

DUNANNIE THURSDAY LETTER Issue 16

26th January 2012

Dear Parents

Yesterday Year 3 set off to Pulborough Brooks to start their week of bird watching. The children returned full of excitement and stories of having lunch in a hide and seeing peregrine falcons fly overhead and there was much discussion about its wing span and speed. A real interest in bird watching has now been established and we hope that a wide range of species will visit our bird tables and be spotted with our BPA binoculars!

Kessie came to Dunannie yesterday to tell the children all about Chinese New Year. They heard about the Chinese traditions and re-enacted the story of how the years got their animal names. The children loved the assembly and enjoyed telling Kessie about their recent experiences at local Chinese restaurants!



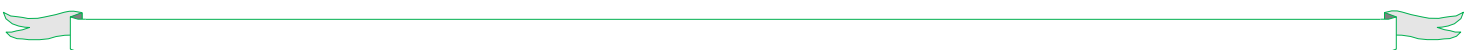
There is much to look forward over the next few days. Tomorrow Year 1 are going to Intech at Winchester as part of their Space, Night and Day project. Also tomorrow the day begins with Sam Wade coming to tell us all about the Big Brother Mouse project that we are supporting in Laos and at 2.15pm we have a visiting speaker talking to parents about Internet safety. I am sure you are all most vigilant about the safety of your children and will find this talk very interesting.



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The distribution of this letter is always under discussion and particularly the best way for you to get it. I am sure you will agree that not only is it informative but it is very well presented. We are however mindful that it is expensive to produce and environmentally unfriendly. I know that many parents would prefer to read our news electronically whilst others would always like a hard copy. I have discussed this with Alison and the FODs and the result is that the choice will be yours as next week we shall send out a form where you can indicate how you would like to receive your weekly letter.

Best wishes



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NURSERY

The Nursery children have been extremely enthusiastic with their learning about dinosaurs. We saw a poster from a palaeontologist who was looking for four missing dinosaur bones. We followed the dinosaur clues to find them buried in the sandpit!

On Tuesday, we invited Simon the palaeontologist to Nursery to collect the bones and share dinosaur cookies with us. We showed him our clay dinosaur eggs that we have made and impressed him with our knowledge of different dinosaurs.



Please make sure that all Nursery children have a complete change of **named** clothes (including socks) in a bag on their peg. This is helpful for when we've been jumping in muddy puddles! Thank you.



Figure 1 Off to hunt for dinosaur bones...



Figure 2 Baking dinosaur cookies

DANCE / DRAMA

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This term we are focusing on the following components of dance: planning, performing and appreciating.

The children have been working on making their own dance pieces, individually and in small groups, thinking in particular about making them interesting to watch by varying speed, direction and body shapes. I have been really impressed with the enthusiasm and commitment shown in the work. I have allowed time each week for the children to make positive and helpful comments when watching their friends perform. This has been a highlight of the lessons as the children are particularly appreciative and encouraging to one another.

In Nursery dance we have explored dinosaur movements and made fossil shapes. The children are very energetic and we have great fun!



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