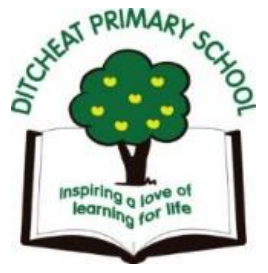




Ditchheat Primary School

Inspiring a Love of Learning for Life

Friday 6th March



Dear Parents/ Carers

How lovely to see the sunshine and get past the 1st March. Officially Spring has sprung! The children enjoyed returning to a sunny school in Zambia in mufti to experience some Zambian culture and hear about Mrs Cosser's visit to the Zambian link school, Louansobe School near Mufilira, Northern Zambia. Every child received a pen pal letter from Zambia and was able to read a daily blog all about the visit. The whole school video-called Mrs Cosser in Zambia and children exchanged questions and answers live- a powerful learning experience. Mrs Cosser travelled with 2 staff from Bruton school, who have had a Zambian link school for over 30 years.

See blog of the visit: <https://www.ditchheatprimary.org.uk/zambia-link-school-work/>

It was wonderful for the local Shepton Mallet News to put out an article on Ditchheat Primary School saying our school **'shines in the Ofsted inspection.'** This glowing newspaper report follows the publication of our **Ofsted inspection carried out in January 2026.** Our school achieved the **expected standard** in all areas. Ditchheat was one of the first schools to be inspected under the new Framework, which focussed heavily on the experiences of the most vulnerable children.

Some of the key findings were: Over a three-year average, the school remains above national levels in reading and maths and close to average in writing. Disadvantaged pupils have performed strongly over time, with 57 per cent reaching the expected standard in reading, writing and maths combined over the latest three-year average, compared with 46 per cent nationally.

In 2024/25, 90 per cent of pupils reached the expected standard in mathematics, compared with 74 per cent nationally. Reading results were even higher, with 100 per cent of pupils meeting the expected standard against a national average of 75 per cent. Writing was also ahead of the national figure, with 80 per cent reaching the expected level, compared with 72 per cent across England. Overall, 80 per cent of pupils met the expected standard in reading, writing and maths combined — well above the national average of 62 per cent. Attendance figures also compare favourably. Overall absence for 2024/25 (two terms) was 4.4 per cent, below the national average of 5.2 per cent. **Pupils enjoy school so they attend well. Pupils feel a sense of belonging at this nurturing place to learn.** Pupils including those who are disadvantaged, **learn the important knowledge they need for life beyond the school.** <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/21/123642>

Meanwhile Book week was the usual success this week, with elaborate well-thought out costumes and the sharing of favourite books. West End schools enabled the whole school to perform The Wind in the Willows on Monday, which was fantastic. Matt Shaw, a local illustrator came into school yesterday to read with all the classes and talk about his career.

It was valuable to meet parents at Parent's evening this week- thank you for efficiently signing up and attending well- these events are so helpful to support your child's learning.

Best wishes

Mrs Cosser and Mrs Bisset
Head of School Executive Headteacher

Dodgeball Tournament at Ansford – a fun afternoon playing against other local primary schools, lead by Year 10 pupils.



Wellbeing tip of the week



As the seasons change take time to quietly notice the first signs of spring- birdsong, budding trees and early flowers.

Zambia Day- on the first day back after February half term, all the children returned to a sunny school dressed in the colours of the Zambian flag. The children were grouped in colour house colours and experienced Zambian cultures, tales, drama, music, art and received their letter from their Zambian Penpal.



Dance Workshop – the whole school had workshops with West end Schools and then performed Wind in the Willows. It was lovely to watch.



Red Nose Day Friday 20th March

Wear red mufti for £1

Please remember to buy your child's red nose on Scopay. The red noses this Year will be bought at school as they are special – the children design them on the day.`



Thank you Mrs Green
After 12 years at Ditchheat Primary
Mrs Green will be leaving us to be
closer to her grandchildren. We
would like to thank her for all her
hard work and wish her well for the
future.



Wise Up Workshops

Workshops to support parents – take a look.

<https://somerseparentcarerforum.org.uk/home/wise-up-workshops/>



Somerset Parent Carer Forum C.I.C.

Tadpoles - Nature club came
in to show Year 2 the tadpoles.



Zambia – Mrs Cosser travelled to Mufilira, N. Zambia with 2 staff from Bruton Primary. She met the staff and children at our new link school Louansobe Primary School. She gave the host school gifts of art and maths resources as well as our letters and a book all about Ditcheat Primary School.



Young Somerset **FREE**

Confident Parents – Raising Confident Children Who Bounce Back

Topic: Resilience

This is a 2-hr workshop facilitated by Young Somerset. It is an opportunity to meet other parents and to share common concerns. We discuss what helps young people to feel more confident in dealing with the up and downs of life. Tea, coffee and biscuits provided

Tuesday 28th April 2026
9am – 11am

To sign up please contact the office of the school your child attends

East Somerset Federation Schools
 Bruton Primary, Ditcheat and Upton Noble

www.youngsomerset.org.uk @youngsomerset

Young Somerset **FREE**

Confident Parents - Helping Your Child to Meet Everyday Challenges

TOPIC: Anxiety and Low Mood

This is a 2hr workshop facilitated by Young Somerset. It is an opportunity to meet other parents and share common concerns. We talk about the signs and symptoms of everyday challenges such as anxiety and low mood, some do's and don'ts and share hints and tips on how to support your child. Tea, coffee and biscuits provided.

Wednesday 1st April 2026
9am - 11am

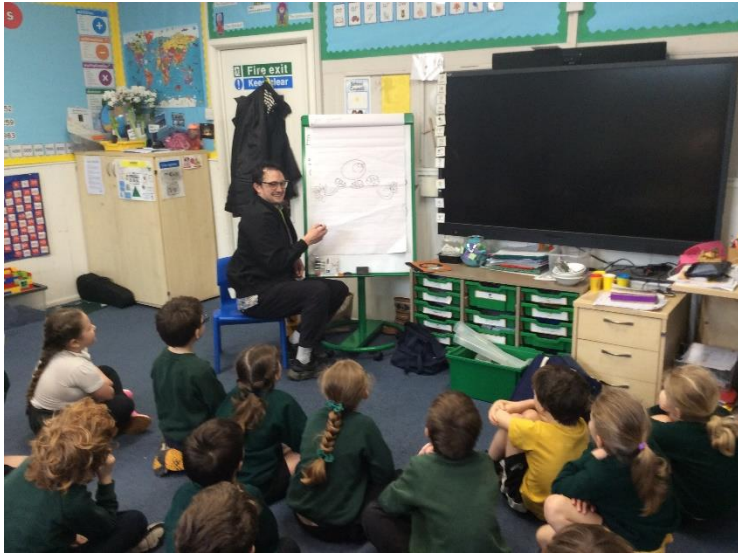
Book your space by contacting the office at the school your child attends

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www.youngsomerset.org.uk @youngsomerset

Book week volunteer reader

Matt Shaw, local illustrator, came into each class this week, to read a favourite story to the children and talk about his career in illustrating.



World Book Day- children and staff dressed up in a favourite book/ poem character and shared books with each other. Various book related activities took place across the school. The librarians took each class to show them special books in the library.

