



Dorchester Primary School

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Headteacher – Mr S. Mills BA (Hons), NPQH
Deputy Head – Mrs N. Van Der Walt BA (Hons), PGCE



Friday 4th March 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you had a wonderful half-term and managed to make the most of what little good weather we had. It has been a busy first week back at Dorchester, with lots going on.

Yesterday, we took part in World Book Day and it was great to see so many children coming dressed as a teacher for the day, as well as the many colourful character costumes across the school. Although dressing up is a fun part of the day, it is important to remember why we recognise it – to instil a love of reading into our children and show them how important reading is in enabling them to be successful. Reading is a priority at our school and research has shown that children who have mastered reading by the end of primary school have a much better chance of being successful at secondary and beyond. You can support your child by regularly listening to them read at home and asking them questions about their book. If you need any support with this, simply speak to your child's class teacher.

Reminders:

As we start the second half of the year, I want to take this opportunity to remind everybody about some of our expectations/procedures at Dorchester:

- We have a 'No Jewellery' policy, with the exception of a single pair of studded earrings in the lobe of the ear, as well as a watch. Other forms of jewellery such as necklaces and rings are not permitted. If children are found to be wearing these, they will be asked to remove them.
- We have seen a significant increase in the number of children bringing mobile phones into school with them. Whilst we understand that a small minority of children may need their phone to contact their parents in an emergency whilst walking to and from school on their own, we would discourage them being brought in. Not only are they expensive and prone to damage, but they pose a safeguarding risk if children are using them inappropriately. For the small minority who need to bring them, these need to be handed to the class teacher as soon as they come in and will be returned at the end of the day when they leave.
- Please use the designated paths to access the site and not walk across the car park. There have been several incidents of children riding bikes and scooters across the car park in a morning, which poses a serious risk. As you can imagine, the car park is a very busy place at drop-off and collection times and it is unsafe for children to be using this as a thoroughfare.
- We have lots of different ways that we send out information to parents/carers: Marvellous Me, Parent Pay, Facebook and Twitter. If you are not receiving information from the school, please contact the office who can support you in accessing / setting up your accounts. We rarely send out hard-copies of information so please try and access your school accounts.



"Working together in a safe and inclusive environment, to develop creative, disciplined and aspirational pupils."



We are hoping in this second half of the year, that we will be able to offer more opportunities for you to get into school and support the learning of your children. I know many of you have been asking about this and it is certainly an area that came up at the last Parent Forum.

The second Parent Forum should have been on the 1st February however, with the number of COVID cases across our school at that time prevented this from happening. Therefore, the new proposed date for the next Parent Forum is **Thursday 17th March at 2:00pm**.

In addition, we have a 'Stakeholder Engagement Event' provisionally planned for **Thursday 7th April at 2:00pm**, which any member of our community is invited to. This is a new initiative where you will have an opportunity to meet and speak with our link Trustee: Mr Graham Wilson as well as find out about an area of the school in more depth. For this first event, we will be providing information on 'Restorative Practice' and how we use this at Dorchester. This will include a short presentation from some of our children. I would encourage as many of you as possible to get involved in the above events as your voice is important to us and it is useful for you to hear about what we do in school.

As always, if you have any issues, questions or concerns, please do get in touch with us.

Have a great weekend.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stuart Mills".

Stuart Mills
Headteacher