

Ditton CE Junior School Newsletter

“That they may have life and live it to the full”

24.06.22

Headlines

At this time of year schools are always consumed with preparation for the next academic year. At Ditton there are several changes that will take place that parents hadn't anticipated..... However that doesn't mean they are wrong....or badly thought out.

Next year we will work with three mixed year 3 and 4 classes due to the small numbers of children in each year group and the financial implications that brings. Teachers are working very hard to replan the curriculum to ensure all children cover the knowledge and skills they should in their appropriate year group.

We are also looking carefully at the 'make-up' of classes in years 5 and 6 to ensure they are as balanced as possible. Teachers have worked on class groupings to ensure classes are as equitable as we can make them and have considered all the complexities of friendship groups. Most schools mix year groups annually for lots of good social and academic reasons. It is unusual not to have happened at Ditton for such a long time, but it is something teachers were keen to look at as they could see the imbalance in certain classes in year groups.

Transition day is 7th July where children will spend time with their new teacher in their new classroom. Many transition activities are planned to ensure children settle quickly in their new classes.

Art Competition

A huge thank you to Megan Payne for all her hard work in organising the jubilee art competition and the exhibition of the incredible art work that was submitted.



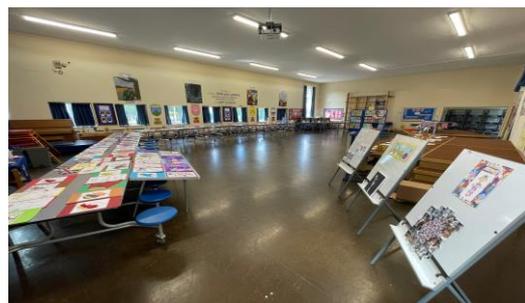
Dr Gregory came and had the unenviable task of judging all the submissions and was extremely complimentary about the standard. Well done to everyone who took part.

1st prize – Emily Jobling - Ditton Infant School

2nd prize – Ella Buyukoglu -Year 3

3rd prize – Honor Newnham – Year 6
Isabella Crouch – Ditton Infant School

All children who took part were awarded highly commended certificates for their efforts.



Zoe Da Paixao (Year 5) and Max Everson (Year 4) have both also received recognition for their art work from Eden Estate Agents who supported this event.

Additional Leadership Expertise - I mentioned in my last newsletter that we have Sam Crinnion, one of my Aletheia colleagues currently working with us. The team has been further strengthened with Mr Graham Ward working with us one day a week until the end of term. Graham is an experienced Headteacher and will be joining Ditton full time in September as the Headteacher. Sam and I will continue to work with the school in a school improvement capacity, but it is important that there is a Headteacher in post five days a week and Graham is very much looking forward to that role.

Message from our Rector – Ross Terranova

Ross leads worship once a week and always has some thought provoking messages – here is another.

One of our core school values is Respect. It's one of those words that instinctively most of us feel is a 'good one' and we know to disrespect somebody is not a good thing, but what does it mean to really respect someone?

I think one of the most important ways in which we can show respect to people is by really listening to what they say especially if we disagree with it. Have you noticed how hard that is! It is so easy just to listen to people who agree with us and in the world of social media and the internet that has become so much easier. There is a great verse in the first chapter of the New Testament letter written by James which says '*Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry*'. Brilliant advice - very hard to do!

Can we really listen to those we disagree with - and even respect their point of view? Others will know we have really listened to them when we can tell them what we think they are saying and they tell us 'I couldn't have put it better myself'. What a difference really listening to others would make giving each other the respect and time we deserve.

Ross Terranova

Year 6 residential

It was amazing that all our Y6's were able to attend our residential this year at Lower Grange Farm.

The children had the best time despite the awful weather we had! They experienced lots of new and exciting activities such as: archery, laser shooting, nerf gun wars, water rockets, circus skills and many more!

The children were an absolute credit to the school and displayed great manners and respect to all staff.



Mr Ben Hawkins

Very sadly we will be saying farewell to Mr Hawkins at the end of this year. Ben has secured a teaching position at Brookfield Junior School from September. We are very sad that Ben is leaving us, but delighted that he is not too far away and we will continue to benefit from his wonderful friendship and humour. GOOD LUCK BEN...we will miss you!

Liaison with our Infant School

A group of our year 6 children helped out at the infants sports day recently. Mrs Lewer said they were fabulous and a credit to the junior school.

Thank you to those children for being such great ambassadors for our school.

Class organisation for next academic year

Year	Teacher	Teaching Assistant
3/4	Miss Kirstie Semark	Mrs Wendy Caley
3/4	Miss Shakila Master	Mrs Emma Trower
3/4	Mrs Naomi Nicholls/Mrs Kelly Stapleton	Mrs Amanda Rolfe
5	Miss Amy Baker	Mrs Gemma Wood
5	Mrs Jen Couchman	Mrs Sarah Thomas
6	Mr Mark Green	Miss Maddy Ford
6	Miss Lauren Nazer	Mr Matt Coleman

Mrs Ruth Smith is covering planning, preparation and assessment time for teachers and she is also working in years three and four three mornings a week. Mrs Kelli Moon is supporting in Years three and four two mornings a week.

Mrs Ruth Campbell is our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator working two and a half days a week and she is supported by Mrs Megan Payne.