



Droxford Junior School
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February Newsletter 2025

Dear Parents

Spring Dig Day: Saturday 29th March

In October we held a very successful dig day in school. So much was achieved in the grounds and also inside the school on a very community spirited, tea / coffee, biscuits / pizza laden day!

On **Saturday 29th March (anytime between 9-3)** we are planning the same but with more attention to plants, shrubs and flowers this time. We will also have some painting inside and outside of school – potentially a classroom and also the sheds outside.

This project forms part of the bigger picture for the children to learn and play outdoors and forms a big part of the school's philosophy in engaging with wildlife and enhancing the learning environment which the children feel very strongly about.

The School Council have decided that they wish to support these school community days by promoting them in school.

Task 65

Autumn / Spring
Community paint / dig days

- Support the actions in Landscape Strategy plan #2
- Plant more pollinator friendly plants
- Plant an orchard
- Build more compost bins
- Make a bug bank
- Develop the wildlife / nature reserve
- Plant more trees
- Make signs to show what our wildlife is
- Re-paint children's toilets
- Support the allotment
- Plant more spring bulbs
- Paint classrooms and corridors in school

DIG FOR DROXFORD

Vision: 'Equipping our children with the knowledge and skills to navigate life successfully.'

- Plant an apple orchard so we can eventually sell apples and make our own DJS apple juice;
- Enhance our nature corridors in the school grounds by plant more pollinating plants;
- Enhance the fun and collaborative play by establishing mud kitchens;
- Support the school allotment and help Mr Goble's allotment club;
- Build compost bins in the school grounds;
- Obtain more wood chip and logs for the grounds;
- Develop the wildlife area further;
- Make outdoor libraries which store books safely so children can read outside;
- Get more Den Building equipment for the children to use;
- Plant a pollinator 'screen' to hide fencing on the school site.

We would also like to get some spring cleaning done around the school site in the form of painting and clearing and reorganising of sheds, therefore if you aren't green fingered and wish to help there may be other things you could help with.

Lunch, tea, biscuits, cake and child care provided free of charge!!!

Please contact the school office if you are able to help on the day. Thank you!

World Book Day (for us): **Thursday 20th March – to coincide with Roving Bookshop Day**

We know that dressing up on that day can send some families into a mild panic, including financial considerations, so we would like to emphasise that we are very happy for 'costumes' to be made up from things you may naturally find or make in the home. The idea is to promote a love of books and reading, wrapped up with a bit of fun for the children – not spend lots of money.

We haven't decided on a theme yet so if your children wish to dress as any book character (within reason 😊) they can do. More information will follow after half term.





We are delighted to announce that the award-winning children's author, Kieran Larwood, will be joining us <https://kmlarwood.com/> on Thursday 20th March for our World Book Day celebrations.

Music and Art



Children across the school were invited to attend the Childrens Concert at the Central hall, Southampton. Our children, and several other schools were treated to a morning of classical and contemporary music performed by a real live, high quality orchestra including conductor.

Year 5 and 6 have also visited the Pallant House Gallery in Chichester. A wonderful opportunity to see great art work; understand how a gallery works and displays its collection; understand more about art and artists as well as taking part in a sculpture workshop.



And finally...

Following on from our annual Local Authority inspection – governors commented that...

- It is evident that the school "is not sitting-back on the outcome of OFSTED";
- A "strength of teaching around the school" with "depth, impact and real growth mindset";
- A "strength in provision for pupils with educational need" including noting how teachers have worked very hard "adapting lessons for individuals is really showing through";
- "Teachers have created a classroom environment that is demonstrated through excellent pupil learning behaviours";
- A "strong culture for attendance";
- A "terrific team" and a "privilege to see the school".

We'd like to take the opportunity as a Governing body at DJS to thank you all for the role you've played in making Droxford an amazing school through your dedication, commitment and enthusiasm.

Thank you to everyone in our school community – have a restful half term break!

Matthew Dampier
Headteacher

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