

## Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been a great start to Spring term and lots more planned for the next few weeks. Our pupil numbers continue to grow and we wish a warm welcome to new children and families and also to our new staff.

We will be sorry to be saying goodbye to Mrs McGeary and Miss Mordue at the end of this half term.

They are also sorry to leave but have chosen to follow new career paths.

They have both been a wonderful part of the Dinnington team, and always go above and beyond for the children in their care. We wish them all the best in their new ventures.

## Foodbank Donations

The People's Kitchen were enormously grateful for the generous donations. Families, friends and staff donate generously every year and they wanted to say thank you for the difference that you make.



## Defibrillator

A huge thank you to Craig Horsman and [LondonHearts.Org](https://www.londonhearts.org) for the donation of our new school defibrillator which is placed in the school office. Staff will shortly be receiving training.



## Parking - Good news!

Due to ongoing issues at drop off and pick up time with dangerous driving, parking congestion and near misses with some of our children we have been successful in being recommended to be part of the **School Streets Campaign**. Under the scheme, streets outside the school gates will be closed to traffic during the morning drop off and afternoon pick up times (other than to blue badge holders) in order to create a safer and healthier environment for pupils and families. More information to follow.

In the meantime **please ensure:**

- Safe parking away from school entrance
- Blue badge holders only in disabled bay
- Drive slowly around school
- Drive the correct way around Sheraton Park roundabout

Huge well done to the children and thank you to you and to parents and friends!! **£1434.85!!!**

# Parents & Friends



## Fundraising Update

Hi everyone, we have an update on last terms fundraising efforts.

The Christmas stalls raised an amazing **£435.72** and the Laps to Lapland sponsored run and walk raised a grand total of **£1434.85!** Which is absolutely fantastic and we would like to thank all of the children and their families for their support. Because of these fundraisers we were able to pay for the winter party food for the children and we are working with school staff to decide how best to spend the rest of the money.

Anyone interested in joining us would be really welcome, we would love some new ideas and volunteers. Please ask or email the school office for more information.

Thanks so much everyone!

## Author Visit

We are delighted to be welcoming the author Francesca Simon (Horrid Henry) into school on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February to talk to the children in KS1 and KS2 about life as an author. She will also be reading excerpts of her new book. Authors into school are a great way to get children excited about reading and to develop their interest in writing stories.

**Two Terrible Vikings Feast with the King with Francesca Simon (Horrid Henry).**

**KS1&2**

**Thursday 9th February 2023.**

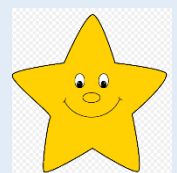


## Health and Wellbeing

We now employ a **school nurse** who is in school once every three weeks. She is able to support with any concerns you may have about your children ie toilet training, anxiety, behavioural, dietary issues and learning development concerns.

We also employ a **school counsellor** who visits once a week. There is a waiting list for this service and therefore we are currently looking to employ a second counsellor. If this is something that you feel may benefit your child and you are not already on our waiting list then please get in touch via the school office.

Mrs Aydeniz is currently training to be our **Mental Health and Wellbeing Lead**. This is funded by the Department of Education and aims to ensure all children and adults in school can gain the necessary support where needed.



## Behaviour and Rewards

As part of our positive approach to behaviour and learning we have introduced some extra rewards into school. Your child may receive a 'Star of the Week' award for a particular subject or something they have worked hard at. There is also 'Tea with Mr D' where a child from each year group joins Mr Donnelly for juice and biscuits and a chat. Children are also encouraged to take lovely pieces of work to show Mrs Ash and we continue to have our rewards assembly. As part of our Class Dojo system there are also whole class rewards such as an extra playtime or a film at the end of the term.



Nursery have been learning all about shapes and enjoying our forest school.



## Reception

Kung Hei Fat Choy! The children have been learning all about Chinese New Year. They learnt a fantastic dragon dance – and they have been making and enjoying Chinese food.

The children have also been enjoying learning in the forest and building on their numbers skills.



**Year 1** have been developing their hand-eye co-ordination through cricket, learning printing skills and developing their knowledge of mini-beasts.



**Year 2** have thoroughly enjoyed learning to play hockey. They've been working hard on their number skills and applying this to money.





**Year 3** have been learning about how light travels and developing their co-ordination and team skills through dodgeball. The children have experience days to inspire their writing and Year 3 were in the forest - entering 'the labyrinth' and collecting consequence cards, written by the children to decide the fate of Theseus



**Year 4** have been getting very creative.

They have been designing and making rockets and creating soap carvings. We have also discovered that we have some superb basketball players! They have also worked really hard on their times tables and are currently joint leaders in the regional league on TT Rockstars which is pretty impressive.



## **New Social Media Accounts**



**All of our important messages are sent to you through parentmail. However we do post some of the children's learning on our social media pages.**

Please find us on Twitter @DinningtonFirst

Your child's class also has its own twitter page;

@Dinnington\_Nur (Class 1)

@Dinnington\_Rec (Class 2 & 3)

@Dinnington\_Y1 (Class 4 & 5)

@Dinnington\_Y2 (Class 6 & 7)

@Dinnington\_Y3 (Class 8 & 9)

@Dinnington\_Y4 (Class 10 & 11)



**We also have a private Facebook Page – you will need to complete the admin questions to be allowed to join the group.**

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dinnington-first-school/1855950107979418>

## **Private Social Media Accounts**

Each year group has a private messenger or whatsapp group where parents share information and organise social events. School does not take any responsibility for these accounts but if you are new to school or wish to join please speak to another parent/carer who should be able to add you to the group. Please ensure that any social media presence does not bring the school into disrepute and any concerns are brought straight to the attention of the Head Teacher.