



A message from the Headteacher:

Hi All,

As you can imagine, not the Summer Term 1 that I was expecting, we welcomed several new students and teachers to our Dovecote community who are all settling well. As a school we always try to have a period of transition to allow our students to build trusting relationships and feel safe, secure and special, however after a week there was a big surprise we were not expecting.

After only a few days, as you know, we received a phone call from Ofsted to say they will be in.

I just wanted to take this moment to make a few statements to thank:

- Ofsted for their sensitivity towards our students and their needs, I was really impressed with how the inspection was conducted.
- Parents for your amazing feedback and I was taken aback by how many of you wanted to speak to the inspectors.
- I also want to thank the students for the way they conducted themselves, especially those who had only been here for a few days. I know how difficult that would have been to have additional people in class with you. You were beyond amazing, and I could not have asked for anymore.
- And finally, our staff, after only being open for a short period of time, it was amazing to see what has been achieved and when we pulled it all together, we identified that there were some great bits of work completed and there is more planned and going to develop over the years to come.

A big thank you to all the staff who presented well put some additional hours in to show Ofsted what we are all about.

As you know we cannot share our results but as soon as we have the official report, I will get it sent out to you.

Save the date 10th June 2023 Summer fair is being run by the Family Support Group of Dovecote support by school staff.

I hope you can come and join us, if you are unsure this may tip it for you...

I will be in the stockade (!) so you can throw wet sponges at me.

Have a great summer!

Neil

2023



<u>Dates for the Diary</u>	
Monday 29 th May	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 30 th May - Friday 2 nd June	May half-term
Monday 5 th June	Inset day 4
Tuesday 6 th June	Inset day 5
Wednesday 7 th June	Students return to school 9:00am
Wednesday 7 th June	Environment day
Saturday 10 th June	School Fair
Monday 3 rd July – Friday 7 th July	Health Week
Friday 7 th July	Sports Day
Friday 14 th July	School Show - Grease
Friday 21 st July	Open morning for Parents/Carers
Friday 21 st July	last day of Summer Term school breaks up at 1:00pm.
4 th September	Inset day 1
5 th September	Inset day 2
6 th September	Start of Autum Term 1 – students return 9:00am
22 nd January 2024	Skiing trip departs

Keep your eyes peeled – we will inform you if more dates are added!

RAFFLE

REFRESHMENTS



D.F.S.C & DOVECOTE SCHOOL PRESENTS

Summer fair

BE A PART OF THE FESTIVITIES!

SATURDAY, JUNE 10TH 11AM -3PM

DOVECOTE SCHOOL
21 STATION ROAD, SHAPWICK, BRIDGWATER,
SOMERSET, TA79NU

DOG
SHOW

GAMES

STALLS

Otter Class Update:



We have had a wonderful few weeks this term. We are looking forward to more sunny days and trips out.

We visited Ham Wall, with the boys seeing how many rare types of birds we could spot, and we walked the lovely Tara along the riverbank. She was very well-behaved and very much enjoyed the time out!



Our caterpillars have now arrived, and we will be busy watching them grow and following the life cycle of a butterfly. This is something that the children will really enjoy, they will get to see all the stages such as the cocooning!

Our Puxton Park trip proved to be a huge success with the class doing team building exercises and lots of high ropes and animal investigations. Hopefully this is something that we can continue doing within school!



See you after half term!!!



Hedgehog Class Update:



This term in Hedgehog Class we have been learning about the stone age we have created fact file and some beautiful cave drawing.

We visited the shops where the children were in charge of their own money and were able to budget for the things that they wanted to buy. We also visited Puxton Park to see the animals and how their keepers look after them. We also had a play in the soft play area and a cheeky ice cream before leaving.

The children have had a really great time exploring the new forest school area and have also been learning how to use tools safely. We are moving on now on how to navigate the environment.



We have also really loved visiting the new ducklings over at the farm and taking care of all the other animals and we have been using the new climbing area in school. It's great fun!!

In Maths the children have been exploring 3-digit and 4-digit numbers and learning how these can be represented using different methods and resources.

We cannot wait to see you all after half-term!



Mink Class Update:



Mink class have had a good first term together – it has been full of adventures and getting to know one another. They are starting to settle more and are developing relationships with each other and their staff.

The class have enjoyed some time in the forest school, working with Mikaela they have developed skills of being able to work together and then building dens and swings using rope and the different knots that they have learnt.

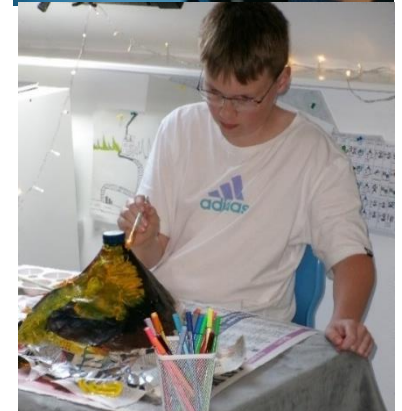
They have also enjoyed building volcanoes as part of our physical geography topic. Other parts of this topic have been included looking at tectonic plates and the structure of the Earth.

Some of our students have been able to access our music room with Tom and even

began singing their favourite songs! We've also been helping our maintenance team out with jobs around the site, from chopping up wood to doing jobs over at our farm.

Well done Mink class!

Have a lovely break and we will see you soon!!



Weasel Class Update:



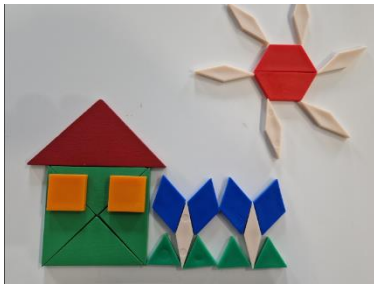
Weasel class is one of our newer classes and have spent this half-term getting to know one another, getting to know the staff and the school! They have made a really good start!

Science

In our first ever Science lesson, Weasel class created rain clouds. We were very surprised that through using only 3 items, we could create something so fabulous looking!!

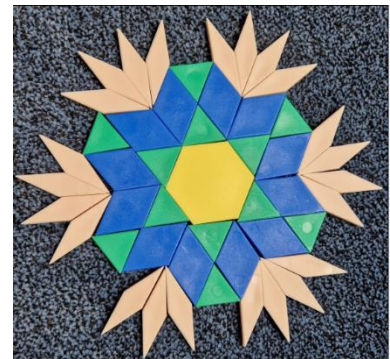


Some of us thought they looked like ice cream sundaes and others thought they reminded us of cocktails that they'd seen on holiday. What do you think?



Maths

During our Maths lessons, we started off making pictures using geometry shapes. Some of our pictures were created using our imaginations, others were copied from patterns or photos that we had. It was nice to be creative without needing to be great at drawing.

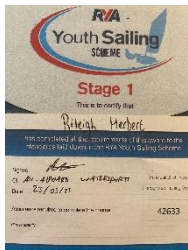


Farm

The Farm has become an integral part of our class with everyone (children and adults) being animal lovers. Two of us have even become honorary 'chicken hunters' who help Tracey to catch and return the chickens back to their houses when they escape!



We have especially enjoyed the arrival of the 2 farm cats (Mr. Wonky Tail and Lady Bella Gray, as we have named them!) who now purr happily when we visit. We are also all quite fascinated by the pond and have been amazed watching the tadpoles develop into tiny frogs, we cannot wait to see how big they grow!!



Stoat Class Update

This half term seems to have absolutely 'shot' passed!

In our core learning for literacy, we have done some short burst writes, used our 'writers secrets' to support some practical applications of writing (sending emails and writing recounts & posters/ invitations), we have studied texts and we have completed some shared writes. For maths we have tackled the tricky subject of fractions! All the children have applied themselves brilliantly showing real resilience and determination. In Geography we have looked at different types of maps and their uses as well as orientation and how to use a compass. We have made great use of the gym, challenging ourselves to go further and faster!

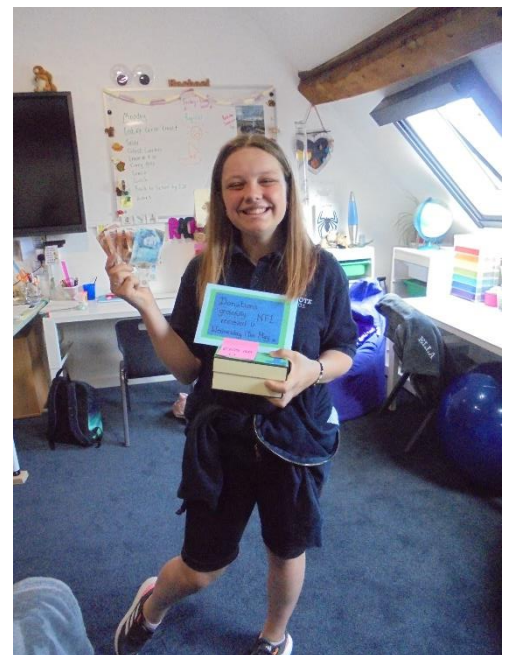
We have had some amazing days out sailing. The children have challenged themselves and been really brave with the activities they have taken part in - even capsizing on their last session. All the children have passed 'Stage 1' of the Youth Sailing Scheme. We also had a great day out at Crazy Golf - we have a few budding 'Tiger Woods!' There were several 'hole-in-ones' - awesome! The behaviour of the children was commented on when we were out, how proud we were!



The whole class supported Rileigh in raising awareness of the condition NF1. They planned a day at school with activities and a donation box. So many children supported her by wearing green and blue on the day. All the staff took part too. £120 was raised - which is BRILLIANT! We couldn't be prouder of Rileigh

being so open about her condition and wanting to raise awareness to support others by organising a day at school - a huge success!

See you all after the break!!



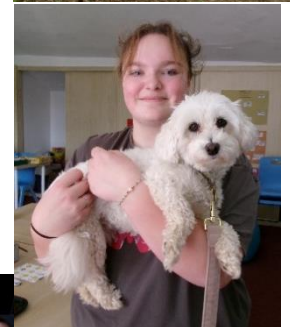
Robin Class Update:

Robin Class have had an exceptional start at Dovecote. They have spent this half-term settling in and learning about the school and each other. The relationships the girls are forming with each other and staff across the school is wonderful and the way in which they have approached each element of the day has been incredible and inspiring.

So far this half term, the students have engaged with all the weekly timetable, from Maths and English to having a go at activities with the animals over at the farm. We met the lambs and had some cuddles! They have all explored the school site and we have even made an offsite trip to Glastonbury Tor.

We have explored all areas of the school, from the forest school to the sensory room and we have had loads of fun and laughs! We have met loads of members of staff, and ALL the animals too and it has been great – from cooking to horticulture, everyone has been lovely.

Well done girls! See you soon!



Peregrine Class Update:



Summer is coming! Or has it already arrived!?

Recently in Peregrine we have been getting to know Frank, Babs and our other more exotic animal friends a bit better, with lots of handling and holding. This is something that even the animals have had to get used to and it can be nerve wracking for us all! Therefore, this can also be a bit overwhelming for our students, so we are incredibly proud.



As the weather has improved and summer seems to have come closer, we have been spending more lunchtime and breaks out and around the school grounds and making some good use of the new climbing equipment. It's been a lovely way to spend our time and the bonus has been getting to know each other a little better.

We have also spent some time helping Sid with planting, which Peregrine seems to be natural at. The most recent thing we have worked on is designing a sign for the sunflower circle that Sid has been planning – I don't want to brag about it, but it does look awesome!!



As always, we have been powering through our classwork – with the build up to half term focusing on some cool performance poetry, rounding and bringing numbers to significant figures, cooking halloumi fries or mozzarella dippers and rocking out with Tom in the music room!



We are so proud of how well Peregrine are bonding and how well they're working as a group. We are all very excited about the rest of this term! Well done everyone!

See you soon! Hope you have a refreshing week off!!

Skylark Class Update:

We are at the end of another half term, and finally we can bring you some nice, warm, sunny weather 😊 and long may it continue – (we have put in a long-term order!!!)

Classwork:

We have taken a trip into the world of bread this half-term and made flatbreads, and garlic naan breads 😊 In music we are starting to recognize different instruments and their sounds, as well as putting up with Toms terrible singing!!! In Maths the class has looked at percentages and this has linked in really well with our topics in life skills as we are starting to price up all the things that we will need in the future when we leave school.

We have been learning about trying to find those all-important bargains!!! Which of course is obviously vital!



Outdoor Adventures this Term:

This term we have departed from the climbing wall and taken our adventures to the sea. Recently we have been attending All Aboard watersports in Bristol.

The students have all taken part in sailing the boats and steering up and along the Bristol canal, some of our students have even sailed up towards the famous SS Great Britain

Well done to you all! We are so proud!

A Dovecote First

In order to celebrate the recent Coronation of King Charles the 3rd, Dovecote had their own crowning ceremony. Throughout the week in the build-up to the coronation we became patriotic in our own way and we crowned King Frank the 1st of Dovecote. We hosted a great coronation party ourselves, finished off with a gift bag and photos for our students.

We are very close now to finishing our first official year at Dovecote and what a year it's been!!!!



Dragonfly Class Update!

What a busy half term we have had, and it has flown by!

The social development in Dragonfly is incredible at the moment – the students are creating and maintaining friendships and learning more and more about each other every day!

We had an awesome time on our adventure to Mendip – it was such a great adventure. We all loved getting to have a go at archery and axe throwing.

We will definitely be safe when the zombie apocalypse comes – stick with us and you'll be fine!!

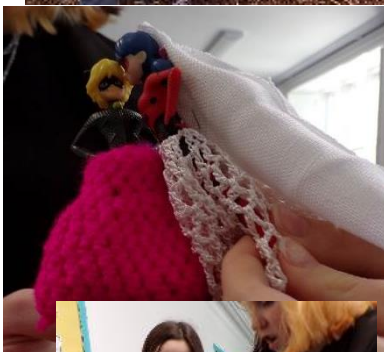


A Dovecote Wedding:

The wedding of Cat Noir and Ladybug was a huge success!

The most highly anticipated social event of the year had a few minor hiccups, but it was a truly beautiful ceremony with lots of delicious cake (thanks Maisie and the Winter's!)

It was lovely to have so many staff and students from across the whole school attend. I'm sure no one's stopped talking about it yet!



The Coronation of King Frank I of Dovecote



In honour of King Charles' III Coronation, the Dovecote Family decided to crown our very own King.

Having been born into royalty, from a long line of slithery rulers, Frank the Bull Python was the only contender for the job.

The new Forest School Canopy buzzed with excitement as staff and students gathered in anticipation of the big event on 5th May.

Neil led the small crowd in a rousing speech, which was not only fit for King Frank but King Charles III himself would have been proud. We pledged allegiance to our King, and he was adorned with a beautiful handmade crown; lovingly made by our on-site fashion designer Felicity.



Students took part in a quiz over the week-long build up, finding out all sorts of interesting facts about monarchs past and present of England and Great Britain.



Did you know that King Henry VIII imposed a beard tax? It was wonderful watching students buzzing back and forth in the café finding the answers from posters dangling from the ceiling!



Erica, Carol and Tash made us some delicious British treats for our lunch – thank you so much! We all felt very posh eating our scones with cream and jam!

Which led to that age old scone debate – do you put the cream or the jam on first?! I shall leave you with that conundrum – enjoy!



English

Dragonfly

The focus of this term has to build collaboration between students through a variety of different means. We have started our debating sessions where students pick to be 'for or against' an unknown discussion point. They then have to argue about their prompt, whether they believe it or not. This has led to some lively discussions on a range of topics with some surprising results as students swayed people's opinions and picked holes in others points.

Both classes have been continuing to explore the play of Macbeth. Students have been experiencing the play through acting out the scenes, watching videos of different stage productions and reading out loud from the book.



Moving forward to next term, we will be focusing on the different assessment objectives of the GCSE exams and putting them in to practice through mock questions. Further to this, we will be delving into poetry and the fun to be had there.

Skylark

It has been an up and down term with this class. The focus was to explore the similarities between pop and poetry and argue against if it is one and the same.

We have had some fantastic engagement in the conversations around rap and how it has been used to express social inequality and cultural identity. After a little adaptation to the module, we have continued to explore word families and their use within the Lewis Carol 'The Jabberwocky' poem, full of nonsense words that strangely make a lot of sense.



Peregrine

It has been a joy to watch this class come together with the free and safe expression of thought. Each student brings their own contribution to the lessons, and it has been really fun to engage in debates around identity, cultural inequality, monarchy and math.

The class have really embraced the encouragement of independent study, with a variety of warm up activities designed to be self-led at their own pace.

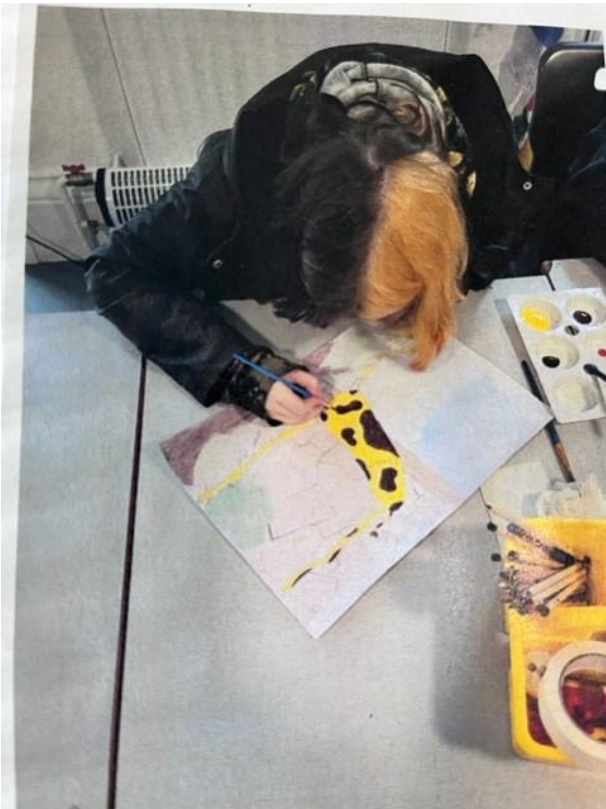
Next term we will looking at Black Americans experience within literature.

Art

Oh hello! In art we have been focusing on our new themes for the term. These include Nature Sculptures, Insects and an extension of Telling Stories for our GCSE group.

The variety and quality of work being produced has really blown staff away. We continue to explore new techniques including sculpture, weaving and observational drawing.

As the nice weather commences, we will be spending much more time outside working on our projects. I can't wait to see what the students achieve next.



Duke of Edinburgh Award

Mapping:

The children have been using software on their laptops to create 4 separate maps this term. Two for their walking expedition with two others for the biking expedition. Each map will have detailed waypoints that the children will have decided upon and created themselves.

DOFE Focus areas this term:

Focus words:

- Perseverance
- Willingness
- Hard work



As we build up slowly to the DofE expedition in October the students have begun to do small hikes with their classes. With each hike the time will slightly increase. We will continue with these over the next few weeks to help prep them for the expedition time and length.

DOFE questions:

If you would like more information about anything in relation to DOFE please Contact lead of the program:
Josh Frost (Teacher)

Thrive Update



Our lovely Sammy Willis has gained her Thrive Adolescent Practitioner license this term. Such an achievement Sammy. Huge well done! Sammy will be in a position to support the development of Thrive in our upper school provision and further support our whole school approach.

Family Thrive course Summer 2023

There's still time to book your place for our next round of sessions.

SESSION CONTENT

- **SESSION 1** – INTRODUCTION TO HOW OUR BRAINS GROW AND 3-PART BRAIN
- **SESSION 2** – MAKING CONNECTIONS, STRESS REGULATION AND BEHAVIOURS WE SEE
- **SESSION 3** – THRIVE KEYS STRATEGIES, NAMING FEELINGS AND EMOTIONS
- **SESSION 4** – EVERY DAY TRIGGER TIMES AND BEST TIMES, DEVELOPMENTAL PARENTING HIGHWAY
- **SESSION 5** – DEVELOPING THINKING SKILLS AND USING STORIES
- **SESSION 6** – CHALLENGES AND INTERRUPTIONS AND MOVING INTO ADOLESCENCE

Summer Family Thrive course

- **Face-to-face in school 9.30-11.30**
Tuesday June 13th, 20th, 27th
Tuesday July 4th, 11th, 18th
- **Virtual via Teams 4-6pm**
Tuesday June 13th, 20th, 27th
Tuesday July 4th, 11th, 18th

Contact: lrberts@dovecoteschool.co.uk



Let's help every child
thrive

Dovecote School Terms and Holidays 2023/2024 Academic Year



September 2023							October 2023							November 2023						
M			4	11	18	25	M		2	9	16	23	30	M			6	13	20	27
Tu			5	12	19	26	Tu		3	10	17	24	31	Tu			7	14	21	28
W			6	13	20	27	W		4	11	18	25		W		1	8	15	22	29
Th			7	14	21	28	Th		5	12	19	26		Th		2	9	16	23	30
F		1	8	15	22	29	F		6	13	20	27		F		3	10	17	24	
Sa		2	9	16	23	30	Sa		7	14	21	28		Sa		4	11	18	25	
Su		3	10	17	24		Su	1	8	15	22	29		Su		5	12	19	26	
December 2023							January 2024							February 2024						
M			4	11	18	25	M		1	8	15	22	29	M			5	12	19	26
Tu			5	12	19	26	Tu		2	9	16	23	30	Tu			6	13	20	27
W			6	13	20	27	W		3	10	17	24	31	W			7	14	21	28
Th			7	14	21	28	Th		4	11	18	25		Th		1	8	15	22	29
F		1	8	15	22	29	F		5	12	19	26		F		2	9	16	23	
Sa		2	9	16	23	30	Sa		6	13	20	27		Sa		3	10	17	24	
Su		3	10	17	24	31	Su		7	14	21	28		Su		4	11	18	25	
March 2024							April 2024							May 2024						
M			4	11	18	25	M		1	8	15	22	29	M			6	13	20	27
Tu			5	12	19	26	Tu		2	9	16	23	30	Tu			7	14	21	28
W			6	13	20	27	W		3	10	17	24		W		1	8	15	22	29
Th			7	14	21	28	Th		4	11	18	25		Th		2	9	16	23	30
F		1	8	15	22	29	F		5	12	19	26		F		3	10	17	24	31
Sa		2	9	16	23	30	Sa		6	13	20	27		Sa		4	11	18	25	
Su		3	10	17	24	31	Su		7	14	21	28		Su		5	12	19	26	
June 2024							July 2024							August 2024						
M			3	10	17	24	M		1	8	15	22	29	M			5	12	19	26
Tu			4	11	18	25	Tu		2	9	16	23	30	Tu			6	13	20	27
W			5	12	19	26	W		3	10	17	24	31	W			7	14	21	28
Th			6	13	20	27	Th		4	11	18	25		Th		1	8	15	22	29
F			7	14	21	28	F		5	12	19	27		F		2	9	16	23	30
Sa		1	8	15	22	29	Sa		6	13	20	27		Sa		3	10	17	24	31
Su		2	9	16	23	30	Su		7	14	21	28		Su		4	11	18	25	

Key:
School Holiday
Bank Holiday
Term Time
Inset days

Term dates summary:
Term 1: 04 September – 20 October 2023 (35 days)
Term 2: 30 October – 15 December 2023 (35 days)
Term 3: 02 January – 9 February 2024 (29 days)
Term 4: 19 February – 28 March 2024 (29 days)
Term 5: 15 April – 24 May 2024 (29 days)
Term 6: 03 June – 24 July 2024 (38 days) TOTAL = 195

Bank and public holidays 2023/24					
Christmas Day Bank Holiday	25 December 2023	Easter Monday	01 April 2024		
Boxing Day Bank Holiday	26 December 2023	May Day Bank Holiday	06 May 2024		
New Year's Day Holiday	01 January 2024	Spring Bank Holiday	27 May 2024		
Good Friday	29 March 2024	Summer Bank Holiday	26 August 2024		

