



DENNINGTON C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

School Newsletter

Autumn Term 1 2026

Welcome Back!

Welcome to all of our new families joining us this year and welcome back to all other families!

It was really lovely to have so many parents come to our "Join-In Sessions" this half term. We really appreciate the support of parents in this way and in the efforts you go to hear your children read and learn spellings - I know it's not always easy after school to get everything in! We are also very grateful to our volunteers - parents, grandparents and members of our community in Dennington who come in each week to listen to readers. Your commitment is much appreciated!

Obviously the big news from this first half term is Fort Dennington has arrived and has been much used and enjoyed by all! Thank you to all who came to the opening, a very happy event, and it was great to welcome back some of our old pupils who helped raised the funds and have now moved on to Thomas Mills! There has been some lovely imaginative and very active play on the fort. The children have been careful and kept to the rules on safety - it has been a good learning experience on risk and looking where your feet are treading, where you are standing and what you can do safely, which are good lessons to learn.



The Nest is coming on nicely and starting to be used well as a learning space with some fantastic resources for children with additional needs. When all the resources have arrived and been fully set up, we will have an opening event to celebrate all the effort and generosity that have made this resource possible.

*Could I please remind parents that children are NOT allowed to have mobile phones in school. If there is a reason parents in Swallows class want your child to have a phone for after school (if they are going to the park by themselves or something like that) then please let me know. The phone will need to be turned off and handed in to the office at the start of the day and collected at the end. Children are **not** permitted to use the phone in the school premises.*

Could I also take the opportunity to discourage parents from using mobiles on the school premises as well to set a good example!

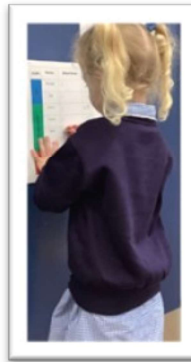
It's been a long half term but very enjoyable. Wishing you all a restful half term and we look forward to seeing you Monday 2nd November!

Mrs Rushbrook
Head of School



Chaffinches

Well, it's like we have never been without our new Chaffinches as they have settled in so well! They have been working hard to get used to life at Dennington School, practising their daily routines like putting away their water bottles, book bags and coats in the mornings. They have also taken great joy in using their visual timetable each day to see what they will be getting up to and collecting house points.



We have also seen the return of our beloved Miss Jeni. She comes (voluntarily!) every Thursday and brings with her a wealth of knowledge gained through decades in education. The children thoroughly look forward to story acting and the famous basket full of special pens, stickers and handmade booklets to help the children capture their imaginations.

Robins

Robins have settled into year 1 well, taking everything in their stride. They have enjoyed lots of hands-on maths sessions and have been excited to write in their new White Rose maths booklets. They, too, have enjoyed Miss Jeni's company, getting the experience the basket in all its glory, Chatterbooks AND a session filled with story acting and bookmaking – they are very lucky!



They have really enjoyed getting stuck into life at Framlingham Castle with Lapwings, visiting together and learning all about how it was besieged in the 1200s. They have had fun creating their very own information booklets and a newspaper article reporting the attack.

Thank you for all your support from home this half term, it has helped the children have a smooth transition into the school year.

We hope you have a fabulous half term!

Wrens and Lapwings

What a busy and exciting half term it has been for both Wrens and Lapwings! The children have worked incredibly hard and packed in so much fantastic learning.

In Maths, both classes have been mastering the foundations of number by focusing closely on Place Value. This included making numbers using base 10 and place value counters, ordered them and rounded them.

In English, Wrens children have been diving into the adventurous pages of *Pugs of the Frozen North*. Inspired by the story, our young authors produced some wonderfully exciting diary entries, stepping right into the shoes of the characters!

In RE, all the children explored the inspiring Sikh principle of equality—learning how Sikhs treat everybody as equals. To bring this to life, we looked at the tradition of the Langar kitchen. The children even created their very own Langar kitchen right here in school, preparing delicious food and sharing it together as a class community.



Lapwings travelled back to medieval times in history, when they discovered the fascinating features of a castle. To bring their learning to life, they went on a fantastic school trip to Framlingham Castle! The children had a brilliant time exploring the grounds and identifying all the real-life castle features they had been learning about in the classroom.

Meanwhile, Wrens took a journey even further back in time with a trip to the recreated Anglo-Saxon village in West Stow. The children got to examine real artefacts discovered on the site and then explored the historic houses—imagining exactly what everyday life would have been like for an Anglo-Saxon family.



Wishing you a restful half term break!

Swallows

The children in Year 5 and 6 have settled into being “Swallows Class” really well. They have entered into the WW2 history topic with great enthusiasm and a desire to understand what life was like then. We have learned about the causes and key dates of the war, the experiences of evacuees and the Blitz, so far. To write our diary entries for the Blitz we crawled under the tables in the dark with our little candles and had the air raid siren sounding in our ears for what seemed like forever!



We had a great trip to Parham Air Field Museum, which they very kindly opened just for us! The children were really interested in all the guides had to tell us and they saw so many WW2 artefacts from when the American soldiers were stationed there during the war. We found out about “Churchill’s Secret Army” and went into an underground bunker that they would have slept in. It was a fantastic trip.



In English we started the term by reading “Macavity”, which we really enjoyed. We made Wanted posters listing all the cat’s crimes! Now we are reading “Goodnight Mister Tom” which has formed the basis for some of our writing as well. The children have done very well at exploring the characters’ personalities and motivations.

I have been very pleased that the vast majority of children are being organised and efficient with their homework. They are all welcome to stay for homework club on a Tuesday after school!

Year 6 children completed “Bikeability” course, over two days with instructors, to prepare them for using their bikes on the road safely and independently.

Have a lovely half term!



Forest School

We have been watching the season change from summer to autumn, cutting firewood, making dens and whittling



Crucial Crew

Yr 6 attended Crucial crew where we learnt all about keeping ourselves safe.

We talked and learnt about fire safety, electricity safety, life saving skills in the water, CPR compressions, online awareness , looking after our environment and wildlife and drug and drink awareness



Football

What a great football tournament with all children playing with great enthusiasm and team spirit.

We came 6th out of 15 schools!

Well done team!!



School Council



The new school council has now been elected! There is a representative from each year group.

Their first points of action will be helping with selling the poppy appeal merchandise for Remembrance Day and then collecting and counting the money for Children in Need.

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 each full term and After School Club does not run on the last day of each full 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 term's activities are;

- ⇒ **Monday:** Lego
- ⇒ **Tuesday:** Board games
- ⇒ **Wednesday:** Multi Sports Club with Premier Education 3:15pm to 4:15pm. Must be booked and paid for with Premier Education. £6.75 per session.
- ⇒ **Thursday:** Games
- ⇒ **Friday:** Film club



Reminders

- ⇒ School photos tickets were sent home in bags –please retrieve them before they get lost!
- ⇒ Please make sure the following items are in school *every day*;
 - Water bottles
 - Coat
 - PE kits
 - Chaffinches/Robins/Lapwings—wellies
 - Wrens/Swallows—trainers, boots or wellies (in addition to PE trainers)
- ⇒ Request for absence forms should be filled out for all term time absences excluding medical appointment. Forms can be collected from the office.
- ⇒ Please book breakfast clubs and afterschool clubs in advance using the Arbor app or website.
- ⇒ If you book your child into afterschool club after 12pm, please call/email the office so we can let them know.
- ⇒ Arbor accounts are not permitted to go over **-£20** unless you use the tax free childcare scheme and have confirmed this with the office. Arbor account reminders will be sent if your account goes over **-£15** (because we know you're busy and it's not always at the top of your list!)

Dates for your Diary

November

- * Monday 2nd—Back to school
- * Tuesday 3rd - Wrens/Swallows Cross Country, see email, *no homework club*
- * Thursday 5th—Bonfire Night theme menu day, see email
- * Friday 6th - Swallows swimming starts again
- * Tuesday 10th—Swallows WWII Evacuee Day, see email
- * Thursday 12th - Children in Need, non-uniform day - spots/fluffy, £1 donation
- * Thursday 12th—Children in Need, theme menu, see email
- * Thursday 12th - 4-6pm, Open evening for prospective Reception 2027
- * Friday 13th - KS2 Tag rugby, details to follow
- * Thursday 19th - Church assembly (school only)
- * Friday 20th - 10-11am, Prospective Reception Stay & Play session
- * Monday 23rd to Friday 27th - Swallows Hilltop residential trip

December

- * Friday 4th - 6-8pm, FoDS Festive Wreath making, details to follow
- * Monday 7th - 9-10am, 'Join-in morning' for Swallows
- * Tuesday 8th - 9-10am, 'Join-in morning' for Wrens
- * Tuesday 8th - PM, Years R to 2, Nativity performance, details to follow
- * Wednesday 9th - 9-10am, 'Join-in morning' for Robins & Lapwings
- * Thursday 10th - 9-10am, 'Join-in morning' for Chaffinches
- * Thursday 10th - PM, Years R to 2, Nativity performance, details to follow
- * Friday 11th - Swallows *no* swimming
- * Tuesday 15th - Christmas lunch and jumpers, details to follow
- * Tuesday 8th - *Swallows no homework club*
- * Thursday 17th - 9am, Christmas Christingle church service, all welcome
- * Thursday 17th - Class Christmas parties, details to follow
- * Friday 18th - PD day

Enjoy your half term break!!

