



DENNINGTON C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

School Newsletter

2025 Autumn Term 1

Chaffinches

Chaffinches have had a wonderful start to their school journey this Autumn! They have settled beautifully into life at school, quickly learning new routines and rules, and showing kindness and understanding towards one another. It has been lovely to see their confidence grow as they make new friends and thrive in our classroom community.

In phonics, the children have been busy learning their Phase 2 sounds and the British Sign Language signs to go with them. Their enthusiasm has been fantastic, and they are already beginning to blend and segment sounds — a brilliant start to their reading journey!



In maths, Chaffinches have been getting to know the numbers 1, 2 and 3 inside out. They have practised subitising, counting, and representing numbers in different ways, as well as creating colourful patterns using shapes, colours and objects and even measuring!

The children have also been exploring Autumn, noticing how the world around them changes. They have collected leaves, conkers and pinecones, and talked about the weather and how nature prepares for winter. They have also enjoyed learning about our local area, thinking about familiar places in our community and the people who help us. In art, they were inspired by Jackson Pollock, experimenting with splatter painting and colour mixing to create some truly vibrant masterpieces!



We are so proud of how well Chaffinches have settled and how much they have achieved already. A big thank you to our parents and carers for your support in helping the children start school so happily. We wish you all a wonderful, restful half term break — well done, Chaffinches!

Robins

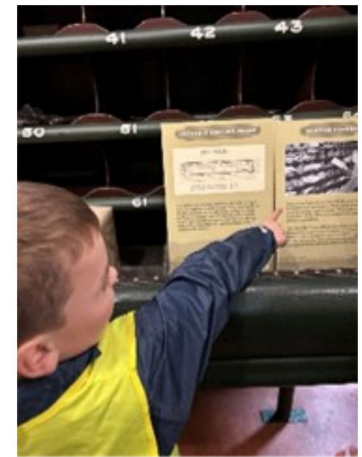
As we reach the end of this half term, we're excited to share some of the wonderful learning that has taken place in our classroom!

This half term, we've been exploring creativity and imagination through our writing. The children have loved working on their "NOT a BOX" stories, inspired by the idea that a simple box can become anything with a little imagination! From rocket ships to castles, their ideas have been fantastic, and their writing has really brought these adventures to life.



We've also been preparing to write postcards about our recent trip to Bressingham Steam Museum. The children had a brilliant time exploring the museum, riding the steam trains, and learning about transport from the past.

We're looking forward to capturing these memories in our writing next half term.



In Maths, we've been focusing on place value and developing our understanding of addition and subtraction. The children have been using a range of manipulatives such as base ten blocks, number lines, and counters to help them explore numbers and solve problems. It's been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they work both independently and collaboratively.

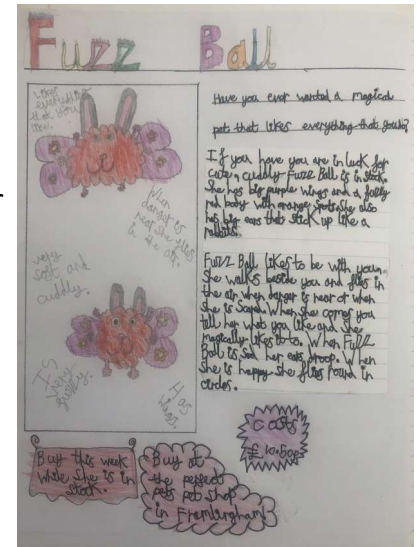
This half term in science, we've been learning all about the seasons and the weather. The children have explored how the seasons change throughout the year and what kinds of weather we might expect in each one. We've also discussed the different events and celebrations that take place in each season, such as fireworks in autumn and snow in winter. The children have enjoyed observing changes in the environment and sharing their own experiences of seasonal weather.

Have a wonderful half term!

Wrens

Wrens have had a lovely start to the school year. The year 3 children have settled into the routines of the classroom and the year 4 children have enjoyed taking on the role as classroom leaders helping with jobs to keep our classroom organised.

In English, we are using the book *The Barnabus Project* as a starting point for our writing. We came into school to find that our classroom had been turned into The Perfect Pets Laboratory and we created our own experiment to make our own perfect pet. Once we had created our pet, we needed to persuade people to come into the pet shop to buy our pet, so we created an advert. Handwriting has been a real focus this year and I am sure you will agree that the children have risen to the challenge!



Our history topic this term has been the Roman Empire. We have learnt about what life was like before the Romans invaded our country and then how life changed. During one lesson Boudica came to visit us and shared her story. We learnt what an inspirational leader she was as she tried to drive the Romans from our lands, and that her Iceni tribe lived not far from us.

The highlight of the topic was our class trip to Hands on Heritage in Tunstall Forest. We excavated a roman villa and found many artefacts buried beneath the ground including coins, broken pottery, animal bones and mosaic tiles called tesserae. Using the finds, we were able to work out what each room of the house would have been. We also made necklaces from pewter, wove a bracelet and whittled a butter knife!



Have a great half term break Wrens!

Swallows

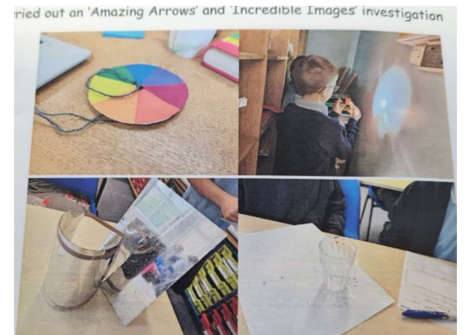
“Please Sir, I want some more”

We have been immersed in Victorian Britain this half-term, in Swallows! We have researched the life and times of Charles Dickens and written some beautiful mini-biographies. We had a great day at the workhouse at Gressenhall, becoming Victorian workhouse children for the day and solving the mystery of Who Stole the Candlesticks?! The children actually quite enjoyed the Victorian school lesson but I think we are all glad on the whole not to have lived in those hard times! They wrote formal reports as investigators into the crime.



In English, we started the term by reading Alfred Noyes's *The Highwayman*, a beautiful poem about love and loss and a highwayman's downfall. The children painted pictures inspired by this poem, as well as studying the language and meaning.

Year 6 completed “Bikeability”, where they have two days with specialist trainers to learn how to ride and handle their bikes safely, including on the roads. They all did extremely well and learned the theory and practise of road safety on bikes.



In Science the children have studied light and how it travels, the parts of the eye, reflection and refraction. They conducted investigations into colour and a fair test into how shadows change.

Year 6 went to “Crucial Crew”, an event run by The Rotary Club, with the Police and Fire Service, to find out more about some very practical life skills! They learned how to do CPR, fire safety, electricity safety, online safety and substance misuse. They also found out more about the work of the RNLI and caring for wildlife. It was a really interesting morning and they have followed up this learning, sharing what they learned with year 5s in their PSHE lessons.

Enjoy your break Swallows!



FRIENDS OF DENNINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL (FODS)

It's been fab to welcome new families to the school community this term. This year FODS hosted coffee mornings for new parents which were well attended and we hope served as a warm welcome to our school.

At our AGM last month, we were pleased to see some new members joining the FODS committee. Committee meetings for this term will be held on 7th November and 5th December 3.15-4.30pm at the school. As always, if you are interested in joining FODS, do please come and speak to one of us or pop along to a meeting.

We all very much enjoyed the Halloween disco and it was brilliant to see the creativity of our children as they entered their carved pumpkins, spooky bakes and wowed with their fancy dress outfits! FODS know how to throw a party and we hope everyone had a fab time!



Looking ahead to the next half of term, we can't wait to see the KS1 children in their nativity performances and will be pleased to serve hot drinks and festive treats on those performance nights as well as orchestrating our coloured hampers for the Christmas raffle (yes we have mentioned the C word in October!).

Congratulating our staff, parents and children on a successful first term of the school year and wishing you all a restful half term!

Forest School

The children have thoroughly enjoyed their time outside at forest school this term.

They have done lots of activities including collecting leaves and having a tidy up of the forest school area!



Dates For Your Diary

November

- Tuesday 4th—Wrens & Swallows cross country event, Brandeston Prep School
- Thursday 6th—No afterschool club due to staff training
- Thursday 6th—Attenborough house can wear own clothes
- Friday 7th—10-11am, stay & play session for prospective parents, book with the office
- Tuesday 11th—10-11am, stay & play session for prospective parents, book with the office
- Wednesday 12th—Swallows trip to TMHS to watch 'Grease' performance
- Monday 17th—No afterschool club due to staff training
- Monday 24th—No afterschool club due to staff training
- Thursday 27th—Chaffinches trip to the Museum of Norwich, details to follow

December

- Wednesday 10th & Thursday 11th —Nativity performances, details to follow
- Monday 15th—Christmas lunch with Christmas jumpers, details to follow
- Thursday 18th—Christingle Christmas Church service
- Friday 19th—non-pupil day

After School Club & Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is available 8am-8.45am from Monday to Friday @ £5.00 per session. The provision of juice, toast and cereal is included. **Please note that Breakfast Club does not run on the first day of any term and After School Club does not run on the last day of any term**

After School Club is available on Mondays, Tuesdays Thursdays and Fridays from 3.15-5.30pm. You can book a session from 3:15pm to 4:30pm for £5 or 3:15pm to 5:30pm for £8. This terms activities are;

Monday: Lego

Tuesday: Crafts

Wednesday: Multi Sports Club with Premier Education 3:15pm to 4:15pm. Must be booked and paid for with Premier Education. £5 per session.

Thursday: Games

Friday: Film Club

Booking is essential - Please use your Arbor account for bookings.

Enjoy your half term break!

