecilia
- Year 6— Koban



13th February—Break Up for Half Term

23rd February—Children Return to School

23rd February—Breakfast Bonanza (breakfast for every child)

13th February — Year 2 Assembly

4th March —Year 6 Music Workshop

12th March —Year 2 DT Workshop

16th March — Year 4 Music Workshop

19th March —Year 5 Assembly (please note change of date)

20th March — Easter Egg donation — Dress Down Day

26th March — Year 1 Assembly

27th March —Easter Egg Tombola

27th March — Last day before Easter Break

13th April—Children return to school

4th May —Year 5 Music Workshop

14th May — Year 4 Assembly

20th May — Year 1 Music Workshop

21st May — School Disco

22nd May — Reception Music Workshop (please note change of date)

22nd May—Last day before May Half Term

1st June Children return to school

5th June — Year 3 Parent Workshop

19th June— Whole School Teddy Bear Picnic 12:15-1:00





Family Assist
Solent



Hampshire and
Isle of Wight Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

Helping to keep your child healthy

The Isle of Wight 0-19 Team is made up of Health Visitors, School Nurses, Community Nurses, Associate Practitioners and Administrators.

We use our skill mix team to ensure that all families are offered mandated health contacts for needs assessment, advice and support.

Please see Family Assist for additional support information.



If you have any questions or would like to speak to a Health Visitor or School Nurse, please ring the 0-19 duty desk on **0300 123 5224**





Isle of Wight SENDIASS Online Workshops

- Free impartial advice relating to SEND for 0-25 years.
- Confidential sessions not recorded.
- Peer support, talking to others experiencing a similar journey.
- A dedicated session with an experienced support worker

**6
JAN
13:00**

Considering an EHC Plan?

Independent and impartial information to guide you through the process

**7
JAN
12:00**

Responding to a draft EHCP

If you are in that critical time frame having received your draft

**8
JAN
17:30**

Appeals to SEND Tribunal

A step-by-step guide through the appeals process

**14
JAN
11:00**

Ordinarily Available Provision and SEN Support

Looking at support available for those who do not have an EHCP

**19
JAN
12:00**

Alternative Provision

What constitutes as a suitable education in relation to section 19 of the education act

**23
JAN
10:00**

Responding to a draft EHCP

If you are in that critical time frame having received your draft

www.iowsendiass.org.uk/workshops

Superbowl^{Ryde}

QUIDS IN



£1 PER GAME

PRE-BOOKED ONLY

**OFFER VALLID FOR JANUARY
2026
TUESDAY _ WEDNESDAY**

BOWLING AND LASER QUEST





**PLEASE
DON'T PARK**

**ON DOUBLE
YELLOW LINES**