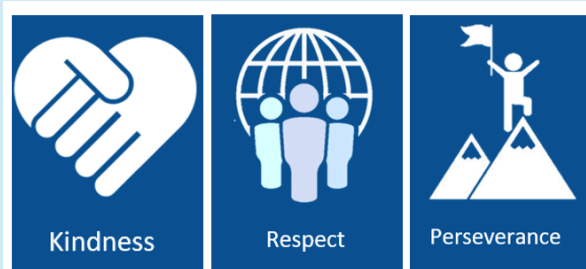




Newsletter 06.03.26

From Ditchling - Office <office@ditchlingsch.co.uk>

Date Fri 06/03/2026 4:42 PM



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

Dear Parents and Carers,

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

It has been a wonderful and inspiring time at school as we have been celebrating the amazing world of reading together. It's a lovely reminder of how powerful reading can be and how it opens up new ideas, imagination and opportunities for our children.

World Book Day was a real highlight. The school was full of excitement and it was brilliant to see the enthusiasm from everyone involved. The children took part in dance workshops inspired by Pinocchio, and during

assembly Mr D shared passages from Matilda, bringing the story to life together. There was a fantastic buzz around books and stories throughout the day and it was great to see so many children making such a big effort to celebrate reading and dressing up (including staff).

A special thank you to Mrs Game and Mr D for their passionate planning and for creating such engaging opportunities to encourage a love of reading across the school. I would also like to thank our Year 6 librarians who organised a book sale. It was a great initiative and another lovely way of sharing books with others.

Year 1 had a fantastic trip to the Herstmonceux Science Centre where they explored science through lots of hands-on activities. Year 6 also had a brilliant opportunity to take part in the Hurst Book Awards. It was a fantastic experience for the children to meet some of the authors and talk about the books they had been reading.

We are all very passionate about books here at Ditchling and I always enjoy hearing about what others are reading too. With International Women's Day coming up, one of my current reads is *The Women* by Kristin Hannah which I would highly recommend. If you are interested in leadership from a slightly different perspective, *Legacy* by James Kerr is another really interesting book.



If you have any book recommendations that you think I should add to my reading list, I would love to hear them.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support in encouraging reading at home.

Best wishes,

Mrs Amy Clarke

Headteacher



Whole School Attendance: 95.2%

ATTENDANCE SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to: **1 Wagtails**

For achieving the best attendance this year.



Important Dates

- Class group photos - Weds 11th March
 - Spring Disco - Thurs 19th March
 - INSET day - Fri 27th March

Please find the term dates here:

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

Safeguarding



Our wrap-around care, run by **Kudize Club**, provides a safe, welcoming space for children before and after the school day. **Breakfast Club** runs from **7:30am–8:45am**, where children can enjoy a healthy breakfast and take part in games, crafts and other activities before heading to class.

After School Club runs **Monday–Friday from 3:15pm**, with sessions available until **4:30pm or 5:30pm**. Children are provided with a snack and can enjoy a variety of indoor and outdoor activities in a relaxed, friendly environment. In addition, **holiday club provision** is available during school holidays at The Windmills Junior School in Hassocks, offering a fun and active environment for primary-aged children.

Alongside wrap-around care, we also offer **a wide range of school clubs**, giving children plenty of opportunities to try new activities and spend time with friends beyond the classroom.

For more information or to book sessions, please visit the wrap-around care page on our website.

SEND

If you have a concern that is impacting your family life – such as parenting, SEND, mental health, debt, and more. We're here to help you find the right place to get support. Call the Family Advice Line on 01323 464655 Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5pm or Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm.

Visit [Family Hubs Advice Line](#)

Did you know there's a **FREE** Family Advice Line?

If you have a concern that is impacting your family life – such as parenting, SEND, mental health, debt, and more – we're here to help you find the right place to get support. Call the Family Advice Line on

01323 464655

Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5pm
or Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm

Or visit

[familyhubs.eastsussex.gov.uk/
AdviceLine](http://familyhubs.eastsussex.gov.uk/AdviceLine)



UK Government



News Crew

World Book Day

Yesterday we had a fantastic time celebrating World Book Day at school. The children arrived in a wonderful range of creative costumes inspired

by their favourite book characters, and it was lovely to see so many imaginative outfits across the school.

One of the highlights of the day was our Masked Reader challenge. Children submitted mystery reading videos and everyone had great fun trying to guess who was behind each mask.

Even our Languages Club joined in the celebrations before school, reading foreign language books together in the sunshine. We were also delighted to receive a photo from home of an amazing book den built especially for World Book Day.

To continue the celebration of reading, children will be bringing home their World Book Day book voucher today, which can be used to choose a free book or put towards the cost of another book at participating retailers.





Dance Workshop

As part of our Literacy Week celebrations, we were delighted to welcome back West End in Schools to work with our pupils. The team delivered a series of exciting Pinocchio-themed dance workshops, bringing the well-loved story to life through movement and creativity.

Each class learnt a different dance inspired by Pinocchio, working with the visiting instructor to practise their routines and develop their

performance skills. The children showed great enthusiasm and confidence as they learnt the choreography.

At the end of the day, everyone came together to perform their dances to the rest of the school, creating a wonderful showcase of the hard work and energy from each class. It was a fantastic way to celebrate Literacy Week and explore storytelling in a creative and active way.



Year 5 Hurst Performing Arts Day

Last week, Year 5 had an exciting day trip to Hurst College for a performing arts day. The children enjoyed trying lots of different activities and showing their creativity.

The day began with an energetic street dance session where everyone

learned new moves and danced together. Next, they took part in a singing activity, warming up their voices and learning a song as a group. After that, the children joined a drama activity using pool noodles as props to help act out different scenes and build confidence when performing. The day finished with a contemporary dance workshop, where the children explored flowing movements and expressed themselves through music.

The children worked well together, tried their best, and had lots of fun learning new performing arts skills.



Year 1 Herstmonceux Trip

On Tuesday this week, our Year 1 pupils enjoyed an exciting trip to Herstmonceux Science Centre. The visit gave the children a wonderful

opportunity to explore science through hands-on exhibits and interactive activities.

Throughout the day, the children experimented with a variety of displays that helped them learn more about forces, light and how things work. They particularly enjoyed exploring the outdoor science exhibits and taking part in activities that encouraged them to investigate and ask questions.

It was a fantastic day of discovery and curiosity, and the children represented the school beautifully with their enthusiasm and excellent behaviour. We would like to thank the parent helpers who made this trip possible.

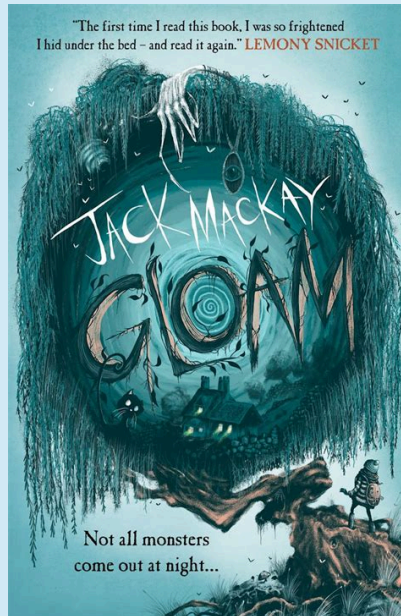






Hurst Book Awards

A group of year 6 students went to Hurst College for the next instalment of the Hurst Book Awards. They got to meet the author of Gloam, Jack Mackay and took part in workshops to build their illustration skills and writing skills. The awards conclude in May, at which point pieces of writing and illustrations may be included in a soon to be written book!



Hedgehog Visit

We were delighted to welcome Graham from St Francis Animal Care to school last week, who brought along some very special visitors – his rescue hedgehogs.

Each class had the opportunity to meet the hedgehogs and learn more about these fascinating animals. The children enjoyed seeing them up close, gently touching their prickles, and asking Graham lots of thoughtful questions about how hedgehogs live and how they are cared for when they are rescued.

It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to learn about animal welfare and how we can help protect wildlife, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



Mental Health Week Collective Worship

Last week, Miss Hemes and Miss Hemingway, our Mental Health First Aiders, led a collective worship with the theme "This is my place". The session focused on belonging, helping the children to think about how we include others and how everyone should feel that they have a place within our school community.

Alongside this, they organised a creative art activity around the quiet area. Children worked in pairs to draw each other's faces on opposite sides of clear plastic using special paint pens. The idea was to explore how we see one another and to celebrate the uniqueness of every member of our community.

The finished artwork created a colourful and thoughtful display, reminding us all about the importance of kindness, inclusion and making sure everyone feels they belong.





Year 4 Poem

Such fun with our friends around us
Cool to learn together
Helping hands everywhere
Out of this world teachers
Our excellence shines in everyway
Learning together as a community

Year 4 worked together to create our own poem all about our school!

Sporting Champions of Ditchling

Layla wanted to share that she achieved Explore Core skills level 3, which is recognised by British Gymnastics.



Benjamin has been selected for the Sussex Schools boys U11s team. Chosen from around 300 boys, after two rounds of trials, for the final squad of 16 - he is very proud and excited to be representing the County!



Forest School Fun

Year 2 - It was a fun packed day making dens for our woodlands soft toys, playing in the new 'natural mud pond', and then having cups of warming hot chocolate around the fire.

We also enjoyed all the new and wonderfully aromatic woodchip on our forest school floor – huge thanks to parent Jonnie Setterfield for this very kind donation!!

Year 4 - Such a wet and wintery day but Year 4 were amazing at keeping their spirits high. We had fantastic fun with a den/shelter building challenge – with various points criteria (including the water test,

earthquake test and cosy test)! Not only that but all teams were phenomenal at showing an incredible amount of cooperation, kindness, ingenuity and perseverance. Bravo Year 4!

Mrs Cole - Forest School Lead





Notice Board



**SUPER
STITCHES
EASTER HOLIDAYS
CRAFT CLUB**

Monday 30th March • 10-1pm
Bring a packed lunch

**This is a stand alone session where
your child can create a craft item
to bring home for Easter**

- Crocheting
- Knitting
- Jewellery making
- Hand sewing
- Machine sewing
- Needle felting

**To book a place email
superstitchessewingclub
@gmail.com**

Hurst Holiday Camps

Monday 30 March to Friday 10 April

Hurstpierpoint College
9am - 3pm

Tennis: £25 per day

Football: £25 per day

Multi-Sport: £25 per day

Outdoor Education: £30 per day

Art and Forest:

£30 per day / £100 for all four days

Early bird prices
available until
23 March,
prices increase by
£5 per day
thereafter

For more information, please contact:

camps@hppc.co.uk



hurstholidaycamps



LEWES ATHLETIC CLUB

■ EASTER CAMPS ■



**ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:
LONG JUMP, HIGH JUMP,
SPRINTING, RELAYS, DISCUS
AND FUN GAMES.**

- 2 CAMP DATES IN EASTER HOLIDAYS 2026
- OPEN TO ALL CHILDREN IN SCHOOL YEARS 3 - 7
- QUALIFIED ATHLETIC COACHES
- £85 FOR 3-DAY CAMP
- HALF PLACES AVAILABLE FOR CAMP 2
- LEWES AC TRAINING TSHIRT INCLUDED!

BOOK VIA QR CODE OR VISIT

WWW.LEWESAC.CO.UK/EVENTS/HOLIDAY-CAMP

LEWES ATHLETIC CLUB, MOUNTFIELD ROAD, LEWES, BN7 2XG.
(BEHIND LEWES LEISURE CENTRE)



**RUN
JUMP
THROW**

**2 CAMP
DATES:**

**30 MAR -
1 APR**

**7-9 APR
10AM - 3PM**

**£85
PER CAMP**

**MORE INFO &
BOOK PLACE**



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.

A poster for the Ditchling Horticultural Society's Spring Bulb Show 2026. The poster features a light green background with a yellow border. At the top left is a logo of a teapot surrounded by fruit. To the right of the logo, the text 'DITCHLING HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY' is written in a serif font, with 'EST 1822' in a small box. Below this, the words 'SPRING' and 'BULB SHOW 2026' are written in large, bold, green and black letters. On the left side, there is a stylized illustration of a terracotta pot with yellow daffodils. To the right of the pot, the text 'SUNDAY 22ND MARCH' is written in large, bold, green letters. Below this, 'DITCHLING VILLAGE HALL' is written in a smaller green font. Further down, '2-4pm' is written in large, bold, yellow letters. At the bottom right, 'MORE INFO AT DITCHLING HORTSOC.CO.UK' is written in bold, yellow and black letters.

 DITCHLING
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY EST 1822

SPRING BULB SHOW 2026

**SUNDAY
22ND MARCH**

DITCHLING VILLAGE HALL

2-4pm

**MORE INFO
AT
DITCHLING
HORTSOC.CO.UK**



Instagram



Website

Website:	Contact:	Email:
www.ditchlingprimary.co.uk	01273 844130	office@ditchlingsch.co.uk

