



Headteacher: Mr Cheesman

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## Message from Mr Cheesman

Dear Parents & Carers,

We find ourselves at the end of a busy half term and one which has seen the return of all children to school following the latest lockdown. It has been a full year since the first lockdown back in March 2020, and what a journey we have been on!

I am looking forward to the summer term and seeing things hopefully begin to return to some sort of normality. The recent improvement in the weather certainly helps!

I am pleased to confirm that from the start of next term, all children will be able to order a hot dinner. We will be returning to the most recent menu options for the dinner itself; however, puddings will still be limited to biscuits, cake, yoghurts and ice creams for the time being. For parents of children in Year 3 and above, please pay for school meals in advance of a meal being ordered. Meals are £2.30. Ideally, parents and carers should upload a minimum of £10 to School Money to ensure the cost of meals is always covered.

Once again, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your amazing support for Dove Bank over the past 12 months. I hope you all have a lovely break - see you in two weeks!

Warmest regards  
Mr J Cheesman



## Oak News

It has been absolutely fantastic to welcome all the children back into Oak Class. The environment has been alive with happy smiles, lots of laughter and brilliant learning.



We have focused on “The Colour Monster” over the last few weeks. The children have really enjoyed exploring our emotions and have become confident at talking about how they feel. We have spent lots of time looking at how we cope when we feel certain emotions and this has had a huge impact in the classroom in the way that we are with our friends and when we find aspects of school life a bit tricky.

Welly Wednesday’s have been a huge hit with the children (and the grown-ups)! The children loved exploring the allotments and the woodland area. We looked at mini-beasts, the signs of spring and found Stick Man’s house! We collected sticks and Ms Earp taught us how to use potato peelers safely to take the bark off the stick. The children were very sensible and can now use potato peelers safely (under adult supervision) so they can carry on practicing at home by peeling the vegetables! We are very much looking forward to future Welly Wednesdays and possible having a campfire too- very exciting!



## Elm News

Elm Class have enjoyed exploring our topic 'Enchanted Woodland'. We enjoyed exploring and walking through woodland areas, looking closely at interesting parts of the woods and taking tree rubbings.



We made tree boggarts which are magical creatures that look after the woods. We used clay and natural materials which we collected from the woods.



We have also enjoyed reading Hansel and Gretel. We used adjectives to describe the character and the setting. We especially enjoyed describing the Witches house. We also enjoyed retelling the 'The Dark, Dark Tale.' It had a very surprising ending!

For British Science Week we explored the question 'Do pinecones know it's raining?' We collected pinecones. Then we looked closely at them and drew them. The pinecones were open and a bit prickly. We made predictions: '*No, because they don't have a brain or they are not alive.*' (Which were really good ideas); '*Yes, because they can feel.*' We left the pinecones outside and observed what happened when it rained. We noticed the pinecones had closed. We discovered that they close up when it rains and open when it is dry so they can disperse their seeds.



## Birch News

This term, our topic “The Scented Garden” has seen us outdoors as much as possible. We have planted seeds, beans and herbs. We have taken every opportunity to get creative too, drawing detailed pictures of our plants and flowers. We are truly amazed at the talent shown by our budding artists in Birch Class.

Our science work has had a focus on the five senses as we learnt about which parts of our bodies are needed for each sense. We experimented with tasting (blindfolded), feeling objects (with rubber gloves on), hearing (with woolly hats on), smelling (unusual essential oils) and seeing (a distant village across the fields). I think we all appreciate our senses all the more now.



The story of Jack and the Beanstalk has given us another excuse for outdoor learning. We discovered clues to the story in the woodland including a pair of welly boots up in the trees! After exploring the story further, we wrote adjectives on leaves to attach to the beanstalk. Later we thought about the speech in the story and attached leaves with speech on as well. We adapted the story, made a few changes and rewrote our own versions of the traditional tale.

We have also been enjoying the Easter story and thinking about the meaning of the symbols found in Mrs Heath’s Easter story box. The story provoked some deep soul-searching questions as well as some great amusement at the presence of the fluffy chick who snuck in uninvited!

Undoubtedly, the highlight of this term has been welcoming back the whole class into school. It is so good to see friendships rekindled and playground games reintroduced with all the complex rules that only the children understand!



## Pine News

This half term in Pine, we have been learning about 'Heroes and Villains'. We have read the text 101 Dalmatians and we have written a range of questions that we would like to ask Cruella De Vil, we even got to meet her!

Whilst learning about 'goodies and baddies, we created our own Super Hero and decided on a super power that it could have that was different to any other we had heard about before!



We enjoyed celebrating British Science Week being back together as a class, and we investigated how ice cream is made without using a freezer, then enjoyed it as our morning snack!

We made Dalmatian sock puppets out of old socks and split pin puppets to help us act out parts of our class book and then went on to decorated biscuits too.



## Maple News



This half term Maple Class have been enjoying the topic 'Blue Abyss'. The first half of the topic was part of our home learning then we continued when the children came back to school. The topic began with an Inspiration Day, where the children researched and created their own layers of the ocean diorama.

The topic continued with researching the world's oceans and looking at habitats of sea creatures and creating branching databases

of food chains of different sea creatures. We then looked at art involving sea creatures painted images and created clay sea creature models.

In English we have written our own narratives based on Pie Corbett's story 'The King of Fishes' and since the children have returned to school, we have written a biography of the inspiring adventurer, Jacques Cousteau. All in all it has been a fantastic topic and has been super to have all the children back into school.



## Sycamore News



This half term has flown past in Sycamore Class! Over the lockdown, the whole class has grown in both height and maturity and they have been busy demonstrating this through increased curiosity, patience, independence and perseverance with the continuation of our Wellbeing Wednesday activities.

As we approach the end of our class text (*Sky Hawk* by Gill Lewis) we are reflecting on all that we have learnt about evolution and the important role birds played in the development of Charles Darwin's research and theories. We have become DNA detectives as part of National Science Week and worked hard on working scientifically when investigating the cells of living organisms and the DNA which makes them.



We have excitedly awaited the return of local Leicestershire Osprey pair on the live osprey camera at Rutland and learnt all about these incredible birds, and the challenges that they face if they are to survive in a changing habitat. In English lessons, we have developed an appreciation for precise, unambiguous language and we will be concluding this unit of work this week with a flash protest against the threats to our local osprey population.



# Reminders

## Track and trace over Easter

*Please note* – the school office email will not be monitored regularly during half term. If you need to report a COVID-19 related issue, please use the following email address: [covid@dovebank.leics.sch.uk](mailto:covid@dovebank.leics.sch.uk).

It is very important that we continue to monitor COVID infections during the Easter break so that we can trace and inform any necessary close contacts of anyone with a confirmed positive case of the virus during the infectious period. To help us ensure that all contacts are traced please inform the school if your child becomes symptomatic until Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> April. This is so that we can trace any contacts who were potentially exposed to the virus during the infectious period when the children were still at school.

For the period after this, NHS Track and Trace will cover social contacts. If parents contact the school to inform of a positive case, it is vital to tell us when symptoms were first observed.

For any children who become symptomatic, I urge parents to sign them up for a test immediately. Testing capacity is strong locally and there is a high probability of a result in less than 24hrs.

**Face coverings:** Please remember to wear a face covering at all times when dropping off and collecting children from school. This includes whilst queuing outside the school gates.



## Dates for Your Diary

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April:** Start of Summer Term

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April:** Class photographs. Please note, photographs will be taken outdoors this year. If the weather is bad on the day, we will reschedule for later in the term.

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May:** Bank Holiday - school closed

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May:** Friends of Dove Bank clothing collection

**Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June:** Half term

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June:** Circus skills workshops

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July:** Last day of summer term

