

7TH
OCTOBER
2022



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

RECAP

Hello families,

Over halfway through the first half-term! And it feels like we've been back for years...or at least a couple of weeks longer than it actually has been!

There's been so much going on over the last four weeks. Our new Dringhouses Discovery Curriculum has taken off in a big way - even just this week we've had the surgical expertise of Dr Aldridge helping our KS2 children better understand the inner-workings of the heart, and Imran Kotwal who's travelled over from Bolton to talk to the school, and KS1 workshops about Islam.

We've also had trips to the food festival for Y3/4 and an imminent trip to Bewerley Park residential centre coming up for our older KS2 children. Nothing other than pretty high-octane learning experiences, and the children are loving it!

I was lucky enough to work with an educational consultant last week, who's doing some work with Y6 over the year around aspirations and positive mind-sets, and he commented that 'the kids are happy, and they love their learning.' It can be easy to get stuck inside the Dringhouses Primary bubble of our own practice - we know our young people and staff team are great, but it's extra wonderful to have other people from outside our community come in and tell us the same!

Other stuff going on...while the rain has been pretty heavy, we've got football clubs kicking off (see what I did there) - I can't even pretend not to be a little bit proud of that...particularly coming from a football knowledge-base of zero...Ang Skidmore is trying to turn me into a Villa fan, and I know that Man' Utd took an absolute hammering this week from Man' City...but I digress), and we've had Lindsey Parr from Diversity Role Models working across KS2, and with the staff to increase our awareness and understanding of diversity, how we promote, and 'usualise' diversity through role models and other positive and proactive, authentic practices. If you have ideas, we'd love to hear them!

Claire Neal has created our Dringhouses Community Pantry to be appearing outside school soon for the community's use.

As community is always hugely important to us, we want to try and make sure that we're aware of the issues and challenges facing you, and our wider community - particularly at this time of economic difficulty. Please do talk to us - we're about to post out a calendar of events/trips/experiences for the year, along with expected costs, so that families can feel informed about the anticipated and planned costs over the year. We're trying to ensure the burden is not too great, but even over the last two weeks, things have changed for the UK economic picture. So, as I said - talk to us, and we'll do what we can.

Enjoy the weekend - I can highly recommend going for a ghost hunt around York (sculptures, not real ghosts...at least I think they were sculptures...) and I'll see you on the playground.

7TH
OCTOBER
2022



EARLY YEARS- THE FIRST FIVE WEEKS

The first five weeks have flown by and we can believe it is October already. We are so proud of how all of the Early Years children have settled into school life. The children have made full use of the opportunities on offer- playing in the provision areas, making new friends and getting to know their Year Six buddy.



We had a visit from Mr Allen our lollipop man. He explained how he keeps us safe when we are crossing the road near school. The children asked lots of questions and listened carefully about road safety. Other highlights included: donning our wellies for our first trip to Outdoor School where we walked around The Railway Pond looking at the wildlife, making and of course eating jam sandwiches, overcoming any fear of heights to scale the large wall bars and equipment and every Friday afternoon having a visit from our Year Six buddy to share our reading book.



7TH
OCTOBER
2022

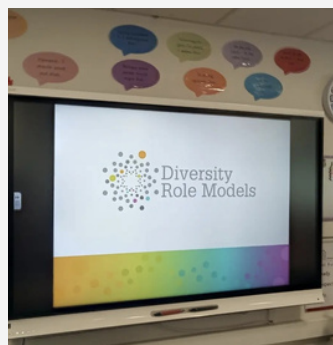


LKS2

LKS2's Discovery Curriculum unit is 'The School of Rock' which is focusing on the Stone Age. We started our learning project by delving into a Stone Age day with an archaeological dig, Stone Age tribe dancing and storytelling- it got us really excited about our learning! We've been using Stone Age Boy as a stimulus for our writing and our reading and have enjoyed creating our very own cave paintings too. We also took a trip into York as a local visit to the York Food Festival- I hope you all enjoyed the wonderful creations we brought back!



UKS2



UKS2 have been learning about a 'Lasting Legacy'. They started off by sharing their very own legacy box which was a wonderful opportunity to get to know their new classmates. The children then focused on what legacy they can create as part of their PSHCE learning and thinking about how they can form positive relationships with their peers, families and communities. They have then moved on to learning about the heart and circulatory system and have enhanced this through reading Pig Heart Boy by Malorie Blackman which has provided them with lots of great writing stimuluses.





WELL-BEING WATCH

As a result, we are pleased to tell you that we will be dedicating a space on the website to wellbeing so all resources and links are easy to find.

It will include:

- An overview of what goes on in school to support your children***
- Top tips to assist parent and staff wellbeing***
- Signposting to additional support locally and nationally***
- Book recommendations***
- Useful websites, videos and articles***



If there is anything else you would like to see in this section, or there is anything you would like to discuss about mental health and well being in general, please contact Mrs Smith (our wellbeing lead) by email - csmith@dringhouses.co.uk or pop in to see her in class 10 after school on a Thursday or Friday afternoon.

Many Thanks

Thank you to all of you who filled in the wellbeing questionnaire at the end of the Summer term - this was so useful.

COMING
SOON



FODS

It's the start of a new academic year! And tonight (as I write this update), we will be having our first FODS (your PTA) meeting, and I'm looking forward to meeting some new parents of our new school-starters.

FODS is about building a Dringhouses community with the parents of our school, finding opportunities to help our children make wonderful memories of their primary school life, and raising funds to support the education and crucial primary school experience of our children, especially because budgets are tight and there is little additional funding available from the government.

At the end of the last academic year, we committed to funding some significant projects, including up to £1000 for a new sensory garden (a project headed by Mrs Murray), up to £1000 for new library books (a project headed by Mrs Scott-South and Mrs Backhouse), and £4750 for new playground initiative (a game-changing project headed by Mr Sutton that will transform playtime in our school).

We've already started to see some of these projects coming to life, starting with the delivery of 135 new books purchased from our very local Blue House Bookshop for our school library. As you can see from these photos, there was much excitement amongst our school librarians as they unboxed the new books. They were heard saying...

"This is amazing! We are sooo lucky!"

"I want to read this book NOW!"

"I can see myself in that book!"

"I can't decide which book is my favourite. I need to read them all!"



In order to raise funds for such projects and initiatives, alongside building a community where everyone feels a sense of belonging to, FODS is dedicated to organising different events throughout the school year.



The most recent event was our school Summer Fair that took place in July, headed by one of the most busiest parents I know – Lauren Watson. There was a real feeling of together-ness as the community came together to have fun, win prizes at the tombola (thank you all so much for your wonderful donations!), eat gourmet hot dogs and burgers, watch our little ones in their Maypole dancing and the rock band performances, try out the baked goods of our junior bakers at the Great Dringy Bake-Off, and throw wet sponges at our teachers! A huge thank you to everyone for making the summer fair such a memorable one, and special thank yous to the Summer Fair Sub-Committee and to all who volunteered and helped out on the day itself! The event raised a total of £914...but we still have a long way to go to raise funds for the upcoming projects of the year.

7TH
OCTOBER
2022



FODS

At the start of this academic year, parents Allyson Lister, Katie Hobson and Lillian Chambers baked lots of delicious gingerbread men to welcome our new reception children on behalf of FODS, and Rachel Stevens and I ran a Tea and Tissues stand for the reception-year parents as they experienced the milestone of their little ones going to school for the first time.

Coming up, we will be having many more events, including:

- a Halloween bake sale,*
- Christmas Fair (Save the date – 3 December!)*
- Christmas Secret Shopping,*
- Christmas cards*
- A reprise of Bags2School (save those unwanted clothes!)*
- A charity auction of parents' services (which will happen in spring but parents who have services to offer, do get in touch with me!)*

More information about these events to follow, so watch this space!



If you're interested in volunteering in capacity (large or small), please don't hesitate to contact us at friends@dringhouses.co.uk or come chat to the FODS committee members when you see us at school!

We also have a Whatsapp group for those interested in volunteering, so email us your name and phone number if you're interested in joining the group.

And for those of you wondering who your 2022/2023 FODS committee members are, here's a reminder.

Chair – Chia Suan Chong

Treasurer – Jen Goforth

Secretary – Jenny Buckland

Ordinary member – Kate Newman

Ordinary member – Rachel Stevens

Teacher representative – Lizi Backhouse

Patron – Ben Sutton

Have a great academic year ahead!

Best,

Chia and your 2022/2023 FODS committee