

21ST  
OCTOBER  
2022



# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## HALF TERM ROUND UP

One sixth of the academic year completed! It's been a busy start to 2022 for Dringhouses, and we're stretching out the excitement right to the very end here, with Year 6 still on the adventure of a lifetime at Bewerley Park, while the promise of a new communication plan for the school is lighting expectant WhatsApp threads with a buzz of excitement and 'what could be' mystery. But genuinely, it has been an exciting half term for all throughout. With any luck, you'll have seen a glimpse into the classrooms and learning of your children via Tapestry, and Instagram (or Facebook and the school website, both of which host the images). We've taken our first tentative steps using the Dringhouses Discovery Curriculum; a learning structure designed specifically for our children, providing the knowledge and experiences that will benefit them in the future. We've had trips, visitors, experiences, friendships, buddies, and a lot of learning. Next half-term promises to continue the engagement and the learning - the phase newsletters will be providing you with an 'everything you need to know about...' guide to your child's next half-term, alongside dates and wider-school events.

Communication...we hope you'll like what we've created. The communication plan will be winging its way to your inboxes today, and covers everything from phase-newsletters, to phone-calls. We consulted with families and staff on school-wide and focus-group scales to build what we hope will make life smooth and prepared. We can't promise that there won't be the odd hiccup but we can promise that we've done A LOT of work to try and avoid them as best we can. So, enjoy the break - rest up, or fly into an adrenalin-fuelled week of excitement. But we'd love to see you all back safe and sound on the 31st October.

See you on the playground,

Ben



## KS1



What a fantastic first half term Key Stage 1 we have had! The children have settled brilliantly into their new classes. They have made new friends, worked hard and consistently demonstrated our Dringhouses values of being collaborative, curious, confident, community minded and creative. As part of our "Who Are You?" project they have learned about their bodies, discussed their family members and those special relationships, created self-portraits in the style of Andy Warhol and written non-chronological reports to get to know each other better. Our learning has been enriched through a history workshop with Catherine learning about homes from the past and a workshop with Imran Kotwal in which he told us all about Islam and the celebration of Eid. At the end of this half term we want children to be able to confidently and accurately answer the following questions:

1. How can you be ready, respectful and safe?
2. What are the 5 senses?
3. What are the 3 primary colours and what happens when you mix them?
4. Have houses always looked the same?
5. What are the 5 categories that animals can be sorted into?
6. What are the human and physical geographical features of Dringhouses?
7. How do different religions celebrate?

Why not do a family quiz at home and see how well you all get on? Thank you for all of your support in our first half term and we hope you have a lovely holiday.



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# MUSIC

## Classroom Music

We have had a super start to the year in the Music Room: Reception learned lots of new songs, and taught me a few as well! We have tried all sorts of instruments and learned some circle games. Y1/2 have focused on different ways of conducting and learned all our Harvest Festival songs, which sounded amazing in Church. KS2 have learned about accompaniments, the African roots of pop music, and Y5/6 are working on a Blues song, having learned the chord pattern. You will hear some of this at the Easter Concert..

## Choir and Orchestra

These begin after half term. Anybody still wanting to join, just email me [ncc Clarke@dringhouses.co.uk](mailto:ncc Clarke@dringhouses.co.uk)

## Instrumental Lessons

Hopefully all our new starters have settled in their lessons. We have a few spaces still for Woodwind/Brass and Classical Guitar-email me if your child is interested, or if you have a question about any aspect of music in school.

Clare Clarke



# WELL-BEING WATCH

You may be aware that in school we use a programme called 'The Zones of Regulation'

We re-launch this each Autumn and refer to it through the year so the children become confident identifying their feelings.

First we learn what the emotions in each zone look and feel like. Then we learn strategies to help us manage these emotions...



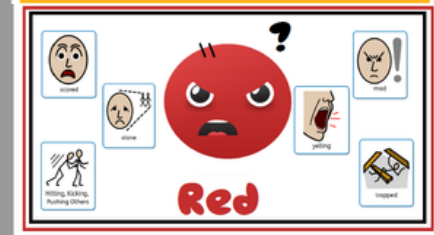
= 'Feeling ready to go!' You can cope with anything the day brings



= feeling sad/tired/bored



= a bit silly/over excited/ nervous



= feeling 'out of control' e.g. intense rage/fear



Linking to Halloween, I'd like to share with you one of my favourite metaphors 'The Tale Of Two Wolves'. Here it is:

One evening, an elderly Cherokee brave told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people.

"My dear one, the battle between two 'wolves' is inside us all. One wolf is negative. It is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority and ego.

The other wolf is positive. It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith."

The grandson thought about this for a moment. Then he asked his grandfather "Which wolf wins?"

The old Cherokee replied, "The one you feed."

In school, to help feed the 'positive' wolf, we practise positive self talk and affirmations. Sometimes we practise saying positive statements out loud e.g. "I am calm, I am safe..." It takes time, but saying positive affirmations can really help make a difference to how we feel!

Maybe you'll want to increase the calories for one wolf and perhaps put the other one on a strict fast for a while...



## FODS

We had our first FODS meeting of this new academic year on the 29 September, where we had the opportunity to get to know lots of new reception parents and discuss our upcoming events and funds needed for the coming school year.

Although we are only in the first half term of the school year, we've already started to see some of the projects we committed to funding last term gradually coming to life.

The school library received an injected of 135 new books purchased from our very local Blue House Bookshop, Mrs. Murray has started getting design ideas for the new sensory garden from the students, and the consultants of the £4750 new playtime initiative OPAL will be coming to our school this November to have their first meeting and do an audit of our current playtime provision.

Also at this first FODS meeting, we all voted yes to funding the £500 needed for a cinema trip for the Year 5s and 6s to watch the ballet Nutcracker. (Thank you Mrs Clarke for giving our children such an all-rounded education!)

In order for FODS to continue raising funds to support the education and crucial primary school experience of our children, whilst building a Dringhouses community and finding opportunities to help children make wonderful memories of their primary school life, we always need the help and support of amazing parents, such as these ones who have volunteered their own time to plan these upcoming exciting FODS events...



- *Christmas Cards (Have you put in your order yet?) – organised by Katie Hobson*
- *Spooky Bake Sale (21st Oct) – organised by Carissa Davies*
- *Halloween Trail (Trail maps on sale on the 21st and 31st Oct) – organised by Lisa Auckland*
- *Bags2School (Drop off your unwanted clothes and linen on 3th & 4th Nov) – organised by Sally Evans*



- *Christmas Fair (3rd Dec - It'll be magical!) – sub-committee chaired by Rachel Stevens*
- *Secret Shopping (You'll get to put in your orders soon! Kids 'shop' for the presents on 8 Dec) – sub-committee chaired by Sally Evans*
- *Board Games evening (sometime in January) – organised by Allyson Lister*
- *EYFS & KS1 Party (We've already booked Magic Mike! 23rd Feb!) – organised by Laura Cunningham*



- *KS2 Party (sometime in Feb/March) – organised by Ellie Cawdell*
- *Charity Auction (sometime in March/April. Do you have a service or products to offer up for auction? Contact us!) – organised by Will Hayler*

These events would not be possible without the parents who have so generously volunteered their time and energy to supporting FODS and Dringhouses Primary School.

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If you're interested in volunteering in any capacity (large or small), please don't hesitate to contact us at [friends@dringhouses.co.uk](mailto: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 if you, like many of us parents, lament the lack of time and the struggle with juggling all the demands of life, you can help us raise funds simply by shopping! And it won't cost you a thing!

If you're a frequent shopper on Amazon, instead of using [Amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk), try using [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://www.smile.amazon.co.uk) to take you to the same familiar Amazon site. If you're doing this for the first time, choose FRIENDS OF DRINGHOUSES as your chosen charity (you only need to do this once), and Amazon will donate 0.5% of all the money you spend to helping us support the school and our children's education.

And if you'd just like to hang out with fellow parents and have a say in what we do, we'd love to see you at our next FODS PTA meeting. Do also join us for post-meeting drinks and chat at the Fox and Roman after!

Date: 23 Nov (Weds)

Time: 7.30pm – 8.30pm

Location: School Hall

