



# School Newsletter

Spring Term 1 2026

## Chaffinches

Chaffinches have had a wonderful start to spring term, working their way through the phase 3 digraphs. Amongst the varying activities they enjoy in these sessions, they have particularly enjoyed practising their letter formation on foil. There may even have been a cheeky trigraph!



They thoroughly enjoyed cosy reading day, working their way round the older children and enjoying books together. They got all cosy and snuggly in the classroom and enjoyed their hot chocolate with cream and marshmallows – a perfect day to cheer us up in this rainy time of year. On the subject of reading, (and writing!) Miss Jeni has continued to pop by every Thursday, providing the children with a special basket full of writing equipment for Writing Club and a special bag of book for Chatter-books. The children really look forward to Thursday and show such enthusiasm and creativity in these sessions.



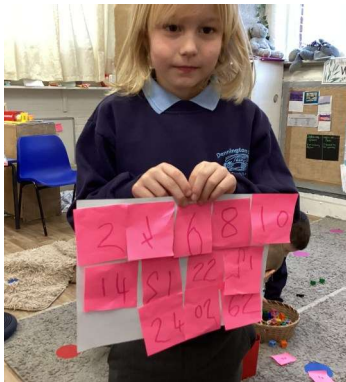
Spring has also been very farm themed for Chaffinches, with Tractors into Schools and a farm visit. A HUGE thank you to Sam Steward and your magnificent tractor, and to Ed and Jess Preston (and Penny, Nick and Ben!) for organising such a wonderful visit to see the lambs. We are extremely lucky to have such generous parents within our community and we very much appreciate you. Have a lovely half term!



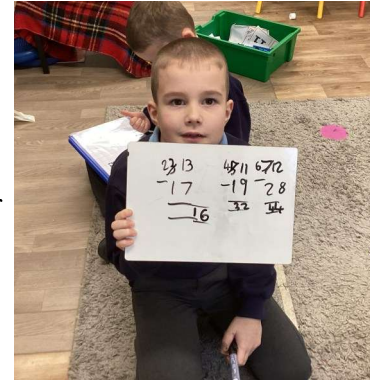
## Robins

It has been a busy and exciting half term in our classroom, and we would like to share some of the wonderful learning that has taken place.

In English, we have been reading *The Emperor's Egg*. The children really enjoyed learning about emperor penguins and discussing the story together. We used the text to inspire our own information leaflets, and the class worked hard to present facts clearly using headings, labels, and pictures.



In Maths, we have been focusing on addition and subtraction. The children have been practising different strategies to solve number problems and have also been working on missing number questions. It has been great to see their confidence growing when explaining how they found their answers.



In Geography, we explored maps of our school grounds. The children learned how to recognise key features and talk about different areas of the school environment. We also had thoughtful discussions about how we feel about our playground and what makes spaces enjoyable and safe.



In Science, we have been learning all about our senses. The class enjoyed investigating how we use sight, hearing, touch, taste, and smell to understand the world around us, and we carried out simple activities to explore each sense.

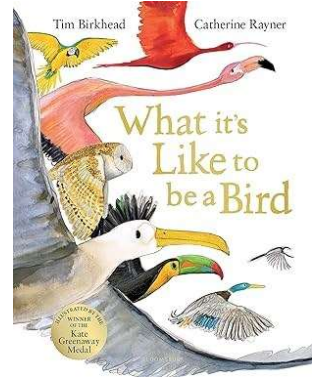
We all really enjoyed cosy reading day and had a lovely time sharing stories!

Thank you for your continued support this half term. We are very proud of all the children's hard work and enthusiasm!!



## Wrens

Our learning in English this term has been focused around the book *What It's Like To Be A Bird*. The beautiful illustrations really brought the experience of birds to life. Using this book as inspiration, we created collaborative poems and wrote a fact filled story about a barn owl. A highlight was writing a documentary script about the migration of swallows to South Africa. After researching the facts we wrote a documentary script, then created a PowerPoint with images that linked to the script. We enjoyed presenting our documentaries to Swallows



class who found them very informative!



We finished the topic with a bird count on the school field. We listened to different bird calls using a bird ID app and then tried to identify the songs we heard in the school grounds. We saw lots of birds including rooks and sparrows, and recorded the results in a pictogram.

Maths this term has all been about fractions. We have been identifying unit and non-unit fractions, counting in fractions and finding equivalent fractions. We found our fraction cubes very helpful when working out our answers.

In Science we have been investigating rocks and soils. After finding out what different types of rocks are called and how they are formed, we used magnifying glasses to see if we could find any fossils. We found cast fossils, mould fossils and coprolite – fossilised animal poo! We then re-



created how fossils are formed. We used toy creatures to represent dinosaurs and bread to represent the sand, mud and volcanic ash sediment that covered them which eventually formed sedimentary rock.

When investigating soils we conducted an experiment to record the drainage rate for clay, loam, chalk and sandy soils. We found out that different soils drain water at different speeds. Soils with bigger grains of sediment have bigger gaps so water drains through them faster. Our results showed that sand had the fastest drainage rate and clay was the slowest.



## Swallows



In Geography we have enjoyed learning about Europe and Norway in particular. The children produced some very impressive homework posters about Europe and



they are getting quick at identifying countries in Europe on a map. We watched a documentary called “Twins: A World Apart” which showed us about the lives of twins who had grown up one in America and one in Norway. This gave the children a good insight into the differences between the two countries – It seems that the Norwegian upbringing was thought by most of the children to be far superior! We had a debate in class, with speakers who had prepared their arguments for and against – some budding politicians in Swallows I think! We then used these skills to write a balanced



argument about the two countries. We have also learned about the beautiful city of Paris and created persuasive leaflets. There has been eager anticipation of the French Revolution lesson and debate over whether Marie Antoinette really said, “Let them eat cake”!

### **Our Trip to Sizewell Power Station**

We had a fantastic day exploring Sizewell Power Station, and we even got a special VIP trip to the training simulator! We built and tested circuits, investigated friction using chopsticks and jelly, and explored the exhibition to learn how electricity is generated and reaches our homes. We had an amazing day seeing ‘real-life’ science in action.



Next for Science, we’ll be diving into inheritance and evolution in our science lessons.

In RE, we have been learning about Hinduism. We explored key beliefs, traditions, and festivals, discovering what is important in the daily lives of Hindus and how their faith shapes their actions and choices. In Computing, we have been developing our spreadsheet skills. We have been learning to enter data, use formulas, and create charts to present information clearly and accurately.

Have a wonderful half term break!

## FRIENDS OF DENNINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL (FODS)

### February Update

Not quite sure how we are into February already and drawing to the close of another half term! It's been a quiet one for us on FODS as we recuperated after a busy end to last year, however we have some great new events planned for the upcoming months and can't wait to celebrate the longer, brighter days with you all as spring arrives!

So, a few dates for your diaries, this spring join us for a Spring fair on Friday 20th March 3.30-4pm where children will be selling seasonal crafts made during art and DT lessons in school. In addition we will be selling teas and coffees and asking for donations of cakes and bakes for us to sell so please get the date in your diaries now. Cake donations to be dropped into school by morning registration on Friday 20th please.

Of course next half term is the lead in to Easter and as part of the Easter Celebrations FODS would like to organise a Chocolate Tombola to send you all off on your Easter holiday with some chocolatey goodies. We are therefore asking for chocolate donations of any shape or size to be handed into the school office from the 9th March. The tombola will be held after the Easter Bonnet parade on Friday 27th March at the end of the school day. Tickets for the tombola will cost 50p so please send your children in on the day with some money to join in, or bring with you at pick up (we will of course send reminders nearer the time but just a heads up for now in case you wish to get those Easter bunny ears on early!) Thank you in advance for your donations.

We have some great ideas for adult crafting events in the pipeline for the summer term, details and dates to follow soon ... watch this space!

Wishing you all a (dry) and restful half term

Emma Keeble, on behalf of your FODS committee

### Forest School

The year fives have had great fun at Forest School this term, taking part in lots of fun activities making dens and preparations for next terms activities!



## Lunchtime clubs

The new lunchtime clubs are proving a big hit! Year 6 children have set these up and are running them very well! Chess Club- (Thursdays) KS2, Art Club- Fridays (Year 1-6), Singing Club Tuesdays (Year R-6). Bible Club (stories and craft) will be starting on a Friday lunchtime after half term.



## After School Club & Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is available 8am-8.45am from Monday to Friday @ £5.00 per session. 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:** Disco Club

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

## Enjoy your half term break!

