



'THE DOZZY DETAIL'

Message from the Head

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2022! The last four-and-a-half weeks since returning seems to have flown by, with so much happening both within and beyond school.



Firstly, I would like to offer our thanks for the ongoing support and understanding you have shown whilst we are still battling the effects of the pandemic. Over the last two weeks, our school community has yet again been hit with high numbers of positive COVID-19 cases, which has meant we had to re-implement our 'Outbreak Management Plan'. This has resulted in some classes going back into bubbles and changes to our lunchtime procedures, as well as the cancellation of some after-school clubs. This is not a position we would like to find ourselves in but appears to be a common picture in schools right across our city at the moment.

Our site team, Tony and Chris, have been working extra hard since our return in September to improve the look and feel of our school so that it is the best place for learning for our children. We have lots of further projects planned over the coming months, including the replacement of our ageing adventure trail in the EYFS outdoor area.

If there is anything you feel we could improve with our site, please do let us know — our aim is to provide the very best for our children as they deserve it!

Mr Stuart Mills & The Dorchester Team



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Our Vision and Values

Last term, our team spent lots of time considering what it is Dorchester stands for and what we want for our school community. We re-looked at our school vision and came up with the values that we believe are most important to us. We are now in a position to share these with you:

Our school vision is simple: *"Working together in a safe and inclusive environment, to develop creative, disciplined and aspirational pupils."*

The values we want to best represent our whole school community are:

Respect	The feeling of admiration for others because of their good qualities, actions and achievements.
Resilience	The ability to cope when things don't go as planned.
Empathy	Being able to understand how someone else feels.
Tolerance	Accepting and respecting other people for their differences.
Self-belief	A belief in your own ability to complete tasks and achieve your goals.

What's Been Happening?

Reading at Home



Reading is such an important skill that enables children to go on and be successful. It is a high-priority within our school and children access daily reading sessions.

We have recently invested in a new early reading scheme to enable our youngest and earliest readers to experience success quickly. When children bring their reading books home, we ask that you allow them to read to you at least three times a week to consolidate the skills they have learnt in class.

Yesterday (Monday 31st Jan) our nursery and reception children had a visitor teaching them all about Chinese New Year. They had a great time playing with the puppets, dancing around and making some Chinese artefacts.

KS2 pupils have enjoyed taking part in weekly dance and drama workshops with Chris from The Children's University.

We are disappointed that we have not been able to take part in many of the activities planned due to our high number of COVID cases however, we are hopeful that over the next couple of weeks, we will return to our offer of a wide range of extra-curricular activities.

Today, some of our year 5 children are spending the day in London — a visit supported through our links with Hull and East Yorkshire Children's University (HEYCU). They have visited the Houses of Parliament, Downing Street and taken a river cruise along The Thames. These are special memories that we know our children will look back on for years to come.

It also links with our 'Dorchester Dozen' - twelve visits / experiences that we want all of our children to have access to during their time at Dorchester, including:

- 1) Visiting a role play centre.
- 2) Visiting a theatre.
- 3) Attending a residential.
- 4) Visiting the beach.
- 5) Going on a boat ride along a river.
- 6) Visiting a farm.
- 7) Visiting a Zoo.
- 8) Visiting the capital city...by train.
- 9) Visiting a National Forest.
- 10) Being a member of the crowd at a sporting event.
- 11) Visiting another country (Scotland).
- 12) Having a sleepover with friends.



Subject Spotlight — Maths

Our subject leader for maths is **Mrs Patrick**.

Maths is a 'core' subject in our curriculum, meaning that we teach it daily to all year groups. Children's ability in mathematical concepts are assessed when they enter our school in reception and when they leave our school in year 6. Our aim is for all of our children to show competency in maths by the time they leave us.

Teachers use a 'Mastery Maths' approach to teaching maths. This means that they plan for a range of opportunities for children to deepen their understanding of concepts before moving on.

The way we teach (and children learn) maths may differ from what you and I were taught when we were at school. This can be confusing when you are trying to support your child with their home learning so please do ask if you are ever unsure.

One of our priorities for maths this year is to improve our children's times tables knowledge as this is fundamental to them tackling a range of problems. You can support us by encouraging your child to access their Times Tables Rock Stars account regularly.

Your Stories

Name: James

Year: 3

James is a keen sportsman and takes part in lots of different activities and clubs outside of school. He is a keen swimmer and has taken part in many competitions and gala's, representing his swimming club, football club and gymnastics club.

In addition, James is a keen plane spotter and can tell you what different planes are in the sky — a fountain of knowledge!

Well done James — keep on making us really proud!



COVID-19

We ask that you continue to be vigilant and monitor your child(ren) for any symptoms they may show. If your child is over 5, it is also advised that you carry out regular LFD tests. Remember, a positive LFD test means your child should self-isolate. There is now no need for a follow up PCR, unless they have symptoms.

- ◆ The main symptoms continue to be a new, persistent cough, a high temperature and loss of taste or smell.
- ◆ More common symptoms of the newer variants include a headache, sore throat, tiredness and cold-like symptoms.

Please let the school know as soon as possible if your child tests positive.

Attendance

Our whole school attendance for November is: **90.5%**

Our target attendance is: **96%**

Class	Attendance
Rec	92.0%
1LB	90.4%
1CP	94.9%
2KP	95.9%
2CF	88.1%
3ER	86.5%
3SP	89.8%
4AW	89.8%
4MH	91.0%
5LT	94.8%
5EP	91.0%
6AC	86.2%
6MP	88.9%



Well done to 2KP, our class winners for January.

We have been hit hard this month with positive COVID cases, which has significantly impacted on our attendance.

If you need any help with your child's attendance, please contact the school office.

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Safeguarding

Keeping our children safe is our number one priority. If you have any concerns about your child or another child in our school, please speak to us.

Mrs Gasparelli is our Designated Safeguarding Lead and is responsible for liaising with other agencies to get the best support for our children and families.

Mrs Chironda and **Mr Mills** are our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads and support Mrs Gasparelli with any concerns.

Mrs Boothby and **Miss Hill** form our Emotional Well Being Team and work directly with our children and families. They can help with any parenting and/or household struggles.

Important Dates

All of our key dates and events are on our online calendar, which you can find on our website



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|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Tuesday 1st February | - Y5 visit to London |
| Thursday 17th February | - school closed for half-term |
| Monday 28th February | - school training day |
| Tuesday 1st March | - School re-opens to children |

Free School Meals

If you are in receipt of any benefits and have not already done so, we would urge you to apply for free school meals. Not only does this cover the cost of lunches for your child(ren), for each child in receipt of free school meals, the school receives £1320, which can then be spent on resources for our children to use. To check whether you are eligible, contact the school office or visit:

https://emsonline.hullcc.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=/CitizenPortal_LIVE/