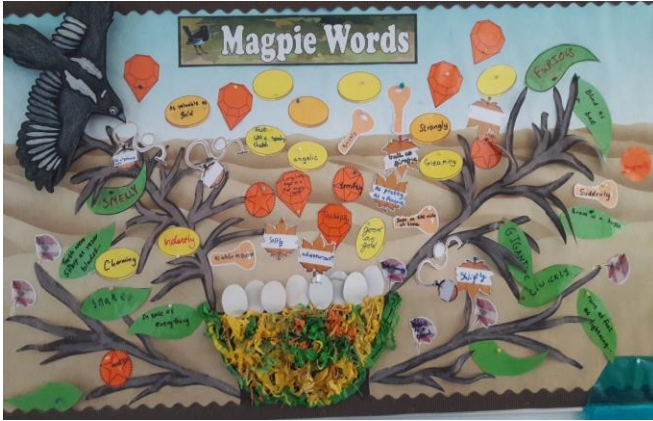


Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school after the half term break. I was in London for recruitment the week before half term therefore it feels quite a while since I last wrote the newsletter. School has as ever been a whirl of activity. I have been in every class this week to see what the children are doing and to celebrate their successes with them.



Magpie Books

'The Australian magpie is rather like its English cousin - though seems to me to be even cheekier! Magpies in England are renowned for being attracted to bright, shiny objects which they will collect and store in their nests! They are known as thieves.

Writers act like thieves. They are constantly raiding their lives for ideas. Stories arise from our experiences. A writer manipulates their experience - both real and imagined - in order to create. They take what they know and daydream into a new story. Young writers can be taught how to raid their reading to improve their writing.'

With the above statement from Pie Corbett (Talk for Writing) in mind, it is essential we allow our children to 'magpie' ideas from one another. Therefore I have introduced 'magpie books' for this very purpose. Year 4 is already using these and it has now been introduced into year 3 with a great interactive display to illustrate the idea. Please encourage your children to 'magpie' ideas and words from their reading books which they can then put into their own writing.

Year 3 Review

The senior leadership team has spent the week in Year 3 holding the second Year Group Review. It has again been a rewarding and reflective experience for all involved. I was pleased that Mr. McGuire was able to do a learning walk with me where we visited 3 classes to review the teaching and learning and provide constructive feedback for the teachers. Mr. Carlin has shown excellent leadership of the team and put in place clear actions which have resulted in improved performance.

The teachers in Year 3 have high expectations of the children and are developing the opportunities for challenge in all lessons. Where lessons are good, they are rich in vocabulary that engage the children and words are explained so all children understand.

- ✓ Resources are well used and children have a developing independence.
 - ✓ The children have opportunities to apply the skills they have been taught; for example in mathematics lessons they used their understanding of perimeter to plan and design an airport.
 - ✓ Teachers use open questions which require more consideration from the children and having a rotating Teaching Assistant is a strength. Mrs. Herath is an asset to the year group and skilled in working with small groups of children who require additional support.
 - ✓ The books are marked up to date with purposeful comments and there is developing evidence of pupil responses. Areas that the year group needs to work on are developing the differentiation of tasks set and ensuring that the more able pupils are continually challenged and stretched.
- Mr. McGuire said about the review ***'I was delighted to see the standard of teaching and learning in classes and the development of the new strategies being consistently used by the teachers.'***



3A Mrs Bamber



3B Mr Carlin



3C Ms Walton



3D Ms Coyne



3E Mr Cassy



TA Mrs Herath



TA Ms Ismail



DBS Sports Week: 12th to 16th February


Next week is Sports Week at DBS and Tuesday is National Sports Day, therefore the school will be closed to the children on this day.

Earlier this week you received a letter detailing the Primary Sports Days and in particular the changes to KS2. Parents will now be able to watch for the first hour of the day. For more information please click on [this link](#). I can assure you there will be plenty of teachers on hand to direct you get to the correct area to see your child/ren, plus there will be information boards in the covered area detailing where each activity will take place and where your child/ren will be.



'Keeping Up with the Kids' Parents Workshops

We have many parent workshops over the coming five weeks, covering Literacy, Maths and E-safety.

Squiggle Whilst You Wiggle - Pre-School	Maths - KS1 and KS2
 <p>'Squiggle Whilst You Wiggle' is an active early writing programme that we have introduced in the Early Years. During the sessions parents will learn more about the approach and how to support their child at home with early writing and mark making.</p> <p>1-2pm Monday 13th February MPH 1-2pm Monday 20th February MPH 6-7pm Monday 20th February MPH</p>	<p>Parents are invited into school to take part in a short mathematics lesson. During this time, parents will observe the current techniques, trends and methods used to teach mathematics here at DBS. To make this experience as realistic as possible, the coordinators will teach the lesson exactly the same way they teach their class.</p> <p>The KS1 session will focus on the methods we use to solve addition, subtraction, multiplication and division in Year 1 and Year 2. The KS2 session will focus on the four operations of number and place value (including converting measures).</p> <p>2-3pm Monday 20th February 6-7pm Monday 20th February 2-3pm Tuesday 21st February 6-7pm Tuesday 21st February</p>
Literacy - KS1 and KS2	E-safety - KS1 and KS2
<p>We believe that children who are exposed to quality language and reading experiences become the most creative writers, which is why we have introduced an approach to literacy known as 'Talk for Writing'. Talk for Writing is a fun, creative and powerful approach to teaching which was developed by literacy expert Pie Corbett.</p> <p>7.30-8.30am Tuesday 28th February 2-3pm Tuesday 28th February 6-7pm Wednesday 1st March</p>	<p>Our session will cover keeping your children safe whilst using computers, tablets and other devices capable of internet access. We hope to ensure that you are confident you can track your children's computer use, even in a rapidly changing technology area. Links with commonly used websites and apps will ensure the session's relevance.</p> <p>2-3pm Wednesday 15th March 6-7pm Wednesday 15th March</p>

Uniform

Please make sure your child is correctly dressed in school uniform. It has been unreasonably cold and therefore jumpers are definitely needed; however these are to be red DBS jumpers and not hoodies or jumpers with slogans on them. If you are unable to purchase a DBS red jumper please make sure your child has a plain red jumper on. Thank you for your continued support. I hope we have a very successful and enjoyable term.

Kate Cliffe