



Dobcroft Newsletter

2nd October 2026



[Click here for dates for your diary](#)

[Click here for school dinners](#)

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Whole school news Y2 news Y1 news Reception News Ladybirds News



Owls 3:30pm – 4:30pm session

We have currently been trialling a shorter Owl's club provision for 3:30pm–4:30pm from Tuesday to Friday for a reduced rate of £7.50, which includes a snack for your child too.

The number of children attending this Owls session will continue to be monitored up to half term. However, if numbers do not increase, we may need to make the difficult decision and remove this session from our offer. We would like to continue supporting parents with wrap around provision although we will not be financially viable unless we have enough interest in this offer.

Rights Respecting – Taking Action!

Olivia Blake has written to us about people parking on the zigzag lines outside school. Our Rights Respecting Reps have decided that they would like to take action in response to Olivia's letter. They will also be working with our Head Teacher Mrs Singh to remind our school community about safe and considerate parking.

If you are a parent of a Rights Respecting Representative, please see further information [here](#).

We are very proud of our Rights Respecting Council for identifying issues that affect our community and thinking about how they can use their voices to make a positive difference.

Safe and Considerate Parking



We have been made aware of some parking, which may make children's journeys to school unsafe. Please be mindful of double yellow markings when parking around school so we can ensure all children can get to and from school safely. On the W/C 12th October, Y2 children will be monitoring parking with Mrs Singh and politely asking people to park considerately.

Lunchtime Supervisor Role

We are looking for enthusiastic people to join our friendly and supportive lunchtime staff team to work one and a half hours per day during the school lunch period (11.55am–1.25pm).

This post is for term time only (excluding training days) and fits in perfectly to allow you to be there for both school pick up, drop off and holidays.

We are happy to look at applications from people interested in working Monday–Friday or part of the week. If this opportunity is something you may be interested in, then please apply using this link:

<https://teaching-vacancies.service.gov.uk/jobs/welfare-supervisor-3e1f2872-00e6-4f11-bbd3-d999ac1760a3>

The closing date for this role is Thursday 8th October.



[Click here](#)
for term dates
26–27

Oct 2026

6th

Artist visit
James Brunt

SUNDAY 11th

10am–noon

Maintenance/
Gardening
Morning

14th October

Club letters will
be sent out for
Autumn 2.

16th October

Clubs will go live
on Parent Pay.

15th October

Walk to the
woods

9.15am – 10.30am
(parent helpers
needed)

21st

SEND Coffee
Morning
9–10am

THURSDAY 22nd

Amazon Wishlists

Please see the FODS newsletter for a link to our class Amazon wishlists. This can also be viewed here on our school website: <https://www.dobcroft-inf.sheffield.sch.uk/page/fods/23267>
Each class has an Amazon wishlist, including a wishlist for items we would like to purchase to add to our provision for SEND.

James Brunt Artist Visit

On Tuesday 6th October we will be having an artist visit school to work with all of the children. They will be working in our forest school creating spirals with the natural objects they find within the forest school grounds. This fits in with the whole school Autumn learning of using natural objects within art, using our observation skills and how art makes us feel. The children this term have also been learning that we can go into our own environments, even when they are very familiar to us, learn to see with fresh eyes and curiosity and bring objects back to use within their art.

Look at our Autumn celebration news letter to see the amazing creations the children will have made.

SEND Coffee Morning

Our first SEND coffee morning of the year will be on Wednesday 21st October from 9–10am in the hub. This will be a chance to find out more about SEND at Dobcroft and to meet other parents of SEND children. All parents are welcome, whether or not your child is on the SEND register at school. There will be tea, coffee and biscuits but contributions of cake are very well received! Younger siblings are welcome to join us. If you have any questions, email Kat Holmes on holmesk@dobcroft-inf.sheffield.sch.uk.

KS1 Read Write Inc Phonic sounds

Each fortnight, we will post which sounds each RWI group have been learning and reviewing.

Please see your child's group below:

Ditty/Red group – igh, ow, oo, ay, ee

Green group – ar, or, air, ir, ou

Purple group – or, oy, air, ay, ow

Pink group – igh, oo, ar, oy, air

Orange group – ea, oi, a_e, i_e, o_e, u_e

Yellow group – ear, ire, oa, er

Blue group – ie, cious

Grey group/Free Readers – ur, are, ow, er

Ladybirds – additional option of start date

Ladybird children can start with us immediately after their third birthday. Sessions will need to be paid for directly. Please note that 15 and 30 30 hours FEL funding does not come into effect until the term after they turn three. For example: If your child turns 3 in September, they will be eligible for the 30 hours free funding in Spring term.

Porridge Tasting

Next week, as part of our learning about Goldilocks and the Three Bears, the children in Ladybirds will be trying porridge along with some different toppings. Toppings will include blueberries, strawberries and raspberry jam. We've collected allergy information from our home visits but please tell us if there are any new allergies or intolerances we need to know about.

Walk to the woods

On Thursday 15th October the 3 reception classes – Badgers, Otters and Mice – are walking to Ecclesall woods to look at the environment and try and observe any seasonal changes. We will be collecting leaves, twigs, conkers and any other natural materials that they find to bring back to school to use for our collage work.

For this trip to happen we will need some parent volunteers to come with us and help to support the children in your child's class. We will be leaving school straight after registration (around 9.10/9.15am) and will return to school around 10.30am.

If you would like to come along and help please email or speak with your child's class teacher.

Dress down day
(Friday is an INSET day)

22nd
Last day of half
term

Nov 2026

Mosque Trip
Kingfishers – Tues 3rd
Eagles – Wed 4th
Woodpeckers – Th 5th

5th
Diwali dance
workshop

Y1 junk modelling materials

Y1 would love to increase their supplies of junk modelling within our making areas in the classroom. If you have any items of recycling (e.g. cereal boxes, egg boxes, kitchen roll tubes, plastic bottle lids) that you are able to spare for our classroom then please bring them in to your class teacher.

Letter formation

In your child's book bag, you will find a handwriting sheet with the first 5 letters we have been learning this week. Can you please practice writing these at home using the prompt sheet with the rhyme to encourage correct formation? These do not need bringing back to school, you can keep these at home. Every Friday up to half term you will find the 5 letter sounds that we have been learning that week.

Y2 Mosque Visit

Click [here](#) for a link to our letter for our upcoming mosque visit in November.
You are now able to pay for this trip on Parent Pay.

Attendance

Attendance target 2024–25: 97.5%. Currently school is at **98.14%**. Remember reduced % means 'Learning time lost'! A reminder that the chief medical officer encourages children to attend school if they have a cold, however if they have sickness, or diarrhoea, they need to remain absent for 48 hours after the last time this occurs. If your child has a temperature, they need to remain off school. Attendance as often as possible is important for your child.

Punctuality: It is important that you aim to be in school for the start time. This is 8.55am in Foundation Stage and 9am in Y1 and Y2. This is the time your child needs to be on the carpet, things put away ready for register and to learn, not when you are arriving at the entrance. Arriving late is disruptive to both your own child and the rest of the class. It is also likely your child will have missed some key learning for the day. This week **0.20%** of children were marked as late.

Ask me about...

Each week your class teacher will update this area with information about what your child has been learning during the week so that you can ask them questions about it.

Ladybirds

Laura Hardwick – hardwickl@dobcroft-inf.sheffield.sch.uk
Vicky Blackburn – blackburnv@dobcroft-inf.sheffield.sch.uk
Lucy Brady – bradyl@dobcroft-inf.sheffield.sch.uk
Ellie Sutherland – sutherlande@dobcroft-inf.sheffield.sch.uk

This week our lovely ladybirds have been reordering the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears and worked with an adult to produce their own story map. The children were fantastic at telling us about what happens and could think about first, next and last when recounting the story.

In our outdoor provision the children are learning how to use our den building components. The key vocabulary that we're learning includes: big, medium, middle sized, small, bigger, smaller, stack and house

In our maths moments we have continued to look at the numbers one to five. We are also learning the days of the week and look at the weather. Your ladybird child might be able to sing you one of our maths moments songs! We have been practicing subitizing in our maths moments and in provision.

We have continued to explore our forest school and the children have taken part in singing some campfire songs.

Ladybirds are learning the poem 'Chop, Chop'. They are becoming experts at learning both the words and the actions!

Reception (Otters, Mice and Badgers)

This week we have been continuing with our phonics learning and have learnt the sounds i, n, p, o, g and have been practising writing these using the correct formation and blending them together to read words. The children have also been practising writing the sentence 'I am' independently in provision.

We have also been looking at repeating patterns in maths using shape, colour and number and have been consolidating this learning in our maths moments. As a class we have been discussing having 'kind hands' and what our hands are used for. The children came up with some really great answers and decided that it was really important to have kind hands and look after each other. The children went away and did their own hand prints/drawing around their hands.

Beth Cooke – cookeb@dobcroft-inf.sheffield.sch.uk

Shama Chaudhry – chaudhrys@dobcroft-inf.sheffield.sch.uk

Vikki Burgan – burganv@dobcroft-inf.sheffield.sch.uk

Helen Morris – morrish@dobcroft-inf.sheffield.sch.uk

Y1 (Hedgehogs, Squirrels and Foxes)

English – we have practised forming our letters correctly on our handwriting lines (l, t, i, j, y, u)

Maths – we have been comparing groups by identifying which ones have fewer, more or the same amount.

Science – we have identified the 5 different types of taste (sweet, salty, sour, savoury and bitter)

RE – we have been identifying how Christians celebrate harvest time.

Geography – we had our first introduction to fieldwork with our walk in the local area, identifying human and physical features.

Many thanks to all the parents who came to walk with us!

Foxes – Mrs Granger & Miss Smith – grangerk@dobcroft-inf.sheffield.sch.uk & smithk@dobcroft-inf.sheffield.sch.uk

Hedgehogs – Mr Jones – jonesd@dobcroft-inf.sheffield.sch.uk

Squirrels – Miss Coldron – coldronp@dobcroft-inf.sheffield.sch.uk

Y2 (Woodpeckers, Kingfishers and Eagles)

English – This week we have started reading our new class book 'Traction Man.' We have enjoyed reading the story and exploring the new vocabulary.

Maths – In maths we have been learning to count forwards and backwards in 2s, 5s and 10s from different starting points.

Science – we are continuing to learn about different animal groups – this week we learnt about reptiles.

Over the next couple of weeks, we are making bird feeders to hang around the school grounds. If you have any 500ml bottles we can use for this, please give them to your class teacher by Wednesday 7th.

Art – we looked at the textures and coloured of different leaves and used wax crayons and watercolour paint to create a piece of art.

Reading books for home – Children will be invited to change their reading books once a week, if they require a new one. If your child needs to change it on a different day, they are welcome to do so during morning job.

We have a Year 2 Amazon Wishlist here: https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2S3MG9KBYCQQ1/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex

If you would like to support the classes by purchasing any items, we would be very grateful.

These items may be to support our curriculum lessons, or to promote teamwork and reciprocity in our weekly Time to Talk time such as board games.

Woodpeckers – Mrs Holmes & Mrs Shepherd holmesk@dobcroft-inf.sheffield.sch.uk & shepherdjenni@dobcroft-inf.sheffield.sch.uk

Eagles – Mrs Fairfull – fairfullc@dobcroft-inf.sheffield.sch.uk

Kingfishers – Miss Clifffen – cliffena@dobcroft-inf.sheffield.sch.uk