



## Dear Parents & Carers

What a truly great start your children have had! The school is alive once more and the children have embraced their new learning fabulously. The classrooms are full of creative pieces. I have heard Teeth raps, seen 3D digestive systems, seen children move about to Go noodle and most importantly have seen smiling, happy children on our playgrounds. Our children have returned truly as determined, persistent achievers - we are all incredibly proud of them.

Now we are back, we ask you as parents really support your child with their reading and get behind their Accelerated Reader quizzing and their use of MYON. Children with broader vocabularies and good reading skills continue to make strong progress in every other subject - Reading is the bedrock of everything else. Please encourage your child to read at every opportunity.

As the year sees lots of changes to the way we work, we also see some changes to our Friends association activities. Our parents on the committee have come up with different ways to still support the school so we are very thankful. The work they do, provides all of the children with other great opportunities and experiences so please support them wherever possible.

As I write, I am excited to see the winners of our virtual Balloon race!

All that is left for me to say, is I hope your half term autumn break is peaceful. Please keep yourselves safe and we look forward to seeing you on our return.

## DPA Friends Association

It's great to be back to school and we are looking at how we can fundraise in different ways! We began with a virtual balloon race, which has been very well supported. Looking forward to Christmas, the children have designed Christmas cards which you will be able to order next term. They have also been drawing their self-portraits ready for the school calendar which will be sold via online pre-orders. Unfortunately, we are unable to book the pantomime to come into school to entertain the children, but we have managed to book a virtual pantomime which we hope will be just as much fun!

Don't forget to like our Facebook page, DPA Friends Association, to keep up to date with our activities. If you are interested in helping out in any way, have suggestions or any queries we can be contacted by email on [dpafriendsassociation@gmail.com](mailto:dpafriendsassociation@gmail.com), our Facebook page or leaving a message with the school office.



**On apprend le Français! What we are learning at DPA this term:**

After such a long break in our French learning, we have decided to revisit and consolidate some essential knowledge this term in years 3, 4, 5 and 6.

We are learning and practising a variety of topics through games, competitions, dialogues, songs, and the skills of listening, speaking, reading.

Our main topics this term are :

Greetings;

Describing and asking how we are feeling;

Giving and asking someone's name;

Numbers;

Dates;

Days and Months;

Discussing where French is spoken in the world;

Exploring elements of French culture (food, famous people, geography...)

We are so looking forward to sharing our learning and discoveries with you all in the forthcoming weeks and months!

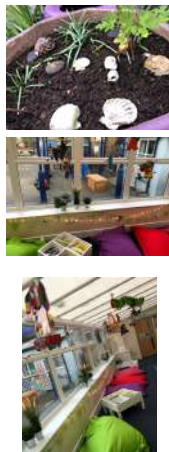
## SLT update



### EYFS and KS1 Autumn Term Update

It has been a very busy term in the KS1 and EYFS building. The children have been learning about 'Who We Are' through science, art, geography, history, music and RE! They've all been working their writing skills from practising holding a pencil and writing their name for the first time to writing about why they're amazing and explaining to others how to stay healthy.

It has been brilliant to welcome our new pupils to Blue Whale class in nursery. They've been working on learning how to use the resources in their new classroom, sharing with their new friends and have enjoyed listening to lots of stories from our new reading spine.



The new reception year group have made a great start and have settled really well. It's great to work with them as they explore their new environment including a fairy garden, newly refurbished classrooms and a special reading area. They're been incredibly brave as they've taken risks getting to know new friends and learn new skills.

Year one have enjoyed our new 'inquiry approach' to learning which enables them to develop new skills and acquire new knowledge whilst still having time to practise skills from last year they need to refine. We've moved away from the more traditional sitting at chairs and tables for full lessons and work with focus groups on specific skills to really be able to give your child the very best support. As the year progresses, the teaching style will adapt to ensure pupils are fully prepared for year two. The children certainly enjoy this approach to learning with one saying, "Last year in reception was good but it's even better in year one!"



In year two, the pupils have spent some time recapping and re-embedding skills from year one, with a particular focus on phonics and writing. They will be sitting the phonics check that would have been taken in June in late November. It's been very exciting to start to set up Accelerated Reader for some of our year two pupils who are secure with their phonics and are beginning to read fluently. We hope that all pupils will have moved onto this by the end of this school year.

# Year R

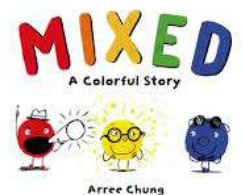
What Reception have been learning in Term 1:

What a brilliant start to the year! The children have settled really well into school life and are making new friends every day. We are very excited to learn through play and have enjoyed learning the daily routines.

This term our PYP central idea was - learning about ourselves and what we can do allows our self identity to develop. We have been finding out all about ourselves, our likes and dislikes, our families and our feelings. Our PSHE topic this term was dreams and goals and we have discussed what we are good at and what we aim to achieve over the next year.

This term we have been learning 'How to Express Ourselves'. We have read the book 'Dog's don't do ballet' and have had a go at choreographing our very own dance moves! We learnt about the different characters and how they were feeling and linked this to different pieces of music and how that can make us feel. This sparked our curiosity and we became composers as we explored musical instruments and how their different sounds can be put together to create happy, sad, excited or scared music!

Feelings: The children explored different feelings and what these look like by reading 'The colour monster'. We then created our own feelings display where the children can identify how they are feeling each day. In circle time we also had a discussion on how we can help our friends who might be feeling sad or angry. Finally, we looked at what things might worry us and we created worry box monsters to fit in with our 5 ways to well-being at DPA. The children now know that they can place a photo of themselves in the box if they are feeling worried and an adult will talk to them.





# Year 1

The year one children have been amazing on returning to school in September and we are so proud at how they have taken risks and really got stuck into their learning this term! Throughout the term, we have been thinking about our own well-being, our families and the communities that we belong to and how they all help to make us unique individuals. We began by learning about the parts of the body, playing 'Simon says', labelling our own bodies and even having to piece Mrs Hayward back together!



We became inquirers and explored using our senses by carrying out observational tests including smelling hidden scents and tasting crisps to guess the flavours.

As part of our well-being, we became knowledgeable by learning about the different foods, sorting healthy and unhealthy foods and discovering that you need to eat 5 fruits and vegetables and drink between 6-8 glasses of water every day! Some of us made some posters to encourage others to make healthy choices.



We have become communicators when looking at our local community near the school, the roads that are there and the buildings that we walk past each day. We have talked about why some buildings have a special meaning to us such as the school, the church and the temple. We also discussed the importance of our own families and who lives with us at home. We have celebrated this by making a paper house, decorated with our door number, road name and other features which opens up to show a drawing of our family inside.

We investigated maps further and went exploring around our own classrooms as well as the school playground, learning directional language such as left and right, near and far.

It has been a wonderful term and we are very much looking forward to our new theme beginning when we return after half term to continue our learning journey!

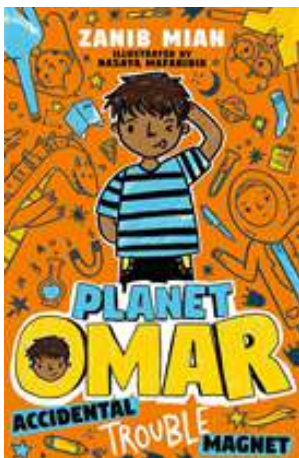
## Year 2

Year 2 have engaged in amazing learning this term when inquiring about our local area, health and wellbeing. In science, the children have been knowledgeable and learned about the five food groups; making healthy plates to remind them what their plates should look like at home and school.

They've also been testing their bodies to see how exercise can help with their wellbeing and change their body.



In RE this term, year 2 have been looking at Islam and learning about Muslims and what they believe in. They had some great discussions about God and Prophets such as a Moses, Noah and Muhammad. The children were brilliant inquirers; learning about a different religion and asking great questions. This was supported by our class novel, which was about a Muslim boy called Omar who always seems to get into trouble!



Lastly, in Geography, the children have been investigated the facilities in Dartford and identified them on a map. They also looked at what they can do in Dartford and our school for their health and wellbeing. The children have a special task to help our friend Becky, who is moving to Dartford. She wanted to know where she should move to and wanted information about how to stay healthy and happy in Dartford and at DPA. The children did some excellent research and wrote up some very informative leaflets to help Becky out.

## Year 3

In year 3 this term, we have been exploring our central idea about how people need to look after themselves to be healthy. We started the term by thinking about mental health and wellbeing and the children loved learning lots of breathing strategies. We then had some great discussions about how praying can comfort religious people. Many of the children enjoyed sharing how they pray in their own religions and we even set up a model of a hindu shrine in the classroom.

We then moved on to look at our physical health. The children learnt about balanced diets. Then they used what they had learnt to write letters to our catering company with suggestions for how they could improve the school dinners. The cook even came and listened to their ideas and is now trying to help the children eat more fruit and vegetables.

The children loved learning about the skeleton and how we can look after our bones. We looked at lots of minibeasts to see how having a skeleton provides support and protection and aids movement. The children particularly liked the worms! We also did a scientific investigation to see whether people with longer legs jump further.

We are now finishing off our inquiry by forming the 'DPA wellbeing taskforce'. The children have come up with lots of suggestions for how we could improve their wellbeing in school and they are doing a survey to find out which ideas are the most popular. They will be submitting reports to Miss Clark to let her know what they find out.





## Year 4

We have had a busy first term back!

Firstly, it has to be said, that it has been an absolute joy to have full classrooms and everyone getting back to being as normal in our actions as we all can be. Your children have been absolute superstars in settling back into the rhythm of academy life. We started the term with a great deal of discussion about our wellbeing, and this has been a constant theme through the term – and will continue to be so through the rest of the year. The children created worry boxes such as this one so that they had somewhere to put their worries for us to talk about, or to have a chat on a 1:1 if needs be.



This term we have been following our inquiry into Who We Are. We have been learning that understanding our mind and body is essential for our health. We have learned all about our teeth and the digestive system and the children have produced some fabulous work. Look at our Inquiry Board:

We carried out an experiment with eggs to show what happens to our teeth if they are not looked after. We have used different materials to make a collage artwork to show the workings of our digestive system. We have written and performed a rap, written an explanation text and a story of our journey through the digestive system! Definitely a busy term 1. We are looking forward to term 2 and all of the learning that it will bring.



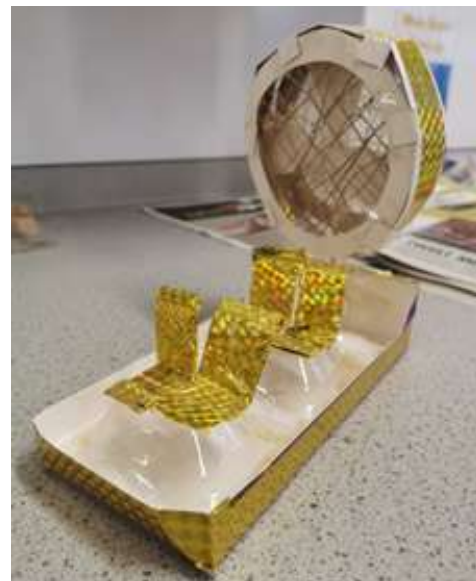
# Year 5

This term, Year 5 have looked into Crime and Punishment. We have discussed how Crime and Punishment has transformed over time from 1066 to the present day. The children have also looked at whether a justice system is necessary through law and their own school behaviour policy.

After all of the inquiry-based learning, the children have been amending and recreating the school's behaviour policy and answering the question: 'Does the punishment fit the crime?'

During this term, the children were lucky enough to have a defence lawyer speak to them about his job and role within the justice system. The children were extremely fascinated with how he became a defence lawyer and who inspired him.

We have also thoroughly enjoyed seeing the children's passion and creativity towards the home learning set this term. They have really enjoyed designing and making a fanboat. We have had an extremely busy term, as we have also moved into our amazing, new classrooms. The children have settled in beautifully and we are looking forward to using our new Art, DT and music studio.

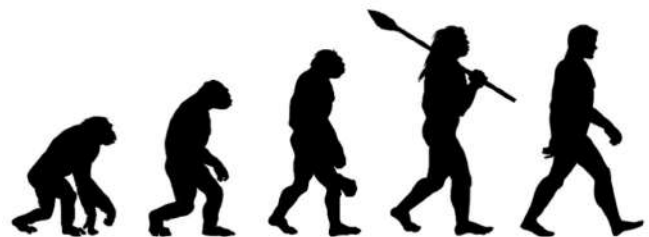




## Year 6

Over the course of this term, year six have been engrossed in a vast array of learning: diving head first into the theory of evolution, learning more about the man who proposed the theory as well as writing passionately about whether or not they believe in evolution or not. In the process, they have had to become experts in plotting timelines and scaling maps of the world.

Our pupils were fascinated to see what certain everyday animals, such as chickens and whales, potentially looked like in the past and how they have had to adapt over millions of years in order to survive. As well as this, children have explored how animals pass on genes, DNA and characteristics to their offspring, creating their own family trees and finding out that we are all unique and amazing beings.



## Keeping Everyone Safe



Dear Families and Friends,

We started this term with a focus on ensuring that all children in the school know who they can talk to if they're worried about something. All the children completed lessons on who's who in the safeguarding team and who they can talk to if they're worried. Following on from this, there are safeguarding displays at both sites (pictured) to act as a visual reminder for the children. If you want to contact the safeguarding team, you can do so using the email address:- [safeguarding@darfordprimary.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@darfordprimary.org.uk) .

**childline**

ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME  
[childline.org.uk](http://childline.org.uk) | 0800 1111

**NSPCC**

**Worried about  
a child?**



If you have any concerns about a child please do not hesitate to either contact the NSPCC or Kent's Children's Team on 03000 41 11 11 (text relay 18001 03000 41 11 11) or email [social.services@kent.gov.uk](mailto:social.services@kent.gov.uk).

If you think someone is in immediate danger, the best thing to do is call 999 for the emergency services.

For advice and help regarding domestic abuse please contact the National Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0808 2000 247.

## E-safety and Online Learning

As a two week holiday period is nearly here, it is time to rest and relax. However, with darker evenings and questionable weather, that might mean more time spent indoors and spending time online. The internet is fun, educational and provides a great many opportunities for children to explore. But, we must all make sure that we are doing that safely. With that in mind, I would like to point you towards <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/> This website has up to date information about the latest apps such as Tik Tok, Roblox and many more. Please do have a look together at the information that can be found there. Have a safe half term holiday.

Mr Kenny



Over the summer break we ran a reading challenge on Myon, our online reading platform, to encourage children to read even at home. We saw an amazing amount of children log on and share stories with their families, and for every 5 books they read they received 1 entry into our prize draw. The winners were:

Charlie - Giraffe class  
Athena - Monarch butterfly class  
Anika - Galapagos Penguin class  
Jessica - Polar bear class  
Hibah - Black rhino class  
Oliver - Gorilla class  
Ranvitha - Jaguar class

So far this term, 2130 books have been read and a total of 11,300 minutes have been logged, How impressive! The top three year groups are; year 2, year 3 and year 6. All children should have their login details at the front of their contact book and it would be great to see even more books being read next term!

## Wellbeing at Dartford Primary Academy

Sometimes it can be difficult to discuss our feelings and how to manage these, but it is important to have these conversations with each other and our children. To help raise awareness and to promote discussions about our own mental health and wellbeing, we had our own wellbeing day to celebrate World Mental Health day. These are some of the activities we did together.



### Wellbeing logo

We introduced our brand new wellbeing logo to the children, and I proudly share this with you. Our wellbeing approach is based around the '5 ways to wellbeing' and each stone represents one of the ways we can start to improve our own wellbeing.

### Reflection

We reflected on our time at home during lockdown and had a look through our class Dojo portfolios to remember all of the amazing activities we completed. We spoke about what it was like to come back to school and how we were feeling about the changes. We spoke about all the ways we are learning to promote our wellbeing at school and what we can do if we are feeling worried, like using the worry box in our classrooms.

### Choose to be Kind

We discussed kindness and what it means to be kind to ourselves and to others. The children were given a challenge to do something kind for someone else during the day. We designed our own wellbeing bunting to celebrate all the things we can do to improve our wellbeing and to raise awareness of mental health. The children created their own speech bubbles to share what they felt was important

### Stones

Thank you for bringing in stones over the last few weeks. We have painted these in the colours of the rainbow and are arranging them into a mural for each site. These are going to be a visual reminder for us to look after our own wellbeing and a simple reminder to always choose to be kind.

### Parent workshop

We were incredibly lucky to have a workshop from our Emotional Wellbeing Team (Isabella Stokes) specifically for parents. This term, the workshop was based around anxiety. There will be another parent workshop, via zoom, on Tuesday 10th November at 1pm based around behaviour. We will send a letter nearer the time with the link to join.



## Finally...

### Uniform

Please ensure all uniform is named, this makes it easier to return when it gets mislaid.

All lunchboxes need to be clearly named on the outside please. Lots of children have the same ones. It is also essential to name the water bottles.

School finishes for the Autumn break on Friday 16th October and the children will return to school on Monday 2nd November.





## Nursery update

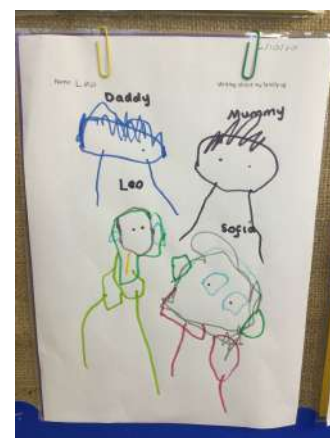
The Nursery children have had a fantastic first term. We are all now familiar with our new routine. We enjoy sharing snack together and eating lunch, exploring our new environment, listening to stories and learning new things at whole class time.

This term, we have been focusing on the central idea 'safe and positive relationships contribute to wellbeing.' We have been learning about our families and looking at the book 'The great big book of families' to help us explore the idea that some families can look different from our own

.We have enjoyed writing and drawing representations of the people in our family. These are now all on display on our writing display board.

We are also continuing to celebrate all of our achievements. We have displayed children's photographs on our 'I can' display. A huge thank you to the parents who have contributed to this, please feel free to keep sharing your child's achievements as this is an ongoing display.

We are really looking forward to next term where we will be exploring the same central idea, concentrating on festivals and celebrations that we participate in at home.





# ACADEMIC YEAR DATES 2020/21

## **Term 1**

Thursday 3rd September- Friday 16th October

**Half term holiday - Monday 19th October to Friday 30th October inclusive**

## **Term 2**

Monday 2nd November - Friday 18th December

**Christmas holidays - Monday 21st December to Friday 1st January**

## **Term 3**

Monday 4th January - Thursday 11th February

**Half term holiday**

Friday 12th February - Friday 19th February inclusive

## **Term 4**

Monday 22nd February - Thursday 1st April

**Easter Holidays**

Friday 2nd April to Friday 16th April inclusive

## **Term 5**

Monday 19th April - Friday 28th May

**Half term holiday**

Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June

## **Term 6**

Monday 7th June -Tuesday 20th July

***These dates are subject to change following guidance from GOV around COVID19.***

***Please note that Wednesday 21st, Thursday 22nd July and Friday 23rd July are for 30 hour children nursery children only so they will finish on Friday 23rd July.***