# Great Doddington Primary School

# Parent Newsletter

## School News

Dear Parents and Carers,

As this half term comes to a close, I want to thank all of our parents for their engagement, especially during our recent Parents' Evening, Parent Survey and the Relationship and Regulation Policy Coffee Morning. It was great to see many of you join Mrs. Mills, Miss Shelton and I for a presentation and discussion on our new Policy. It was a good opportunity for questions to be answered, and we appreciate the positive feedback.

We're also excited to announce that our new Junior Leadership Team is up and running, and they've already held their first meeting to plan some exciting activities for both schools.

We also had a wonderful Harvest Festival service at the church, and it was super to see so many people enjoying the festivities, the singing, and the poetry performed brilliantly by our pupils and staff! A big thank you to the staff for organising this event. The PTA hosted a successful Halloween disco at the end of last week, thank you for their enthusiasm and hard work and we look forward to working with them for the rest of the year.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to our staff for their enthusiasm and commitment this term. Their dedication, including the long hours after school during Parents' Evening, has been invaluable in supporting our pupils.

On another note, we will be bidding a fond farewell to our School Business Manager, Ms. Tomkins, as she moves on to a new promotion in another educational setting. Her contribution, support, and energy—especially across both schools—will be greatly missed. The vacancy for this position is now posted on our website and Teach Northants.

Best wishes,
Mrs Garnham

A huge THANK YOU to those who visited our book fair and bought books. We raised £488 for the school to spend on books. Each class will get a share to spend which is wonderful. The children loved looking at the books and enjoyed choosing their own. Thank you for supporting this.






Has your child found a golden ticket yet? A new reading initiative has been launched by our librarian. More details will follow ……

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## What we have been up to…

### Starlings

We have been very busy in Starlings this term. The children have all settled really well and have enjoyed immersing themselves in our topics. They particularly enjoyed designing and making Baby Bear's chair. Investigating which 3D shape was the strongest was lots of fun and we found out that paper cylinders can hold over 100 books before collapsing! We have enjoyed looking at maps in Geography and Art and look forward to carrying this on next term. In Science we enjoyed investigating which exercise raised our heart rates the most and we have been using these different exercises in our PE lessons to help us stay fit and healthy.

### Mallards

In Year 5, we were lucky enough to have Jenny come into school and help us become researchers. We created questionnaires about children and staff's feelings in school, and how valued they feel by others in school. Then, we analysed our data and presented our findings. From this experience, we came up with some ideas about how to help all children feel more comfortable and valued in our school.

Did you know, the data we collected must be kept for 10 Years! We made sure our research was ethically correct and asked for everyone's permission to interview them!

**FOGDS** will be running their Christmas Hamper Raffle again this year. If you have any prizes you could donate or any connections to local businesses who might provide a prize we would be very grateful.

## DASH After School Club




After working really hard on establishing DASH and creating a fun environment for our children we have made the decision to keep this at 1 hour after school 3.15-4.15. This is bookable on Scopay.

There are a few new developments:

- We will be having a themed week each term. This week children have been having fun crafting, pumpkin decorating and cookie making.
- We will be offering for larger families pay for 2 children get the 3rd free.
- We will be holding a small fundraising event each term run by the DASH staff and children to allow us to continue or crafts and activities.

We always welcome feedback on and ideas for DASH so please do feel free to email or talk to us.

A huge THANK YOU to the staff who run this and Mrs Barnes who oversees the running of this.

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## Dates for your diaries

- 4th Nov – School Reopens
- 6th Nov FOGDS AGM 7pm School – All welcome!
- 13th Nov – Clothes collection – bags to be bought to school. All funds raised to go to FOGDS Projects.
- 15th Nov – FOGDS Children in Need cake sale and refreshments in school hall. 2.45pm – Donations appreciated
- 19th Nov – Rotary Seasonal Concert, Castle (Selected pupils for Yr4,5,6)
- 29th Nov – Colour mufti – bring in an item for our hamper raffle in your class colours and wear mufti for the day
- 2nd – 18th Dec – Christmas Post
- 6th & 13th Dec - FOGDS Breakfast with Santa
- 6th Dec AM and PM – GDPS KS1 Nativity
- 10th Dec PM and 13th Dec AM – KS2 Christmas Production
- 12th Dec – Rocksteady Concert
- 18th Dec – Love Food Xmas Dinner and Xmas Jumper day
- 20th Dec – 1.30pm Carol Service Church




## Attendance Reminder

Can we ask that if your child is absent from school in the first instance you **must call** the school office first thing. You will be able to leave a message on the answerphone and your message will be picked up by the School Office. If you need to send us any paperwork in relation to the absence can we ask that this is emailed to office@greatdoddington.northants.sch.uk as attendance is monitored by Mrs Kilsby.