Outlook

Newsletter 12.02.26

From Ditchling - Office <office@ditchlingsch.co.uk>
Date Thu 12/02/2026 4:45 PM





'Living life in all its fullness' John 10:10

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy and successful term it has been!

As we reach the end of another packed half term our trips to Plumpton have provided fantastic learning opportunities, and we are incredibly proud of all the students who have represented the school at various sporting events and finals. Their determination, teamwork and sportsmanship have been a credit to us all.

Reception had a fantastic visit to Paradise Park, which was a wonderful experience for our youngest learners. We were also incredibly proud of them for delivering their very first assembly to the whole school. What an

entertaining and confident performance it was!

Year 6 enjoyed watching a Downlands performance, where they were delighted to see some of our former pupils shining on stage. It is always so special to see our previous students thriving and to remind our current children of the exciting journeys ahead of them.

This week, we were pleased to welcome our School Improvement Partner Dr Justin Smith, who visited to evaluate the progress we are making. It was a valuable and positive visit, recognising the continued hard work taking place across the school. We are blessed with a fantastic team of teachers and support staff who work tirelessly for our children every single day. I am sure you will join me in wishing them a well-deserved and restful half term break.

Thank you to all of you for your ongoing support, whether attending trips, church, assemblies, or school events. Your involvement makes such a difference and strengthens our school community.

We are sad to share that Miss Watkins will be leaving us after half term for personal reasons. We would like to publicly thank her for her wonderful contributions to our school and the positive impact she has made during her time with us. At the same time, we are delighted to confirm that Mrs Mandy will be remaining with us, and we formally welcome her as part of the Ditching team.

Have a wonderful half-term break. Let us hope we are greeted with some sunshine when we return. We look forward to welcoming you all back for the spring term.

Best wishes,

Mrs Amy Clarke

Headteacher



Whole School Attendance: 95.3%

ATTENDANCE SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to: **1 Wagtails**

For achieving the best attendance this year.



Important Dates

- INSET day - Friday 13th Feb
- Half term - Mon 16th - Fri 20th Feb
- World Book Day - Thurs 5th March
- Class group photos - Weds 11th March
- INSET day - Fri 27th March

Please find the term dates here:

https://ditchlingprimary.co.uk/school-life/diary-dates/

BAG2SCHOOL COLLECTION

RECYCLE

unwanted items to raise money for Ditchling School FPTA



CLOTHES, PAIRED SHOES, HATS, BELTS, TIES, JEWELLERY, SOCKS, HANDBAGS, SOFT TOYS, BEDDING*, CURTAINS, TOWELS

TUES 24 FEB 2026

Leave in bin bags against nursery fence at drop off



Scan to find out what we can and cannot accept

*NO PILLOWS, CUSHIONS OR DUVETS PLEASE

Safeguarding



SEND

You Are Not Alone - Free Online Parent Drop-In

Parenting an autistic child can feel amazing, confusing, and overwhelming, sometimes all in the same day. That's why we host our no-cost monthly online drop-in sessions for parents and carers.

First Tuesday of every month 7pm - 8.30pm

Platform: Zoom

What these sessions are all about

We've created a safe, non-judgemental space where parents can bring their questions, share worries and connect with others who 'get it'.

Topics often included:

- Understanding and responding to challenging behaviour
- Making sense of autism on a deeper level
- The ups and downs of family relationships and dynamics
- Working with schools and professionals
- Meeting like-minded parents and realising you are not alone

What we would like parents to take away:

- Feeling heard, appreciated, and understood
- Knowing they are seen as the experts on their own child and family
- Feeling hopeful and having gained practical ideas

Who runs the sessions?

The drop-ins are run by Erik Wagter (Social Worker) and Sally Wagter (Teacher) both with 20+ years of lived experience being the parent of an autistic child.

These sessions are a chance for parents to talk openly, learn, and connect. They don't have to do this on their own.

Parents can now request the Zoom link on our website's home page.

Together we can make sure parents know they are not alone.

Autism Family Support Service

You Are Not Alone

www.autismfamilysupportservice.com

www.youarenotalone.community

News Crew

Paradise Park Trip

On Monday, Reception had a wonderful trip to Paradise Park in Newhaven. The children were very excited to explore the dinosaur exhibit, where they saw a range of impressive prehistoric creatures and enjoyed spotting their favourites. The life-sized dinosaurs sparked lots of curiosity and conversation!

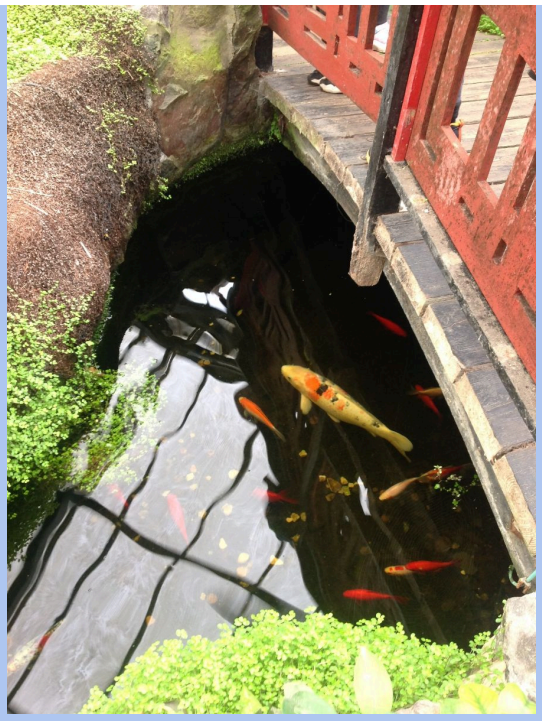
Another highlight of the day was riding on the train around the park, which caused plenty of smiles and waves along the way.

The children behaved beautifully and were a real credit to the school. It was a fantastic day full of adventure and learning.


ORNITHO
Primary









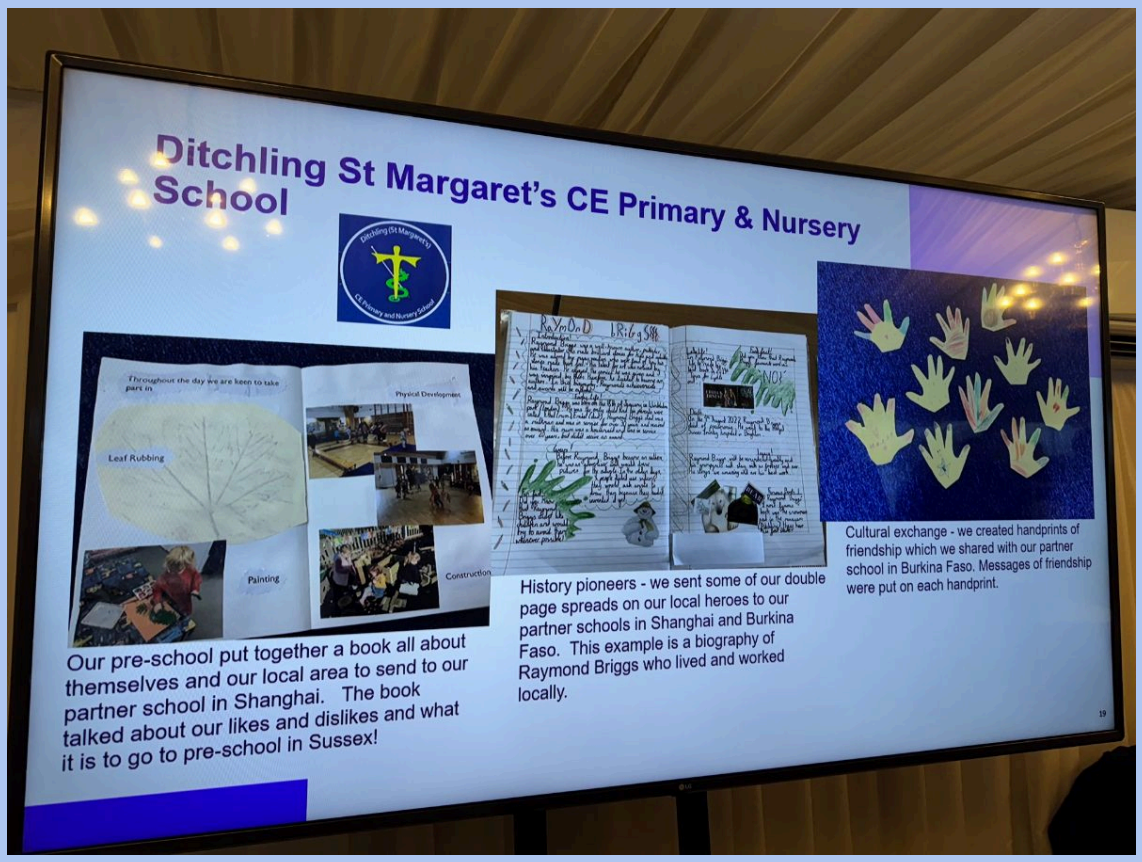
International Schools Award

Last week, I had the pleasure of going to the Houses of Parliament to receive our International Schools Award which we all worked so hard to achieve last summer. I met with a number of other successful schools and got a lot of ideas for activities that we can do to make sure we retain our award in 2028. It was good to talk to some MPs who are thrilled that schools are working hard to increase global awareness and understanding. The Houses of Parliament were stunning - an incredible medieval style hall, with elaborate decoration the further you head into the building - and depending upon where you stand, the seats are either red or green, depending upon whether they are leading towards the House of Lords (red), or the House of Commons (green)!

Mrs Ruth Knowles

Year 6 Class Teacher





Charity Cake Sale

Last night at Parents' Evening, Year 6 held a fantastic Charity Cake Sale, organised by Amalie and Ela. Thanks to their hard work and dedication, the children raised over £200 for local homeless charities.

We are incredibly proud of Amalie and Ela for arranging the event and would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who baked, donated,

or bought treats. The sale was a real team effort, and the generosity of our school community made it a wonderful success!





Year 5 Plumpton Farm Visit

Yesterday, Year 5 enjoyed a morning visit to Plumpton College as part of our Fields of Knowledge programme. The children were taken on a tour of the college farm, where they saw a wide variety of animals including sheep, llamas and goats.

During the visit, the children also learned about pollinators and the important role they play in food production and farming, building on their science learning in school. The hands-on experiences helped bring their classroom work to life and deepened their understanding of how farms support the wider environment.

Year 5 were a credit to the school, showing curiosity and enthusiasm throughout the morning, and the trip provided a memorable and educational experience for everyone.


Station 3
Match the labels to each part of a plant
I am a stem. What do I do?
I help my plant up and make sure every cell gets food and water.
I am a seed. What do I do?
I grow into new plants and I can be spread by the wind or animals
I am a flower. What do I do?
I make the seeds and I am beautiful so attract many insects
I am a leaf. What do I do?
I allow sunlight to shine on my plant
I am the root. What do I do?
I anchor my plant in the ground and absorb water and minerals from the soil


I am a hoverfly. Am I a pollinator?



Brilliant Block Builders

This week at Kudize Breakfast Club, the children worked together to build an absolutely magnificent tower, and a bench from blocks. Their teamwork, creativity and determination were fantastic to see.

So many teachers stopped to admire their impressive creation that we promised we would share a photo with parents and carers. We are very proud of our brilliant builders!


EXIT



Sporting Champions of Ditchling

Finn in year-1 has been enjoying playing football for Plumpton U6's with lots of his friends (and classmates!) and trying hard to practice and improve each week, so was very proud to be chosen and awarded Player of the Day recently.



Tilly, Florence, Frankie and Rosalie played at a hockey tournament recently. Tilly and Rosalie play for Mid Sussex and Florence and Frankie for Burgess Hill.


ikon

Forest School Fun

Year 1 - During the first part of the day, year 1 learnt about fire safety and how to heat water on a fire. Delicious hot chocolate was made for everyone and it was a perfect pick-me-up for the chilly weather. We then had fun in the forest school area – playing and making pretend fires for our woodland teddies, ‘baking’ lots of mud cakes, and fashioning magic fairy wands.

Year 6 - The muddiest yet! After weeks of rain, the forest school area is a tad like a quagmire but nevertheless Year 6 rose to the challenge and made the most of the sludgy conditions! They let their creative minds flow with whittling, weaving, clay and pom poms and we had a lot of games and laughter throughout the day too. A special mention to those children who volunteered and worked hard shoveling wood chip – thank you, it is much appreciated!

Mrs Cole - Forest School Lead













Notice Board



Spring Bulb Show – Children's Classes (Half-Term Activity)

Children are warmly invited to take part in the Ditchling Horticultural Society Spring Bulb Show 2-4pm on Sunday 22 March at Ditchling Village Hall. Over half term, pupils can prepare an entry for the following children's classes:

For children aged 6 and under:

• A pot of tête-à-tête narcissi bulbs, grown by the child

• An edible farm animal (decorative items such as cocktail sticks may be used)

For children aged 7–11:

• A pot of tête-à-tête narcissi bulbs, grown by the child

• A painted stone

All entries will be displayed at the show, giving children a chance to showcase their creativity and gardening skills.

DITCHLING
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY EST 1822

SPRING
BULB SHOW 2026



SUNDAY
22ND MARCH

DITCHLING VILLAGE HALL

2-4PM

MORE INFO AT
DITCHLING HORTSOC.CO.UK



Limited time, but keen to support your local community?

Secretary needed for Board of Trustees 1st Ditchling Scouts

Commitment:

4 meetings per year, approx. 8 hours in total

If interested please contact: glv@1stditchlingscouts.co.uk

Or scan QR code for further information

If your child would like to join Scouts, by taking on this role they will automatically get a place.

Scouts


Save the date:
Village Chase 3rd May
+
Sports Day 4th May
All welcome.
more info to follow..

Burgess Hill Girls School Holiday Camp (Burgess Hill)

Pied Piper Activities

holiday camps at Burgess Hill Girls School

Embark on an exciting journey with Pied Piper multi-activity camps, the ultimate experience for children aged 4 to 12 during their Easter and Summer holidays!

Providing fantastic OFSTED registered childcare with over 60 different activities for children to take part in, you will have complete peace of mind knowing that your children are not only having a great time but are safe and cared for too.

Our camps are safe, friendly, and secure, ensuring your child's adventure unfolds in a nurturing environment. Our handpicked staff are carefully selected for their fun-loving, caring, enthusiastic and committed nature and their ability to deliver the Pied Piper difference throughout your child's week at camp.

Join Pied Piper at Burgess Hill Girls School, where joy knows no bounds, and every moment is a chance to create wonderful childhood memories that last a lifetime!



BOOK NOW ONLINE

Scan me to book!

PIED PIPER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Creating wonderful childhood memories...

Contact us:

E: teamyellow@piedpiperactivities.co.uk

W: piedpiperactivities.co.uk

Follow us on:

@PiedPiperActivitiesLtd

piedpiperactivities

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

JUNIOR BAKE OFF

WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK

AGED BETWEEN 9-15 AND WANT TO GIVE YOUR BAKING SKILLS A GO?

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!



LAST CHANCE TO APPLY 15TH MARCH 2026

Instagram Website

Website:	Contact:	Email:

www.ditchlingprimary.co.uk | 01273 844130 | office@ditchlingsch.co.uk

