



Headteacher: Mr Cheesman

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## Message from Mr Cheesman

Hello everyone!

We find ourselves once again at the end of another term – in fact, it is end of the year and the end of the decade! The children and staff at Dove Bank have been incredibly busy and are looking forward to the winter break.

What a half term it has been! We've had an alien invasion, a spook-tacular Halloween disco, a fantastic nativity and an awesome Djembe performance! We dressed in odd socks for Anti-bullying Week, came to school in our PJs for Children in Need and wore our Christmas jumpers on Christmas dinner day!

The newly-formed Friends of Dove Bank have had a busy half term! The Christmas Fair was an enormous success and wonderful evening all round. The festive atmosphere was enhanced by the Dove Bank School Choir, expertly led by Mrs Good. I would like to extend a huge thank you to all of the parents, carers and members of staff who gave up so much of their time to make it such a great event. The total raised for this year's Christmas Fair was an impressive\_\_\_\_\_.

I hope you all have a fun but restful Christmas break and a fantastic New Year. I look forward to seeing you all in 2020!

Warm regards

Mr J Cheesman





## Oak News



Oak Class have been enjoying finding out about our new topic, 'What happens when we fall asleep?' We have enjoyed learning about animals that come out at night and we know these animals are called Nocturnal animals. We made an information poster about Nocturnal animals. We wrote our own questions and used information books to find out the answers to our questions. We also enjoyed the story of 'The Owl Babies' where we made our own owls and we enjoyed acting out the story in the woods.

Oak class also investigated why it gets dark at night and we were very interested in the night sky. We know that there are planets out there and we can name some of them and describe how they look. We enjoyed painting our own space pictures. Then we wondered if there might be anything else in space apart from planets after reading 'The Aliens Are Coming'.



We had a visitor who left us letters asking questions about our planet. We wrote answers, built our own rocket and imagined we were walking on the moon.

Finally, just in case these visitors we not friendly, we did our scariest alien face and wrote captions for our pictures.





## Birch News

It started with a crash! What was that outside our window? Would Mr Cheesman mind if we went to investigate instead of doing maths?

Birch class investigated the evidence and wrote a report of what appeared to be an alien crash landing. When a baby alien was found at the site, Birch class agreed to look after it. This character became a key player in our Beegu story. Later the story develops as a letter comes telling us that a baby alien has been found in a supermarket car park. This prompted some letter writing and emailing resulting in the safe return of our baby alien much to the delight of the children!



Quite apart from our science fiction, we have also been learning facts about space. We know about the first men, women and animals in space. We used our research skills to find out about the different planets and their order from the sun.

We will never forget the fun we had making models with the help of our parents, grandparents and friends.

A final memory for this term was our Jingle Jog adventure! Who could have predicted the weather would turn on us so dramatically? After completing some of the healthy lifestyle challenges on the circuit round Hicks Lodge, the hailstorm lashed down on us soaking us to the skin. We all discovered that waterproof clothing is not as waterproof as we thought! After drying out over the weekend, we returned to school to write about our adventures! How many words can you think of to describe being wet through?!





## Pine News



During this half term, our topic has been Burps, Bottoms and Bile! Our topic started with an Inspiration Day, where we identified different teeth and their functions. This included making clay models of our own teeth.

We also set up an investigation into the effects of different liquids on tooth enamel, by immersing eggs, whose shells have similar properties to enamel, in different liquids. A week later, we were surprised to find that although the coffee and cola had stained the teeth very badly, the acid in the orange juice had corroded the eggshell and caused it to flake away.



Our topic continued with an investigation into the different jobs teeth do. We ate a range of food with different textures to see which teeth were better at chopping, tearing and grinding. Pine Class also observed a demonstration of the digestive system, which involved bananas, crackers, orange juice, plastic cups and a pair of tights!

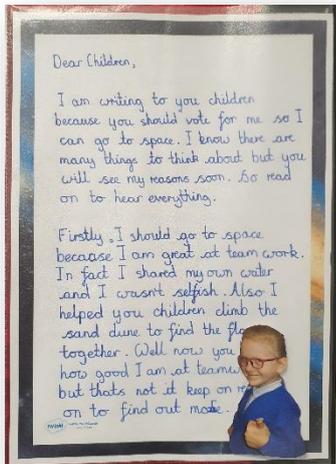
In English we used drama to act out the different parts of the digestive system which led to a non-chronological report. We concluded our topic by creating our own PowerPoints in pairs. The presentations, which included role-play, props and audience participation, demonstrated our learning. All in all it has been a very busy half term!





## Maple News

Maple class have had a busy half term, zooming off into outer space! We have read, 'Cosmic', by Frank Cottrell-Boyce, which is about Liam, an unusually tall 13 year old being mistaken for an adult - resulting in trip to the moon! We have explored Liam's character, thinking about him on the inside rather than solely his appearance. We particularly enjoyed drawing around one of the children in Maple class to create Liam's out-line for our working wall!



Writing as Liam, we have constructed 'online' social profiles, emails and lastly, formal persuasive letters – they were so effective; the recipients couldn't possibly refuse our request!

We have also been developing our, 'Proud Wall,' in the classroom; this is a display to show all the excellent work that Maples are producing. The children can choose which pieces of work they would like to display, which can be anything at all from X-factor to art to writing. The children are really excited about taking ownership of their space on display, the contents of which will change daily!

I am very proud of how hard all the children have worked throughout this really long term and I hope that they have both an enjoyable and restful holiday!

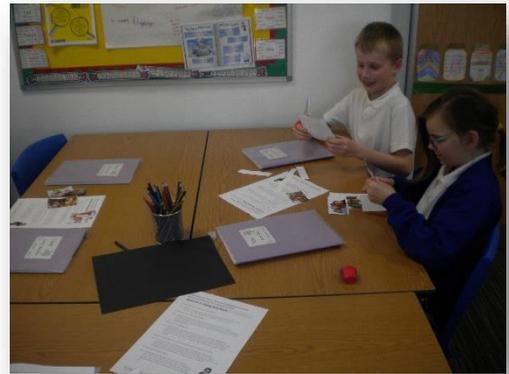




## Sycamore News

This half term, Sycamore have continued working really hard on their Maths and English, as well as their Stargazers space topic in the afternoons.

In our English lessons, the pupils have been studying the novel 'Cosmic', by Frank Cottrell-Boyce. The children have been so captivated by the story, and have wanted to find out how Liam managed to get into space and whether he managed to return back to earth - even asking to stop in at lunch to read another chapter!



From reading the story, the children have then gone on to produce some excellent work including descriptive passages, letters of persuasion as well as a final newspaper article based on the ending of the story.

In maths, Year 6 have been developing their understanding of fractions - now being able to add, subtract, multiply and divide them as well as spending the last week building on their knowledge of geometry with relation to position and direction.

During our afternoons, we have been continuing the space theme and have covered a wide range of science including looking at the solar system, day and night, seasons, the moon and forces. We have also spent time researching about the Apollo 11 mission as well as finding out all about Margaret Hamilton - who played a pivotal role in the Apollo mission.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and I wish both Sycamore and Maple children all the very best for 2020.





## Oak Nativity

The children in Oak treated everyone to a wonderful nativity performance. Mary and Joseph were joined by donkeys, sheep, shepherds, the three wise men and the angels as they welcomed baby Jesus. The children said their words clearly, sang beautifully and danced enthusiastically, much to the delight of their audience.



A huge thank you to those of you who came to watch the show – your support, as always, is very much appreciated. Thank you also to the staff in Oak Class for putting on such a delightful performance at this busy time of year.



## Staff Update

As you know, after more than ten years, Mrs Wallis will be leaving Dove Bank Primary School at the end of this term. I'm sure you will join me in thanking Mrs Wallis for her dedication to the school and in wishing her the very best of luck for the future. Mrs Price will be taking over the role of Y5/6 teacher from the start of next term. She is excited to become part of the Dove Bank team and I know she will be made to feel very welcome.

I am pleased to announce that Mrs Leeson will be taking on the role of interim SENCo for the rest of this academic year. Mrs Leeson already works as SENCo in two other schools and will be bringing with her a wealth of experience. She will be working on Fridays starting after Christmas.

Mrs Martin and Mrs Whittingham will be working as 1:1 support assistants in the new term.

Earlier in the half term, we welcomed Miss Roberts and Miss McLone to our team of midday supervisors. They have both settled in very well and we are delighted that they have joined us.

Finally, Mr Ball will be working as a student teacher in Birch Class for the duration of the Spring Term. The children met Mr Ball a few weeks ago and he is looking forward to working with us.



## Reminders

**Lateness:** Please ensure that your child arrives on time for the start of school. Learning in the classroom starts straight away with an early morning task so it is important your child is on time. Classroom doors are open at 8.45am and school begins at 8.55am. If your child arrives after registration has closed, you will be expected to sign them in and provide a reason for the lateness.

**Attendance:** Full attendance and punctuality at school is essential in ensuring your child gets the very best education they can. Please phone in on the first day of your child's absence and let the school office know the reason. You may be asked to bring in proof of medical / dental appointments.

**Parking:** It is very busy outside the school at the beginning and end of the school day. Please take care when parking around the school and respect our neighbours. Please do not park in the bus lane as this is for dropping off only.

**Contact Details:** Please can you ensure that all your up to date contact details are held by the school especially if you have changed address or phone number within the last few months.

**Uniform:** Please ensure all items of clothing worn in school are labelled with children's names as we have a large amount of lost property.

**Food Allergies:** Please remember that Dove Bank is a 'nut-free' school. This includes all types of nuts, as well as hazelnut-based sandwich spread (e.g. Nutella)

**Twitter:** Follow us for regular updates about what we get up to! Search @DoveBankPrimary

## Dates for Your Diary

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January:** School opens for Spring Term

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January:** Soldier Workshop topic launch (Birch & Oak Classes)

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January:** Swimming begins (Pine Class)

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January:** Author Visit – Andy Tooze

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February:** Safer Internet Day

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February:** Parents' Evening

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February:** Parents' Evening

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February:** FS / Y6 Heights & Weights

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> to Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February:** Half Term

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February:** Random Acts of Kindness Day

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March:** Y2 & Y6 SATs information evenings for parents

